FAYETTE COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
1401 Spartan Drive
Connersville, IN 47331

2026-2027 STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The entire foundation and success of public school education depends on the basic concept of self-discipline, which will allow all individuals to exist in a world of change and with the individual rights afforded them by our Federal and State Constitutions. Certain standards of student conduct are necessary to ensure that students seeking to express their own individual rights do not, at the same time, infringe upon the rights of others. The responsibility for the development and maintenance of self-discipline falls to the cooperative efforts of students, parents, teachers, administrators, and the community.

The purpose of school discipline, rules, and procedures is to help create an atmosphere that promotes the best possible learning environment for all those involved in the educational process. An environment that provides equal opportunity for all and permits the teaching-learning process to proceed in an orderly manner is the objective of all staff members. Students must follow the responsible directions of staff members in all educational settings and refrain from disruptive behavior that interferes with the educational environment.

Staff members will make every effort, individually, collectively, and cooperatively, with appropriate available commentary resources, to help each student gain acceptable self-discipline standards. However, in the absence of self-discipline, school corporation staff members have the right to take any disciplinary action necessary to promote student conduct that conforms with an orderly and effective educational system.

Some behavior is much more serious than other behavior and requires different approaches and clearly defined actions. Disciplinary actions may include but are not limited to: reprimand; counseling with a student or group of students; conferences with student and parent/guardian; assigning additional work; rearranging class schedules; behavior contract; requiring a student to be in school before and/or after regular school hours to do additional school work or for counseling; restricting extracurricular activities; payment for damages to property; assignment by the principal/director to a special course of study or an alternative education program; removal of a student from school-sponsored transportation; referral to the juvenile court having jurisdiction over the student; suspension; or expulsion.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Recognizing that the behavior of some students may be so disruptive that it interferes with school purposes or educational functions of the school corporation, school officials may find it necessary to discipline a student. In this event and in accordance with the provisions of IC 20-33-8, administrators and staff members may take the following actions:

1. **Removal from class or activity – Teacher**
   a. A middle school or high school teacher has the right to remove a student from his/her class or activity for a period of up to five (5) school days if the student is assigned regular or additional work to be completed in another school setting.
   b. An elementary teacher has the right to remove a student from his/her classroom or activity for a period of up to one (1) school day if the student is assigned regular or additional work to be completed in another school setting.
2. **Suspension from school – Principal/Director**
   A school principal/director or designee may deny a student the right to attend school or take part in any school function for a period of up to ten (10) school days.
3. **Expulsion**
   In accordance with the due process procedures defined in this policy, a student may be expelled from school for a period no longer than the remainder of the current semester plus the following semester, with the exception of possession of a firearm, destructive device, or a deadly weapon listed under the Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion in this policy.
4. **Penalty for Possession of a Firearm, Destructive Device, or Deadly Weapon**
   The penalty for possession of a firearm, destructive device, or deadly weapon shall be suspension up to ten (10) days and expulsion from school for at least one calendar year. Students expelled for bringing a firearm or destructive device to school or on school property may not return to school until the beginning of the first semester after the one-year period. The length of the expulsion may be reduced by the superintendent if the circumstances warrant such a reduction. The superintendent shall immediately notify the appropriate law enforcement agency when a student is expelled under this rule.

GROUNDS FOR SUSPENSION/EXPULSION

The grounds for suspension or expulsion apply to student conduct:

1. On school grounds immediately before, during, and immediately after school hours and any other time when the school is being used by a school group (including summer school).
2. Off school grounds at a school activity, function, or event.
3. Traveling to or from school, a school activity or event.
   A student committing an act that violates Indiana or Federal law at any time or place may be suspended or expelled if the unlawful act arises out of a school relationship or is likely to have in-school consequences.

A. STUDENT MISCONDUCT AND/OR SUBSTANTIAL DISOBEDIENCE

The following constitute misconduct and/or substantial disobedience for which a student may be suspended or expelled:

I. Behavior that injures or presents a risk of injury to the student or another person.
II. Damaging or attempting to steal school property or the private property of another person or organization.
III. Disrupting a class or school activity.
IV. Harassing, threatening, intimidating, hazing, bullying, cyberbullying or sexting another person for any purpose.
V. Possessing, handling, or transmitting a knife, firearm, destructive device, deadly weapon, or any object that can reasonably be considered a weapon, is represented to be or looks like a destructive device or weapon. See Section B and C for description of devices that are considered to be a firearm, destructive device, or deadly weapon.
VI. Possessing, using, transmitting, selling or being affected by any controlled substance which is represented to be or looks like:
   A. A narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate
   B. Alcohol, alcoholic beverage; intoxicant of any kind
   C. A prescription drug except as authorized in a prescription by a licensed health care provider

D. An over-the-counter medication containing a stimulant of any kind, such as preparations containing caffeine, ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or Phenylpropanolamine as their primary ingredient, or any other similar OTC product except as authorized in a prescription by a licensed health care provider.

