



Book	Policy Manual
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Title	STUDENT CONDUCT
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#### 5500 - **STUDENT CONDUCT**

Respect for law and for those persons in authority shall be expected of all students. This includes conformity to school rules as well as general provisions of law affecting students. Respect for the rights of others, consideration of their privileges, and cooperative citizenship shall also be expected of all members of the school community.

Respect for real and personal property; pride in one's work; achievement within the range of one's ability; and exemplary personal standards of courtesy, decency, and honesty shall be maintained in the schools of this District.

The School Board has zero tolerance for conduct that poses a threat to school safety. Zero tolerance policies must apply equally to all students and are not intended to be rigorously applied to petty acts of misconduct.

Florida law requires that students found to have committed one of the following offenses:

- A. bringing a firearm or weapon, as defined in F.S. Chapter 790, to school, to any school function, or onto any school-sponsored transportation, or possessing a firearm at school; or
- B. making a threat or false report, as defined by F.S. 790.162 and 790.163, involving school or school personnel's property, school transportation, or a school-sponsored activity;

shall be expelled, with or without continuing educational services, from the student's regular school for a period of not less than one (1) full year and shall be referred to mental health services identified by the District and to the criminal justice or juvenile justice system.

The Superintendent may consider the one (1) year expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis and request that the Board modify the requirement by assigning a student to a disciplinary program or second chance school. The Superintendent's request for modification must be in writing and may only be presented to the Board for consideration if the student and/or the student's parent(s) agree in writing to accept the Superintendent's recommendation. The Board may approve the request if it is determined to be in the best interest of the student and the school system. If a student committing either of the offenses enumerated above is a student who has a disability, the Board shall comply with applicable State Board of Education rules for the discipline of such students.

The District shall enter into agreements with local law enforcement specifying procedures so that acts that pose a threat to school safety, whether committed by a student or adult, are reported to a law enforcement agency having jurisdiction.

Those acts that pose a threat to school safety include, but are not limited to,:

- A. possession of firearms or other weapons
- B. placing, discharging, or throwing an explosive item or noxious substance or making threats to do so
- C. arson

D. felony assault

E. threats of unsafe and potentially harmful, dangerous, violent, or criminal activities

Petty acts of misconduct that are not a threat to school safety do not require consultation with law enforcement.

The following are typically considered petty acts of misconduct, although each act must be examined on a case-by-case basis to determine whether or not the act constitutes a threat to school safety requiring consultation with law enforcement:

A. disorderly conduct

B. disrupting a school function

C. simple assault or battery

D. verbal abuse or use of profanity

E. cheating

F. theft of less than \$300, trespassing, and vandalism of less than \$1,000

G. possession or use of tobacco

Notwithstanding any other provision of Board policy, pursuant to F.S. 1006.13(5), any student found to have committed an act of assault or aggravated assault, or battery or aggravated battery, on any elected official of the School District, teacher, administrator, or other School District personnel, shall be recommended for expulsion or placement in an alternative school setting, as appropriate.

Further, upon being charged with such offense, the student shall be removed from the classroom immediately and placed in an alternative school setting pending disposition.

The Code of Student Conduct that is adopted annually shall provide for review of a decision to suspend or expel a student pursuant to this policy and the Code, consistent with F.S. 1006.07. **The Code shall also include the following:**

**A. criteria for recommending to law enforcement that a student who commits a criminal offense be allowed to participate in a civil citation or similar prearrest diversion program as an alternative to expulsion or arrest;**

**All civil citation or similar prearrest diversion programs must comply with F.S. 985.12.**

**B. criteria for assigning a student who commits a petty act of misconduct to a school-based intervention program. If a student's assignment is based on a noncriminal offense, the student's participation in a school-based intervention program may not be entered into the Juvenile Justice Information System Prevention Web.**

Furthermore, if the Board receives notice from the Department of Juvenile Justice, as required by law, that a student enrolled in the District has been adjudicated guilty of or delinquent for, or is found to have committed, regardless of whether adjudication is withheld, or pleads guilty or *nolo contendere* to, a felony violation as set forth in F.S. 1006.13(6)(a), the Board shall, pursuant to State law and the adopted cooperative agreement with the Department of Juvenile Justice, require that any no contact order entered by a court be enforced and that all of the necessary steps be taken to protect the victim of the offense or a sibling of the victim.

Students may be subject to discipline for violation of the Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code even if that conduct occurs on property not owned or controlled by the Board but that is connected to activities or incidents that have occurred on property owned or controlled by the Board, or conduct that, regardless of where it occurs, is directed at a Board official or employee, or the property of such official or employee.

The principal shall notify all school personnel as to their responsibilities regarding incident reporting, that acts which pose a threat to school safety and crimes are properly reported to the principal, and that the disposition of the incident is properly documented.

Student conduct shall be governed by the rules and provisions set forth in the Student Code of Conduct which is reviewed and adopted annually in accordance with F.S. Chapter 120.

The Code of Student Conduct shall contain provisions for the assignment of violent or disruptive students to an alternative educational program and/or referral of such students to mental health services identified by the District.

Effective 4/9/14  
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Legal

[F.S. 1006.07](#)

[F.S. 1006.13](#)

[F.S. 1012.584](#)