

Section J: Students

JK Student Discipline

It is essential for schools to maintain a safe and orderly environment which supports student learning and achievement. Good discipline allows the schools to discharge their primary responsibilities to educate students and promote good citizenship. All students are expected to conduct themselves with respect for others and in accordance with School Board policies, school rules, and applicable state and federal laws. Disciplinary action may be taken against students who violate policies, rules, or laws, and/or whose conduct directly interferes with the operations, discipline or general welfare of the school.

The Region 8 Board expects the following principles to guide the development and implementation of school rules and disciplinary procedures:

- A. Discipline should emphasize positive reinforcement for appropriate behavior, as well as appropriate consequences for misbehavior. The focus should be on providing a school environment where students are engaged in constructive learning and interactions with others.
- B. Expectations for student behavior should be clear and communicated to school staff, students, and parents.
- C. Consequences for misbehavior should be in proportion to the offense, fair and consistently enforced.
- D. Parents should be actively involved in the process of preventing and resolving disciplinary problems at school.

Physical force and corporal punishment shall not be used as disciplinary methods. State law provides that “physical restraint and seclusion may only be used as an emergency intervention when the behavior of a student presents a risk of injury or harm to the student or others.”

Teachers are authorized to make and enforce rules for effective classroom management and to foster appropriate student behavior, subject to the direction and approval by the Director/designee.

School-wide rules shall be developed by the Director with appropriate input from school staff, students and parents. The Director shall provide for the suspension or other serious disciplinary action against students in accordance with Board policies, administrative procedures and Maine law.

A decision to terminate a student’s attendance shall not be made until a conference is held with the home school administration.

Legal Reference: 17-A MRSA §106
20-A MRSA §4009, §4502-5(M)
Maine DOE Rule, Chapter 33

Cross Reference: AC – Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action
ACAA – Student Harassment and Sexual Harassment
JICIA – Weapons, Violence and School Safety
JKAA – Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion
JKAA-R Procedures of Physical Restraint and Seclusion
JKB – Student Detention
JKD – Suspension of Students

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