

SYOSSET CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT CODE OF CHARACTER, CONDUCT AND SUPPORT Teacher Plain Language Summary

Teacher Summary

This is the teacher summary of the Syosset Central School District Code of Character, Conduct and Support. It was written by teachers for teachers, to highlight sections of the Code most relevant to educating students in a manner that fosters social emotional growth and the development of positive, supportive relationships.

[The full Code](#) can be found on the District website under Board of Education – Board Policies.

Core Principles

The goal of the code is to create a safe, collaborative school environment built on positive and supportive relationships.

Syosset Central School District believes that all students are able to improve their behavior by developing a growth mindset. However, different students need different kinds and amounts of time, attention and support to be successful. Student discipline and support policies wherever possible will be restorative and solutions based. Consequences must be clear, fair and timely. Restorative practices require that students take responsibility for their actions, reflect, problem solve, make amends to repair the harm, and learn skills to modify their behavior.

As a result of restorative practices, students will take agency over their words and actions. Students will be able to:

- Manage their emotions
- Set goals
- Feel and show empathy for others
- Create positive relationships
- Make good choices

School staff and parents will support students to discern right from wrong, foster the desire to do what is right, and require them to take responsibility for their words and actions.

Rights and Responsibilities

The Code of Character, Conduct and Support is a guide for supporting positive student behavior at school. It is intended to help prevent student misconduct through the use of effective strategies.

It is expected that teachers be prepared to teach and show concern for student achievement. Teachers should communicate clear expectations regularly with students and parents/guardians regarding growth and achievement. Teachers should be open to active participation in resolving conflicts through restorative practices.

Students who are found to have violated the School District's Code of Character, Conduct and Support may be subject to consequences as listed in the full document. Restorative practices may be used on a case by case basis to mediate a conflict.

Student Behavior

It is expected that all students conduct themselves in a manner that supports the intent of the Code of Character, Conduct and Support; creating a safe and supportive school environment free of discrimination, bullying/cyberbullying and harassment in school, on the bus, and at after school activities.

Students can learn to assume and accept responsibility for their own behavior, as well as the consequences of their misbehavior.

Students are expected to comply with the reasonable direction of teachers, support staff and administrators, demonstrate kindness toward each other, and use technology appropriately. Should students fall short of this expectation, consequences will be applied. Students will be asked to reflect on their behavior and identify how to correct behavior in the future. For a full explanation of expected behavior and consequences, consult the full Code of Character, Conduct, and Support.

Selected Definitions

The following terminology is highlighted for all teachers to be familiar with the new practices district wide as well as other terms which are often encountered.

Restorative Practices: actions that promote inclusiveness, relationship building and problem solving.

Restorative Interventions: restorative circles for teaching and conflict resolution to address wrongdoing.

Growth Mindset: all students can learn through hard work and perseverance.

Academic Misconduct: actions that create an unfair academic advantage for any member of the academic community.

Harassment: creation of hostile environment by threats, intimidation or abuse that interferes with student's educational performance; including bullying, cyber-bullying and discrimination.