

## STUDENTS

### Student Rights and Responsibilities

All students are entitled to enjoy the rights protected by the U.S. and Illinois Constitutions and laws for persons of their age and maturity in a school setting. These rights include the right to voluntarily engage in individually initiated, non-disruptive prayer that, consistent with the Free Exercise and Establishment Clauses of the U.S. and Illinois Constitutions, is not sponsored, promoted, or endorsed in any manner by the school or any school employee. Students should exercise these rights reasonably and avoid violating the rights of others. Students who violate the rights of others or violate District policies or rules will be subject to disciplinary measures.

Students may, during the school day, during noninstructional time, voluntarily engage in individually or collectively initiated, non-disruptive prayer or religious-based meetings that, consistent with the Free Exercise and Establishment Clauses of the U.S. and Illinois Constitutions, are not sponsored, promoted, or endorsed in any manner by the school or any school employee.

The School Board believes that behavior of students attending public schools shall reflect standards of good citizenship demanded of members of a democratic society. Self-discipline (responsibility for one's actions) is one of the important goals of education. The School Board believes also that, while education is a right of American youth, it is not an absolute right; it is qualified first by eligibility requirements. Our courts speak of education as a limited right or a privilege. That is, students who fail to perform those duties required of them upon attendance in public school may be excluded from the school.

#### A. Citizenship and Moral Responsibilities.

1. Students shall respect constituted authority. This shall include conformity to school rules and regulations and those provisions of law which apply to the conduct of students.
2. Citizenship in a democracy requires respect for the rights of others and demands cooperation with all members of the school community. Students conduct shall reflect consideration of the rights and privileges of others.
3. High personal standards of courtesy, decency, morality, clean language, honesty and wholesome relationships with others shall be maintained. Respect for real and personal property, pride in one's work and achievement within one's ability shall be expected of all students.
4. Every student who gives evidence of a sincere desire to remain in school, to be diligent in studies and to profit by the educational experiences provided will be given every opportunity to do so and will be assisted in every way possible to achieve scholastic success to the limit of individual ability.

#### B. Rights.

1. To attend school.
2. To express his/her opinion verbally or in writing in an appropriate manner (subject to other provisions of policy and applicable law).
3. To expect that the school be a safe place for all students to gain an education.
4. To be represented, when appropriate, by an active student government selected by free school elections.

C. Students' Responsibilities.

1. To become informed of and adhere to reasonable rules and regulations established by the School Board and implemented by school administrators and teachers.
2. To respect the rights and individuality of other students and school administrators and teachers.
3. To refrain from libel, slanderous remarks, and obscenity in verbal and written expression.
4. To dress and groom in a manner that meets reasonable standards of health, cleanliness and safety.
5. To be punctual and present in the regular or assigned school program.
6. To refrain from gross disobedience or misconduct of behavior that materially and substantially disrupts the educational process.
7. To maintain the best possible level of academic achievement.
8. To respect the exercise of authority by school administrators, support staff, teachers, and all adults in maintaining discipline in the school and at school sponsored activities.

Involvement in Decision Making

The professional staff is urged to accept the responsibility for helping students to gain first-hand experience in the process of decision making.

Participation in an elected representative student government is an important experience for future voters in a democracy. Even young students can benefit from participation in the decision-making process regarding matters within their understanding and concern. Older students can participate in more structured activities such as the Student Council, whenever budget allocations permit such a club.

Student Complaints and Grievances

Students have both the right and the responsibility to express school related concerns and grievances to the District's administration pursuant to uniform grievance procedures.

LEGAL REF.: 20 U.S.C. § 7904  
105 ILCS 20/5  
Tinker v. Des Moines Independent School District, 89 S. Ct. 733 (1969)

CROSS REF.: 7:140 (Search and Seizure), 7:150 (Agency and Police Interviews), 7:160 (Student Appearance), 7:190 (Student Discipline)

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