E. A substance that is marketed for use for the purpose of interfering with the detection of the use of a substance in violation of these student conduct rules.

F. Marijuana or any other illegal drug

G. Depressant

H. Any substance represented to be or thought by the possessor or the intended recipient to be a substance described in this student conduct rule.

A student with a chronic disease or medical condition may possess and self-administer prescribed medication for the disease or condition if the student's parent has filed a written authorization with the building principal. The written authorization must be filed annually, and the written authorization must be done by a physician and must include the following information:

1. The student has an acute or chronic disease or medical condition for which the physician has prescribed medication.
2. The nature of the disease or medical condition requires emergency administration of the prescribed medication.
3. The student has been instructed how to self-administer the prescribed medication.
4. The student is authorized to possess and self-administer the prescribed medication.

VII. Possessing alcohol or drug use paraphernalia, such as rolling papers or clips, or displaying materials that promote or encourage alcohol, tobacco, or drug use.

VIII. Possessing cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, electronic cigarettes, VAPE, JUUL & any other inhaling/smoking device (with or without nicotine) or other tobacco products, or a device such as a lighter designed primarily for use in consuming tobacco products.

IX. Engaging in inappropriate sexual behavior.

X. Engaging in speech or conduct, including wearing clothing, jewelry, or a hairstyle, that is dangerous to the student, indecent, lewd, vulgar, offensive, and or profane, which presents a message that is inconsistent with the educational mission of the school district, or results in disruption of an educational function.

XI. Possessing or using on school grounds during school hours or on a school bus an electronic device, cellular phone, laser pointer, or other telecommunication device in a situation not related to an approved school purpose or educational function, or using such a device to engage in an activity that would otherwise violate school rules without approval of the principal.

XII. Refusing or failing to follow a directive from a school employee.

XIII. Not having a legal settlement in the school district, unless enrollment as a transfer student has been approved.

XIV. Violating rules (distributed separately) governing the use of school computer or communication equipment or access to the Internet or computer networks through school.

XV. Refusing to cooperate in a vehicle search conducted pursuant to reasonable suspicion of a teacher or administrator or pursuant to the consent to search given in the student parking agreement.

XVI. Violating any rules necessary in carrying out school purposes or an educational function.

XVII. Violating Indiana or Federal law. A student committing an act that violates Indiana or Federal law at any time or place may be suspended or expelled if the unlawful act arises out of a school relationship or is likely to have in-school consequences.

XVIII. Aiding, assisting, or conspiring with another student in violating these student conduct rules or Indiana or Federal law.

XIX. Failure to inform school officials of a potential danger or threat.

XX. Being a habitual offender. A habitual offender is a student who chronically exhibits disruptive behavior that interferes with an educational function or school purpose and continues to choose inappropriate behaviors regardless of repeated discipline interventions.

XXI. Willful absence or tardiness.

XXII. Failing to tell the truth about any matter under investigation by school personnel.

XXIII. Falsely accusing any person of sexual or racial harassment, or violating a school rule and/or Indiana or Federal law.

XXIV. Taking or displaying inappropriate pictures (digital or otherwise) at school or at a school-sponsored event or function, with or without the consent of the student or staff member.

B. <u>POSSESSING A FIREARM OR A DESTRUCTIVE DEVICE</u>

No student shall possess, handle, or transmit any firearm or a destructive device on school property. The following devices are considered to be a firearm under this rule:

a. Any weapon which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive
b. The frame or receiver of any weapon described above
c. Any firearm muffler or firearm silencer
d. Any destructive device which is an explosive, incendiary, poison gas bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, mine, or any similar device
e. Any weapon which will, or which may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant, and which has any barrel with a bore of more than one-half inch in diameter
f. Any combination of parts, either designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device described in the two immediately preceding examples, and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled
g. An antique firearm
h. A rifle or shotgun that the owner intends to use solely for sporting, recreational, or cultural purposes

For purposes of this rule, a destructive device is:

- An explosive, incendiary, or overpressure device that is configured as a bomb, a grenade, a rocket with a propellant charge of more than four ounces, a missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, a mine, a Molotov cocktail or a device that is substantially similar to an item described above.
- A type of weapon that may be readily converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant through a barrel that has a bore diameter of more than one-half inch, or
- A combination of parts designed or intended for use in the conversion of a

device into a destructive device. A destructive device is NOT a device that, although originally designed for use as a weapon, is redesigned for use as a signaling, pyrotechnic, line-throwing, safety, or similar device.

