CODE OF CONDUCT

1. INTRODUCTION

The Fabius-Pompey Board of Education ('Board') is committed to providing a safe and orderly school environment where students may receive, and District personnel may deliver, quality educational services without disruption or interference. Responsible behavior by students, teachers, other staff, parents, and visitors is essential to achievement of this goal. Accordingly, in collaboration with students, parents, teachers, and administrators, the Board has established this code of conduct. It applies to all students, school personnel, parents, and other visitors when on school property or in attendance at a school function.

The District has a long-standing set of expectations for conduct on school property and at school functions. These expectations, based on the principles of civility, mutual respect, citizenship, character, tolerance, honesty, and integrity, are described below.

FABIUS-POMPEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

Schools are often referred to as microcosm of society. It seems fitting then that behavioral expectations within a school community should be governed by an overarching set of tenets applicable equally and consistently to society as a whole.

The school community has the responsibility to preserve societal values related to freedom and democracy. Given this, we all must recognize the necessity of the democratic process of law making and demonstrate its importance through respect for laws, rules, and authority.

Members of the school community must also respect themselves through an understanding and appreciation of their own individuality. Self-respect is demonstrated through academic and social integrity, the making of healthful choices, personal appearance, and interpersonal relationships. It is only through this knowledge and respect for self that we become empowered with the ability to extend this respect to others, to acknowledge the expression of uniqueness in others, and to give of ourselves in assisting others to develop a stronger sense of self.

All members must demonstrate respect for the beliefs and values of others, their points of view, their religions, and their rights as human beings. We must be active and positive in our respect, curtailing acts or language that would diminish another. Treatment, judgement, or evaluation of others should be conducted with fairness tempered by empathy for individual differences. At the same time, expression of one's individuality must be balanced by the often greater needs of the community, particularly those related to respect for the environment, and for the health, safety, personal property and dignity of others.

All members must realize the importance of honesty in our daily tasks, activities, and responsibilities. We must encourage and expect each other to offer honest opinions and preferences on important issues.

Finally, members must encourage and expect each other to be positively contributing members of the school community but accepting responsibilities associated with our respective roles in public education. Students and staff must work collaboratively in developing and maintaining a school climate which demonstrates a positive attitude toward learning, a safe and orderly environment, and in an acceptance of the needs and differences of others.

Disciplinary action, when necessary, will be firm, fair, and consistent so as to be the most effective in changing student behavior. The staff at a school has the responsibility for taking appropriate actions when a student is involved in a situation which disrupts the learning environment of a school. When determining the consequences, they will take the following into consideration:

1. The nature of the offense and the circumstances which led to the offense.
2. The age-appropriateness of the consequence.
3. The student's prior disciplinary record.
4. The effectiveness of other forms of discipline.
5. Information from parents, teachers and/or others, as appropriate.
6. The extent to which the offense interfered with the responsibility/rights/ privileges/property of others.
7. The extent to which the offense posed a threat to the health and safety of others.
8. Other extenuating circumstances.

As a general rule, discipline will be progressive. This means that a student's first violation may merit a lesser penalty than subsequent violations. In the case of students who are habitually disruptive or who frequently violate school rules, administrators have the prerogative of applying more severe penalties at any stage, including removal from class and suspension from school.

Definitions

Detention: The placement of a student in a supervised school setting during the school day, after school, or on Saturdays.

Suspension: The denial of a student's right to attend school for a violation of district policy. A principal may suspend a student for up to five days.
Suspension in excess of five days must be issued by the Superintendent.

Expulsion (Permanent Suspension):
The permanent removal of a student from school, as determined by the Superintendent.

Although not all-inclusive, the following list of offenses on school property or at a school function and range of consequences apply in most circumstances.

RANGES OF CONSEQUENCES FOR BEHAVIOR RELATED OFFENSES		
I	II	III
OPTIONS	OPTIONS	OPTIONS

- Warning/verbal reprimand
- Time-out or out of classroom
- Loss of privilege
- Conference with student
- Communicate with parent
- Detention
- *Controlled Study Hall
- Restricted Study Hall
- Counseling
- *Restitution
	- Removal from class
	- *Suspension
	  - In-School
	  - Out-of-School
	- *Police notification
	- *Removal from school property
		- *Alternative placement
		- **Expulsion (permanent suspension)

