

Syosset Central School District
CODE OF CONDUCT SUMMARY
(Plain Language)

Introduction

This is the Syosset Central School District (District) Code of Conduct (Code) Summary.

All of us at the District believe that every school should be a safe place. Our goal is for all students and staff to follow the rules. We need to be responsible and respectful.

The District's general Code rules are:

1. Be respectful (Be kind, treat everyone nicely, no bullying)
2. Be responsible (Be honest, cooperate, dress appropriately for school)

These rules apply to all students, staff, parents and visitors in the District.

This summary is not meant to replace the full Code. If you have any questions, please see the full District Code. If there is something that seems different in this summary from the full Code, follow the statements in the full Code.

I. DEFINITIONS

The Code has many words you may not know. The beginning of the Code explains what some of the words mean.

II. STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. **Student Rights** All students have the right to go to school no matter what they look like or what they like to do. Everyone has the right to be treated fairly.
- B. **Student Responsibilities** All students have the responsibility to participate in school in a way that will help everyone learn in an environment that is safe.

III. ESSENTIAL PARTNERS

Parents/Guardians

All parents and guardians are responsible for following the Code rules. This will help our school stay safe so students can learn.

School Staff

All school principals, teachers and staff are responsible for following the Code rules. This will help students be successful.

IV. STUDENT DRESS CODE

All students should wear appropriate clothes at school. The Code explains what is unacceptable to wear to school. Each family should help make sure their child is wearing appropriate clothes for school.

If students are wearing inappropriate clothes at school, they will be asked to change into appropriate clothes. Students need to follow this rule or they will be given consequences. In-school suspension is an example of a consequence for not following this rule. If students wear inappropriate clothes to school more than once and still do not follow a direction to change into appropriate clothes, they will be given more consequences. Out-of-school suspension is an example of a consequence for not following this direction more than once.

V. STUDENT BEHAVIOR

At school, students should:

- Act appropriately
- Be kind to other people
- Take care of school property

At school, students will be given consequences for:

- Unsafe behavior
- Not respecting other people
- Damaging school property
- Threatening others
- Hurting others
- Copying other people's work
- Stealing
- Touching other people inappropriately
- Fighting
- Pulling the fire alarm
- Having a weapon
- Having/using/selling drugs
- Smoking
- Using tobacco
- Bullying
- Harassment and discrimination

An example of consequences for these actions is suspension from school.

Bullying

Bullying will not be tolerated at the District. A bully is somebody who says or

does hurtful things over and over again. A bullying act is when someone:

- Makes fun of others
- Hits, pushes or touches someone in a way that is not welcome
- Leaves someone out of games and activities on purpose
- Breaks or takes someone else's belongings
- Spreads hurtful rumors. (A rumor is information about someone or something that might not be true).
- Sends a threatening or hurtful message to someone in an e-mail, text message, video, or posts it on the internet.

Bullying can make someone feel scared or hurt. The adults in your school want all kids to feel safe. If you are getting bullied or see a friend getting bullied, you should tell your teacher, a staff member or the principal.

Harassment/Discrimination

Harassment is when a person is picked on by another student or staff member. It can include: threats, saying bad things, using force or size to make you uncomfortable or to physically hurt you. Harassment is sometimes based on how a person looks, acts, or how they are thought to be different. You cannot treat others meanly or unfairly because of things such as their race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, sex, gender, sexual orientation, or disability. You cannot harass or discriminate at school.

Electronic Devices

Students who use electronic devices in an inappropriate way may face consequences such as loss of activities or suspension.

VI. REPORTING VIOLATIONS

- All students are expected to tell a school adult if someone is not following the rules of the District.
- If you see a student with an unsafe item (such as drugs/alcohol/weapon) you must immediately tell a school adult.
- School adults who are allowed to enforce discipline must do so in a quick and fair way.
- School adults who are not allowed to enforce discipline must quickly report broken rules of the Code to the teacher or principal.
- Any unsafe item (drugs/alcohol/weapon) found will be taken as soon as noticed, if possible.
- The principal may need to tell the appropriate law enforcement agency (for example, the police department) about any broken rules of the Code that are a crime or are illegal.

VII. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS, PROCEDURES AND REFERRALS

Disciplinary action or punishment when needed will be firm and fair in order to help change behavior.

A. Disciplinary Action

Students who break the rules of the Code may receive the following punishment or disciplinary action:

- Verbal warning – by any school adult
- Written warning – by teachers, bus drivers, and principals
- Written note to parent – by teachers, bus drivers, and principals
- Suspension from school (out of school for at least one day) due to repeated violation of the rules and interruption of the learning and safety of other students.

B. Procedures

School staff are allowed to give consequences for problem behavior. The staff must tell the student what they did wrong and look into the behavior to find out if it happened and whether the student was responsible. Students can talk with the staff about the problem behavior to explain the behavior.

Students who have broken the rules and are given the consequence of not being able to attend school may have the rights in the section on discipline read to them from the Code.

C. Minimum Periods of Suspension

1. Students who bring a gun to school or to a school activity.
Students who bring a gun to school or to a school activity could be suspended from school for at least one year.
2. Students who are violent.
A student who is violent in school could be suspended from school for at least five days by the principal and could also receive a long-term suspension.
3. Students who often break the rules and disrupt the classroom environment and do not listen to the teacher.
Students who often break the rules and disrupt the classroom environment and do not listen to the teacher could be suspended for at least one day.

D. Referrals

1. PINS Petition

The School District may file a PINS (person in need of supervision) petition in Family Court against any student under the age of 18. This means a judge may get involved if a student often breaks serious rules and will not listen to adults at the school or his/her parents.