C. POSSESSING A DEADLY WEAPON

No student shall possess, handle or transmit any deadly weapon on school property. The following devices are considered to be deadly weapons as defined in I.C. 35-41-1-8:

- A weapon, taser or electronic stun weapon, equipment, chemical substance, or other material that in the manner it is used, or could ordinarily be used, or is intended to be used, is readily capable of causing serious bodily injury.
- An animal readily capable of causing serious bodily injury and used in the commission or attempted commission of a crime.
- A biological disease, virus, or organism that is capable of causing serious bodily injury.

DEFINITION OF "IN POSSESSION"

Students are "in possession" of an item for purposes of these grounds for suspension and expulsion if the item is on their person, in their immediate possession such as in a purse or backpack, or is kept in a place under their primary control such as a locker or vehicle with their knowledge.

With respect to possession of illegal drugs, a student is presumed to possess the drug in violation of these rules if a test of the student's blood or urine shows that the student has used the illegal drug. A student may rebut this presumption by showing that s/he did not possess or use the illegal drug.

SUSPENSION PROCEDURES

When a principal/director or designee determines that a student should be suspended, the following procedures will be followed:

1. A meeting will be held prior to the suspension of any student. At this meeting, the student will be entitled to:
   a. A written or oral statement of the charges;
   b. A summary of the evidence to be presented against the student if the student denies the charges; and
   c. An opportunity for the student to explain his/her conduct.
2. The meeting shall precede suspension of the student except where the nature of the misconduct requires immediate removal. In such situation, the meeting will follow the suspension as soon as reasonably possible following the date of the suspension.
3. Following the suspension, the parent/guardian of a suspended student will be notified in writing. The notification will include the dates of the suspension, a description of the student's misconduct, and the action taken by the principal/director.

EXPULSION

When a principal or designee recommends to the superintendent/designee that the student be expelled from school, the following procedures will be followed:

1. The superintendent/designee may conduct an expulsion meeting, or may appoint one of the following persons to conduct the meeting:
   a. legal counsel, or
   b. A member of the administrative staff who did not expel the student during the current school year and was not involved in the event giving rise to the expulsion.
2. An expulsion will not take place until the student and the student's parent/guardian are given notice of their right to appear at an expulsion meeting conducted by the superintendent/designee. The notice of the right to an expulsion meeting will be in writing, delivered by certified mail or personal delivery, and will contain the reasons for the expulsion and the procedure for requesting the meeting.
3. Failure by a student or a student's parent/guardian to request and to appear at this meeting will be deemed a waiver of rights administratively to contest the expulsion or to appeal it to the Board.
4. At the expulsion meeting, the principal/director or designee will present evidence to support the charges against the student. The student or parent/guardian will have the opportunity to answer the charges against the student and present evidence to support the student's position. The person conducting the expulsion meeting will make a written summary of the evidence heard at the meeting, take any action found to be appropriate, and give notice of the action taken to the student and the student's parents/guardians.

5. In accordance with IC 20-33-8-19 (f) the Board has determined it will not hear appeals of expulsion meeting decisions made by the superintendent or his designee. A student or parent may appeal the expulsion decision to the Fayette Circuit or Superior Court.

WEB PAGE SPEECH, DISPLAYS, OR COMMUNICATIONS, AND ELECTRONIC MAIL COMMUNICATIONS

The principal has the authority to discipline students for inappropriate web page speech, displays or communications, or electronic mail communications, which violate school policies or rules, student internet user policy or agreements, or is unlawful, if created, displayed, or communicated by the student on school property or using school equipment or software. The principal may also discipline (including suspend or expel) a student for web page speech, displays, or electronic communications created or displayed off school grounds if the activity is unlawful and either of the following elements exists:

1. The activity may reasonably be considered an interference with school purposes or an educational function; or
2. The students' removal is necessary to restore order or protect persons on school property.

STUDENT LOCKER INSPECTION

All lockers made available for student use on the school premises, including lockers located in the hallways, physical education and athletic dressing rooms, industrial, vocational, and art classrooms, are the property of the school corporation. These lockers are made available for student use in storing school supplies and personal items necessary for use at school, but the lockers are not to be used to store items which cause, or can reasonably be foreseen to cause, an interference with school purposes or an educational function, or which are forbidden by state law or school rules.

The student's use of the lockers does not diminish the school corporation's ownership or control of the lockers. The school corporation retains the right to inspect the locker and its contents to ensure that the locker is being used in accordance with its intended purpose; to eliminate fire or other hazards; to maintain sanitary conditions; to attempt to locate lost or stolen materials; and to prevent use of the locker to store prohibited or dangerous materials such as weapons, illegal drugs, or alcohol.

The school corporation will retain access to student lockers by keeping a master list of combinations and/or retaining a master key. An inspection of all lockers in the school, or all lockers in a particular area of the school, may be conducted if the principal/director, superintendent, or assistant superintendent reasonably believes that such an inspection is necessary to prevent, impede, or substantially reduce the risk of:

1. An interference with school purposes or an educational function;
2. A physical injury or illness to any person; damage to personal or school property; or
3. A violation of state or federal law or school rules.