*Administrator action only
**Superintendent action only

Offences and Consequences

Offense	Definition	Range of Consequences
Absence (unlawful)	An absence for a day or any portion of a day for any reason other than those cited unlawful and/or failure to bring a note by a parent/guardian to verify a lawful absence.	I-II
Alcohol/Drug Violation	Possession, distribution, consumption, being under the influence, or sale of illegal drugs or alcoholic beverages, drug paraphernalia, or prescribed medication not the individual's own, on school property, at a school function, on a school bus, or in a school vehicle.	II-III
Arson/Fire	Attempting to, aiding in, or setting fire to a building or other property.	II-III
Cheating/Academic Dishonesty	Copying, plagiarizing, altering records, or assisting another in such actions.	I-II
Computer/Electronic Communication Misuse	Any unauthorized use of computers, software, or internet/ intranet account to access internet/intranet; accessing another's e-mail or an inappropriate website; misuse of a website.	I-II
Cutting Class	Illegal absence from a class or school activity.	I-II
Defamation	False or unprivileged statement or representation about an individual or identifiable group or individuals that harm the reputation of the person or the identifiable group.	I-II
Destruction of Property/Vandalism	Damage, destruction, or defacement (graffiti) of property belonging to another or the school.	II-III
Discrimination	Use of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, physical or mental disability, age, gender, marital status, physical traits, or sexual orientation as a basis for treating another in a negative manner.	I-II-III
Disrespect Toward Others	Inappropriate comment or physical gesture to a student, teacher, staff member, or other adult.	I-II
Disorderly Conduct	Behavior disturbing the atmosphere or order, to include obstructing or restraining the authorized or lawful movement or participation of another.	I-II
Disruption - Classroom	Behavior that is substantially disruptive of the educational process or substantially interferes with the teacher's authority over the classroom.	I-II-III
Disruption - School	Behavior that interferes with the safe and orderly environment of the school or school activity.	I-II-III
Driving/Parking Violations	Failure to obey all state, district, and campus traffic and parking signs and rules.	I-II

Offences and Consequences (continued)

Offense	Definition	Range of Consequences
Failure to Serve Assigned Consequences	Failure to serve detention, suspension or other assigned consequences.	I-II-III
False Alarms/Bomb Threats	Initiating a report or warning of fire, or catastrophe without valid cause, misuse of 911, or discharging a fire extinguisher.	II-III
Fighting	A hostile confrontation with physical contact involving two or more students.	II-III
Fireworks or Explosives	Possession, use, and/or threat to use a firework, smoke bomb, flare, or combustible or explosive substance.	II-III
Gambling	Wagering money or property.	I-II
Harassment	An action or persistent pattern of actions or statements directed at an identifiable individual or group which is intended to be, or which a reasonable person would perceive as ridiculing, demeaning, or offensive.	I-II-III
Hazing	Negative or reckless act directed against another in school for the purpose of initiating into, affiliating with, or maintaining membership in any activity, organization, club, or team.	I-II
Indecent Exposure	Exposing the private parts of the body in a lewd or indecent manner.	I-II-III
Insubordination	Refusing to follow reasonable requests of teachers, staff, or administration, including failure to identify self or knowingly providing false information.	I-II-III
Leaving school grounds without permission	Leaving school grounds during regular school hours without written or verbal permission from parent/guardian, administrator or someone listed on the emergency procedure card.	I-II
Loitering	Idle presence in an area without authorization.	I-II
Physical Attack on Staff/Students/ Others	Assault, or aggressive physical action, directed at students, staff, or others, including a situation where a staff member is intervening in a fight or other disruptive activity.	II-III
Possession of Disruptive Items	Unauthorized possession of a sound box, laser pointer, squirt gun, water balloon, personal audio device, or any other disruptive item.	I-II
Possession of Portable Electronic Communication Devices	Unauthorized possession of pager or cellular phone.	I-II

Offences and Consequences (continued)

Offense	Definition	Range of Consequences
Possession of Skate boards/ Roller blades/ scooters	Use of unauthorized possession of a skateboard, scooter, or roller blades on school property.	I-II
Profanity	Using vulgar or abusive language, cursing, or swearing.	I-II
Sexual Harassment	Unwanted and inappropriate verbal, written, or physical conduct of a sexual nature directed toward another person.	I-II-III
Tardiness	Lateness to school or class.	I-II
Theft	Taking or obtaining property of another without permission of the owner.	II-III
Threat to Staff, Student, or Other Person	Expression, conveyed by word or action, of intent to abuse, intimidate, coerce, or injure a staff member, student, or other person.	I-II-III
Tobacco Violation	Possession or use of any tobacco product.	I-II
Trespassing	Unauthorized presence on school property, including while on suspension.	I-II
Truancy	Unlawful absence without parental knowledge and/or permission.	I-II-III
Weapon Possession	Possession of a weapon.	II-III

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

Parents and other district citizens are encouraged to visit the District's schools. Since schools are places of work and learning, however, certain limits must be set for such visits. For these reasons, the following rules apply to visitors to the schools:

1. Anyone who is not a regular staff member or student of the school is considered a "visitor."
2. Except for those who are attending public gatherings or meetings, visitors must report to an administrator's office upon arrival at the school.
3. Parents or citizens who wish to observe a classroom while school is in session are required to arrange such visits in advance with the classroom teacher(s), so that class disruption is kept to a minimum, and to abide by Board Policy #3210 - School and Classroom Visitation, and its corresponding Administrative Regulation.
4. All visitors are expected to abide by the rules for public conduct on school property contained in this Code of Conduct.

The administration has authority to determine whether the visitor has an appropriate reason for being in the building. If the visitor is judged by the administrator not to have an appropriate reason, the visitor will be asked to leave. The police may be called if the situation warrants.