

DSC Model Code Comparison Tool – Discipline Policies in Buffalo NY Discipline Code

Questions about what is in your local Code of Conduct:	Old Buffalo Code	New Buffalo Code	What does the DSC Model Code say about it?
<p>1. Can you easily get a copy of your District’s Code of Conduct? Is it available on-line? Do students and parents receive a copy at the start of the school year?</p>		<p>“Parent Notification: School officials are responsible for sharing the information in this document with students, parents/guardians, and staff. The District will make every effort to provide this information through multimedia methods including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A video on the District website - Audio tapes in various languages - District Facebook” <p>(Pg. 1 and Pg. 3)</p> <p>Also collect signed acknowledgement of receipt of the code of conduct</p>	<p>Districts and schools must ensure that students, parents or guardians, and teachers know and understand all of the school norms, expectations, rules and disciplinary processes. (Section 3.1.a.D.2)</p>
<p>2. Are there guidelines for when a school can and cannot suspend or expel a student? Are suspensions and expulsions limited to only serious and dangerous offenses?</p>	<p>“Students who are found to have violated the District’s Code of Conduct may be subject to the following penalties, either alone or in combination. The school personnel identified after each penalty are authorized to impose that penalty, consistent with the student’s right to due process.” (list of penalties, including suspension on Pg. 15)</p>	<p>Chart on pages 16-23 specifies which behaviors can lead to suspension and law enforcement referral.</p> <p>There are guidelines that recommend other alternatives for less serious offenses, however suspensions and expulsions are not prohibited for many offenses.</p>	<p>Suspension or expulsion may only be considered for the most serious and dangerous offenses and only if absolutely necessary to protect the safety of the school community.(Section 3.1.c.B)</p>

<p>3. Does your district list alternatives to suspension? Does your district require that alternatives be used before suspension/expulsion?</p>	<p>Not explicitly, though a directory of support services is listed in the table of contents</p>	<p>Page 1 is a list of Support Services. Pages 6-12 describe tiered supports through a PBIS model of supportive school discipline. Page 15 lists supports and referrals for each level of interventions.</p>	<p>Suspensions or expulsions may only be used after non-exclusionary discipline alternatives (like counseling, mediation, etc.) have been carefully considered, tried and documented.(Section 3.1.c.B.1.a)</p>
<p>4. Can a student be expelled or suspended for a first time offense?</p>	<p>“Where appropriate, discipline will be progressive. This means that a student’s first violation will usually merit a lesser penalty than subsequent violations, taking into account all factors relevant to the severity of the current violation. The particular circumstances of a violation may, however, warrant a severe form of disciplinary action even if it is the student’s first offense.” (Pg. 14)</p>	<p>Level 1 interventions are supposed to apply for first-time offences, but do not prohibit suspensions or expulsions: “Level 1: Classroom Support and Student Support Team – may be appropriate when student has no prior incidents and interventions have not been put in place.” (Pg. 19)</p>	<p>No student can be suspended or expelled for a first-time offense (unless required by federal or state law or in an emergency). (Section 3.1.c.D.1)</p>
<p>5. Are there different rules for students of different ages or grade levels? (For example, different suspension policies for elementary and middle school students vs. high school?)</p>	<p>“In determining appropriate disciplinary action, school personnel authorized to impose disciplinary penalties will consider the following: 1.The student’s age.” (list continues on Pg. 14)</p>	<p>Chart on pages 16-23 specifies different guidelines based on age categories (pre K – 4th grade and 5th grade - 12th grade).</p>	<p>No student under the age of 10 may be excluded from school for disciplinary reasons.(Section 3.1.c.D.2) No student under the age of 15 may receive a suspension of more than 3 days.(Section 3.1.c.D.3)</p>