SEARCH/SEIZURE

The Board recognizes its obligation to balance the privacy rights of its students with its responsibility to provide student, faculty, and authorized visitors with a safe, hygienic, and drug-free learning environment. In balancing these competing interests, the Board directs the superintendent/designee to utilize the following principles:

1. School Property

All lockers, desks, and other storage units made available for student use on the school premises, including lockers located in the hallways, physical education and athletic dressing rooms, industrial, vocational and art classrooms are the property of the school corporation. These units are made available for student use in storing school supplies and personal items necessary for use at school, but the lockers are not to be used to store items which cause, or can reasonably be foreseen to cause, an interference with school purposes or an educational function, or which are forbidden by state law or school rules.

A student may not expect to have privacy in a locker, desk or other storage unit or its contents. Periodic general inspections may be conducted by school authorities for any reason, at any time, without notice, without the student's consent, or without a search warrant. The school's right to inspect the storage units and their contents ensures that the units are being used in accordance with their intended purposes, and to eliminate fire and other hazards, maintain sanitary conditions, attempt to locate lost or stolen materials and prevent use of the locker, desks, or storage unit to store prohibited or dangerous materials such as weapons, illegal substances, paraphernalia, alcohol, or stolen property.

Other than a general inspection of all lockers, desks, or other storage units, whenever an individual student unit is the subject of a search based on reasonable suspicion of contraband being present, the student assigned to the storage unit being searched should be present during the search, if possible.

2. Student Person and Possession

Students and student lockers may be searched when a school administrator has individualized reasonable suspicion to believe that the search will produce evidence of a violation of the law, a school rule, or of a condition that endangers the safety or health of the student or others. Searches of the person of a student shall be conducted and witnessed by staff members of the same sex as the student and shall be conducted in a private office. The student's parent/guardian shall be notified of the search within twenty- four (24) hours if possible. This search policy shall apply to all situations in which the student is within the jurisdiction of the Board.

3. Vehicle Search

Permission for a student to bring a motor vehicle on school property is conditional on written consent by the student driver, the owner of the motor vehicle, and the parent/guardian of the student to allow search of that motor vehicle by a school administrator with reasonable suspicion to believe that the search will produce evidence of a violation of law, a school rule, or a condition that endangers the safety or health of the student driver or others. The student shall have no expectation of privacy in a vehicle parked on school property.

Refusal by the student, parent/guardian, or the motor vehicle owner to provide or allow access to a motor vehicle on school premises at the time of request to search the motor vehicle, shall be cause for termination, without further hearing, of the privilege of bringing a motor vehicle on to school premises.

4. Law Enforcement Agencies

The superintendent or building administrator may request the assistance of a law enforcement agency in implementing any aspect of this policy. Where law enforcement officers participate in a search on school property or at a school activity pursuant to a request by the superintendent or building administrator, the search shall be conducted by the law enforcement officers in accordance with the legal standards applicable to law enforcement officers. If a law enforcement official requests to inspect a student's locker, desk, or storage unit of its contents, the principal/director shall require the production of a search warrant before allowing the inspection. However, upon request of law enforcement officials, school officials may secure the unit and its contents for a reasonable period of time in order to permit the law enforcement official an opportunity to obtain a search warrant.

5. Seizure of Property

Anything founding the course of a search pursuant to this policy which constitutes evidence of a violation of a law, school rule, or which endangers the safety or health of any person shall be seized and utilized as evidence if appropriate. Seized items of value shall be returned to the owner if the items may be lawfully possessed by the owner. Seized items that may not be lawfully possessed by the owner shall be destroyed and seized items of no value may be destroyed.

6. Publication of Rules

A copy of these rules shall be provided to each student and his/her parents/guardians at the start of each school year or as soon as practical after the student's enrollment in the school. Copies of the rules shall be available in the principal's/director's office and other prominent places generally used for announcements to students.

DEFINITIONS

As used herein, the term" school purposes" is defined as it is in IC 20-33-8-4:
… The term "school purposes" refers to the purpose for which a school corporation operates, including:
to promote knowledge and learning generally.
to maintain an orderly and effective educational system.
take any action under the authority granted to school corporations and their governing bodies by IC 20-26-5 or by any other statute.

As used herein, the term "educational function" is defined as it is in IC 20-33-8-2:
… The term "educational function" means the performance by a school corporation, or its officers or employees, of an act or a series of acts in carrying out school purposes.

Legal Reference: 20 U.S.C. 8921
20 U.S.C. 8922
I.C. 20-33-8
I.C. 20-33-8-0.2(b)
I.C. 20-33-8-19(f)
I.C. 35-47.5-2-4
I.C. 35-41-1-8
I.C. 35-47-1-5

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