

DELAWARE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY CONSEQUENCES

PURPOSE

The Student Code of Conduct and Disciplinary consequences have been established to promote a school environment and culture that will support learning and secure the safety and welfare of all students. It makes clear student rights, responsibilities, and consequences for unacceptable behaviors.

This Code of Conduct embodies the school's commitment to a "teachable and learning" approach to student discipline. We strive to work with students in ways that will help them take responsibility for their own behavior through the development of positive character traits.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

RIGHTS

- Students have the right to a safe, comfortable and pleasant school environment
- Students have a right to receive a thorough and efficient education that prepares them to be productive members of society. (N.J.S.A. 18A: 38-1)
- Students have a right to be treated with respect and consideration, and to participate in all aspects of school regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicapping condition.
- Students have the right to benefit from participation in the classroom, school, home and community.
- Students have the right to use and enjoy the physical resources of the school.
- Students have the right to due process before serious disciplinary consequences are imposed.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Students are responsible for their own behavior and to adhere to all established school rules and procedures (These rules/procedures can be found in the DTS Handbook).
- When they do well, they deserve credit; when they break rules and avoid their obligations, they must accept responsibility for their actions and not try to put the blame on others (N.J.S.A. 18A: 37-1).
- Students are responsible to attend school regularly and to arrive on time (N.J.S.A. 18A: 38-25).

- Students are responsible for preparing themselves mentally and physically for the process of learning. They are responsible for their own learning and for meeting the requirements of each class.
- They are responsible for setting personal and academic goals and evaluating their own progress toward accomplishing those goals (N.J.S.A. 18A: 37-1).
- Students are responsible for treating all persons with respect and are responsible for demonstrating mutual respect and tolerance for individual differences.
- Students are responsible for contributing to the classroom and school. They share responsibility when working as members of a group.
- Students are responsible for treating school property and the property of others with care and respect.
- They are responsible for the care of resources provided to them and for preserving the environment.
- Students are responsible for telling the truth when explaining their own behavior.
- Students are responsible for telling the truth when accusing others.

***Students who do not meet these behavioral expectations will be denied privileges to participate in school sponsored activities. Other consequences may also follow as described under "Disciplinary Procedures."**

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

When Will Disciplinary Action Be Taken?

Disciplinary action will take place when a student's behavior interferes with the right of teachers to teach and the right of students to learn; threaten the safety/welfare of others; violate state or federal statutes, board of Education policies; or otherwise disrupt the good order and educational process of the school.

Who Will Enforce the Student Code of Conduct?

Faculty, staff and Administration have a duty to enforce the Student code of Conduct and disciplinary Procedures. Parent cooperation will be sought and is vital to help any students who must improve his/her behavior.

What are the consequences for Misconduct?

Disciplinary consequences given by faculty/staff may include: personal conference with student; parental contact; classroom detention (lunch or after school) supervised by the teacher; withdrawal of privileges within the classroom; other consequences consistent with school policies; or a combination of the above.

If a student continues to be disruptive after the teacher has attempted to correct the misbehavior and contacted the parents, the student will be referred directly to the Administration. The Administration reserves the right to exercise discretion in determining the appropriate consequences under each set of circumstances. Consequences may include: personal conference with student; withdrawal of extra-curricular privileges; after school detention; exclusion from class/classes or activity(ies) until the problem is solved; in-school suspension (ISS); out-of-school suspension (OSS); expulsion.

In the following cases, students may be referred to the Administration:

- Endangerment of the safety/welfare of self or another (includes fighting)
- Disrespect
- Willful disobedience or defiance of authority
- Abusive, profane, or obscene language or behavior
- Vandalism
- Suspected use, possession, or actual use of alcoholic beverages, or controlled substances on school property or during a school sponsored activity
- Use of tobacco on school property or during a school sponsored activity
- Truancy
- Theft
- Sexual harassment, harassment, intimidation, bullying, ethnic/racial/religious slurs or threats
- Leaving school grounds without permission
- Disrespect or misconduct with a Substitute teacher

Due Process

Students facing suspension or expulsion are entitled to due process under the XIV Amendment of the United States Constitution that requires notice to student and some kind of hearing. The timing and content of the notice and the nature of the hearing will depend on the circumstance.

Before any in-school or out-of-school suspension, except in extraordinary circumstances, the student is entitled to a preliminary hearing during which the Administration will: 1. Advise the student of the allegations against him/her; explain the evidence for the allegation; and 2. Allow the student to explain and/or deny the allegations.

Detention

Students' assigned detention must attend. Detention will take precedence over after school commitments by students. This includes participation in school and/or community sports activities. Failure to attend will result in an additional day or days of detention and could result

in school suspension in cases of repeated failure to attend. Students must have a written excuse from parents to be excused from detention. Excused detentions will be rescheduled for the following day. Any teacher for disciplinary reasons may issue a “teacher detention.”

Failure to appear for a teacher detention will result in Administrative intervention.

Administration assigns administrative detention for disciplinary reasons. This detention will take place in the office of an administrator or in the main office. The Administration will inform parents whenever an administrative detention is assigned.

Administrative detention may involve performing service to the school. It will be assigned after school from 3:13 to 4:14 pm. Students who are not cooperative in performing assigned tasks or who are dismissed from detention for misconduct will be assigned two (2) additional detentions. The Administration will inform the parents of this course of action. A second dismissal from detention may result in an in-school suspension.

Students attending teacher or Administrative detention must be picked up by a parent/guardian at the conclusion of the detention before being released.

In-School Suspension (ISS)

In-School Suspension is used when student behavior is such that the student continues to disregard established rules and procedures. Before it is issued, except in extraordinary circumstances, the student is entitled to a preliminary hearing at which the Administration will afford due process. The student’s notice and hearing must follow as soon as practical and feasible. Parents/Guardians will be notified when an In-School Suspension is to be given. The offense and previous disciplinary behavior will determine the length of time the ISS will be served.

In-School suspension will be served away from the general student population. Students in ISS receive work (age and ability level appropriate) to be completed during the day (s). Students in ISS will be dismissed at the end of the school (3:10 pm). Students who are serving ISS are not eligible to participate in any school related functions (Sports, Dances, Field Trips, etc.) for the duration of the suspension.

Out-of-School suspension (OSS)

Students and parents must understand that Out-of-School suspension is a very serious consequence of student behavior, which causes disruption of the educational program, danger to health and wellbeing of fellow students and/or faculty and staff, or damage to community property. OSS will be assigned by the Administration and requires that parent/guardians meet with the Administration to discuss the circumstances.

Before Out-of-School suspension, except in extraordinary circumstances, the student is entitled to a preliminary hearing at which the Administration will afford due process. Where a student's presence poses a continuing danger to persons, property, or an ongoing threat of disrupting the learning process, the student may be removed immediately from school property. The student's notice and hearing must follow as soon as it is practical and feasible.

Parent/guardians will be notified when a suspension is given. It is the responsibility of the student's parent/guardian to request classroom assignments from the teachers. These assignments are to be completed during the Out-of-School Suspension period. Students who are serving OSS are not eligible to participate in any school related functions (Sports, Dances, Field Trips, etc.) for the duration of the suspension and are restricted from school grounds for any reason.