

Arlington Central School District

Code of Conduct: Summary

Introduction

The Arlington School District has always based its rules for conduct on the principles of civility, mutual respect, citizenship, character, tolerance, honesty and integrity. Recently, the Arlington Central School District Board of Education approved a Code of Conduct that clearly defines expectations for acceptable conduct on school property and identifies possible consequences for unacceptable conduct. The Code applies to all students, school personnel, parents and other visitors when on all school property or when attending a school function. The District is committed to safeguarding the rights of all students and to promoting a safe and orderly school environment that offers the best learning opportunities for all. Therefore, students, teachers, parents, support staff and administrators must work together to create conditions that make our school district safe and that support active teaching and learning.

This document shall serve as a summary of the Code of Conduct approved by the School Board. If further details are required, a complete copy of the Code may be obtained, on the district website arlingtonschools.org, or in the main office of any district building. In addition, each school provides a student handbook or parent information bulletins that describe the specific expectations for conduct and discipline in that building. The handbooks and other documents are consistent with the District Code of Conduct.

Student Conduct

The Arlington School District expects all students to conduct themselves in a civil manner that shows regard for other students, staff, and other members of the school and general community. Student conduct is a direct reflection of the work of our school staff. Therefore, positive behavior demonstrates a positive educational experience.

Each building will inform students and parents of the school rules regarding dress and prohibited student conduct at the beginning of the school year. Students may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension from school, when they engage in behavior that is:

- Disorderly, (*i.e., running, misusing equipment*)
- Insubordinate, (*i.e., failure to comply with reasonable directions*)

- Violent, (*i.e.*, hurting others, possessing a weapon, threatening others)
- Endangering to the welfare of others, (*i.e.*, discrimination, harassment, intimidation, possessing alcohol or drugs)
- Dangerous on the school bus
- Academic misconduct, (*i.e.*, plagiarism, cheating, forging notes)*

**Please see the Student Handbook or Code of Conduct for a more complete list of prohibited behavior.*

All students, staff, and parents are responsible to report violations of the Code of Conduct to a school administrator or law enforcement personnel. Disciplinary action, when necessary, will be firm, fair and consistent. School personnel will consider all circumstances in determining disciplinary penalties. As a general rule, discipline will be progressive, meaning that a student's first violation will receive a lighter penalty than subsequent violations (unless a law has been broken). Discipline procedures range in severity from a verbal warning to permanent suspension from school. Students must be told what rule has been broken and must be given a chance to tell their version of the facts to the administrator who is imposing a penalty. Additionally, information must be shared with parents if the penalty will result in removal from class, and/or suspension from school, transportation or extracurricular activities. *Please refer to the student handbook or Code of Conduct for further details.*

Note: The District adheres to all Federal and State regulations regarding the discipline of students with disabilities.

Investigations

A building administrator may conduct a search of a student and a student's belongings if he or she has reasonable suspicion that the search will provide evidence that the student violated the law or the District Code of Conduct. This search may include lockers, book bags and desks. Whenever practical, the student will be present while their possessions are searched. Law enforcement officials may be summoned by the school official if it is suspected that a law has been broken.

Public Conduct on School Property

All persons on school property or attending a school function shall conduct themselves in a respectful and orderly manner. This includes, but is not limited to, abiding by the no smoking policy, being properly attired, not committing acts of violence or harassment, and not violating any civil law. Visitors who violate the Code of Conduct will be asked to leave the premises.

The building principal or his or her designee shall be responsible for enforcing the District Code of Conduct.