2. Juvenile Delinquent and Juvenile Offenders

The Superintendent of the School District has to tell law enforcement (the police) if a juvenile delinquency proceeding is started in Family Court for:

- a) any student 16 and under who brought a weapon to school;
or
- b) any student 14 or 15 years old who could get juvenile offender status under the Criminal Procedure Law.

VIII. ALTERNATIVE INSTRUCTION

When a student of any age, is suspended from school, the school still has to provide instruction, because it is required by the Education Law and this Code.

IX. DISCIPLINE OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Board of Education knows that students with disabilities might need to be disciplined for breaking the Code. The Board or its staff will decide consequences based on each student's case. The consequences and procedures to be followed for disciplining students with disabilities are explained in the Code.

X. CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Physical punishment of any student by any staff is not allowed. However, when necessary, staff can use physical force. Physical force can only be used to:

1. Protect someone from being hurt;
2. Protect property, or
3. Restrain or remove a student whose behaviors do not stop and continue to get in the way of school or school activities.

XI. STUDENT SEARCHES AND INTERROGATIONS

A student is not given any warning before staff can ask questions about breaking the Code. Staff do not have to talk to a student's parent before asking the student questions. Staff need to tell the student why they are being questioned. The Board of Education allows the Superintendent, principals, and head of security to look through a student's things if they think they will find something against the rules in the Code. They may also search the student's things if they get information from another person.

The District may work with police to search school grounds with trained dogs to look for drugs. They may also use metal detectors to search for weapons.

A. Student Lockers, Desks and other School Storage Places

School staff can go into desks, lockers, and other school storage places without telling students or getting their permission. Students do not have a right to the same amount of privacy in school as they do outside of school.

B. Searches

A student may be searched in school. The school staff in charge of the search must have a reason to search a student such as thinking the student is hiding something dangerous, illegal or against the Code.

C. Documentation of Searches

School staff who search a student have to make notes about the search.

If anything illegal is found during the search, school staff may have to take the item and give it to the police.

D. Police Involvement in Searches and Interrogations of Students

The District has to work with police and others in law enforcement to make sure the school is always safe. Police have limited rights to search or talk to students on school property or at school activities. Police may enter schools or school activities to question or search a student only if:

- they have a search or arrest warrant;
- they reasonably believe that a student has broken the law at school or at a school activity;
- or, school staff says it's okay.

E. Child Protective Services Investigations

The District will work with local child protective services workers who want to talk with students on school property about possible abuse and/or neglect, or court issues.

XII. VISITORS TO THE SCHOOLS

The Board knows that parents and other people might want to visit students, teachers, school staff, and the classrooms. However, since schools are a place of learning and work, there will be many times that people may not visit.

XIII. PUBLIC CONDUCT ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

The District must have rules to keep schools safe. These rules also apply to people visiting a school. Visitors and people in the community must control the way they act at school. They must show respect and wear the correct clothing for the activity or event they are attending.

A. No Person is allowed to:

- hurt another person
- threaten another person
- steal from the school
- steal from the students or adults at the school
- steal from the people visiting the school
- damage school property including setting a fire or using graffiti
- remove things from the dumpster or recycling bins
- disrupt classes, programs or school activities
- wear clothes or hand out things that are disruptive, upsetting, obscene or against the law
- bully, tease or judge anyone based on their color, weight, nationality, religion, gender, sex, sexual orientation, disability or any other reason
- enter or stay in the school without permission when it is closed
- stop or disrupt the movement of any person in any school place or break the rules when driving or parking
- have, sell, give, trade or use cigarettes, tobacco, alcohol or drugs
or materials needed for cigarettes, tobacco, alcohol and drugs at school or school activities
- have or use weapons unless you are a police officer or security person
- hang out on school grounds or at school functions if you do not belong there
- play cards or games for money or gain (gamble) on school grounds
- refuse to follow a reasonable request from a person working at the school
- make others commit any action against the Code
- break the law, Code or district rules while on school property or at a school function

B. Actions

Visitors and members of the community who break the rules in the Code will not be allowed on school property or at school events. The police may be called to help the District enforce the Code.

Students who break the rules of the Code of Conduct will have consequences.

Adults who work at the school, who break the rules, will be warned, reprimanded, suspended or dismissed as the law allows.

C. Enforcement

The school staff has the responsibility to enforce the rules.

Dignity Act Coordinators in all schools:

Dignity Act Coordinator	School	Phone Number
Donna Conlon	Baylis	364-5798
Rachel Devore	Baylis	364-5798
Dr. Taryn Wood	Baylis	364-5798
Eva Kaplan	Berry Hill	364-5790
Alena Kupferman	Berry Hill	364-5790
Suzzane Tesoriero	Berry Hill	364-5790
George Basso	Robbins Lane	364-5804
Joseph Cynar	Robbins Lane	364-5804
Catherine daSilva	Robbins Lane	364-5804
Dr. Jennifer Epstein	South Grove	364-5810
Christina Mancuso	South Grove	364-5810
Jody Heitner	Village	364-5817
Dr. Erika Koschei	Village	364-5817
Lori Levien	Walt Whitman	364-5823
Dr. Giovanna Rispani	Walt Whitman	364-5823
Tina Matturo	Willits	364-5829
Anthony Roche	Willits	364-5829
Susan Heller Fisher	South Woods MS	364-5621
Linda Grunert	South Woods MS	364-5621
James McAleer	H.B. Thompson MS	364-5760
Allison Mills-Carroll	H.B. Thompson MS	364-5760
Richard Faber	Syosset High School	364-5675

XIV. SHARING THE CODE OF CONDUCT

The Code of Conduct will be shared with the people in the school community. It will be reviewed every year by the Board of Education.

Reviewed April 23, 2016

Reviewed May 11, 2016

Reviewed June 12, 2017