

LOWER TOWNSHIP ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Introduction

The Lower Township School District is committed not only to excellence in academic instruction but in joining with parents to teach students the behaviors and skills that support social successes throughout life. To accomplish this goal, the district is taking a proactive approach to teaching social skills as a significant component of the educational program. The curriculum includes systematic teaching of the behaviors necessary for effective and satisfying social interaction in school, on the playground, and at home. Since pupils learn by example, school administrators, faculty, staff, parents, guardians and volunteers should be commended for demonstrating appropriate behavior, treating others with civility and respect, and refusing to tolerate harassment, intimidation or bullying.

Behavior Code Contract

The Lower Township Schools are designed to be places in which the opportunity to learn is provided to every student. This happens harmoniously when students follow the expectations for appropriate conduct in school.

These expectations will be supported by our "High Five" rules, which are as follows:

1. Be respectful
2. Be responsible
3. Be there/be ready
4. Follow directions
5. Hands and feet to self

Student Rights

- Students will be provided with a learning environment that allows each student to develop into a productive citizen.
- Students will obtain an education in a safe and non-threatening environment.
- Students will be insured of privacy and confidentiality regarding school and home matters.
- Students will be protected from illegal search and seizure.
- Students will have the right to due process in accordance with state and federal rules/regulations.

Student Expectations

All students are expected and encouraged to show respect for self, others, property, and the educational environment and to conduct themselves in a safe, non-threatening way. In order to insure a positive and productive learning atmosphere, students are expected to:

- Attend school daily.
- Follow rules and regulations of the school, classroom, bus, and cafeteria.
- Make a sincere effort to do their best work.
- Cooperate with teachers, administrators, other school employees, and other students.
- Be courteous to others at all times.
- Respect all individual and cultural differences.
- Dress appropriately as stated in the "Student Dress Code".
- Take pride in their school and community.

Positive Consequences

The district staff has committed itself to encouraging and supporting the attainment of academic skills as well as social skills, such as listening, friendship making, alternatives to aggression, etc. To inspire and encourage students to develop their potential in all of these areas, the following reinforcers will be used:

1. Individual awards/recognition
2. Classroom awards/recognition
3. Certificates
4. Displays
5. Stamps, stickers, and stars
6. Positive contact with the home
7. Special activities
8. Publications
9. Assemblies/field trips to reward positive behavior and academic progress

Negative Consequences

1. Teacher/student conference
2. Disciplinary action initiated by the teacher
3. School/parent contact (letter, phone)
4. School/parent conference
5. Confiscation
6. Restitution, detention, etc.
7. Guidance referral
8. Principal intervention
9. Suspension from the bus; however, student must attend school and parent must provide transportation
10. Internal suspension from classes
11. External suspension from classes and all school activities
12. Loss of assembly/field trip privileges
13. Full restitution by parent(s) for damage done by student
14. Referral to legal authorities

In selecting consequences to use for unacceptable behavior, it is not necessary to use each one or to use them in the order listed. Normally, external suspension shall occur only after corrective measures have been tried without success.

School Support Teams

Realizing that while children are learning new behaviors and engaged in challenging academics, they may falter at times. To assist staff and students, a proactive support system will be available in each school to plan appropriate behavior management interventions/plans. For any major or re-occurring minor offenses, teachers are responsible for requesting a support team meeting to develop a plan, which identifies reinforcers for the desired academic and social behaviors to balance the negative consequences listed above. The teacher and members of the support team will monitor the intervention strategies. Parent interest in this process should be directed to the classroom teacher first.

Disciplinary Offenses

The following behaviors interfere with the learning process:

Minor Offenses

1. Gum Chewing.
2. Taking another's property without permission.
3. Inappropriate behavior, e.g., running, pushing, shoving, yelling, whistling, damaging school property.
4. Inappropriate clothing as indicated in the "Student Dress Code".
5. Play fighting, wrestling, or any physical contact.

6. Inappropriate displays of affection.
7. Eating or drinking at improper times or places.
8. Inappropriate language and gestures.
9. Leaving a classroom without permission and/or hall pass.
10. Tardiness to class or school.
11. Non-school related personal items are to remain at home, e.g., toys, collectibles, games, electronics, etc.
12. Possession of a beeper, cellular phone, or any similar portable communication device.

Major Offenses (Require immediate office referral)

1. Disrespect of the authority of school personnel and school-related property, e.g., willful defiance, excessive damage to school property, etc.
2. Academic dishonesty, e.g., copying another student's work, plagiarism, cheating of any sort, etc.
3. Bullying, name calling, profanity, or vulgarity that is considered indecent or obscene, e.g., verbal abuse of a person based on race, color, religion, gender, creed, national origin, personal or physical attributes, disability, intellectual ability, matters pertaining to sexuality, or social/economic status.
4. Fighting.
5. Intimidating others for money or other items.
6. Inappropriate/unauthorized use of computers, e.g., accessing another student's files, accessing confidential school files, etc.
7. Gambling of any form.
8. Play fighting, wrestling, or any physical contact that leads to bodily harm.
9. Truancy.
10. Selling food or other items.
11. Sexual harassment.
12. Threatening or intimidating bodily harm to any person (Principal will notify police if warranted.)

Major Offenses (Automatic police notification as required by law)

1. Possession of tobacco, drugs, or alcohol (Any student holding a cigarette will be presumed to be smoking).
2. Possession of any drug paraphernalia.
3. Possession of a weapon, e.g., firearms, knives, explosives, fireworks, other dangerous objects, etc.
4. Vandalism to school or private property (This includes the threat to vandalize, burn, bomb, or destroy property).
5. Assault.
6. Theft/stealing as defined by law.
7. Illegal use of computers, e.g., communicating threatening, harassing, or indecent messages, downloading obscene material, etc.

Importance of Parental Involvement and Support

Since this is a continuing process, parent cooperation, support, and assistance are needed if we are to be successful. Together, we can make a positive difference in your children's lives. The following are ways that we can work to fulfill our common goals:

A. Staff is expected to:

- Explain the Student Code of Conduct and Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Policy to their students.
- Enforce the Student Code of Conduct and Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Policy in a consistent manner.
- Function as a positive role model for their students.
- Contact parents as deemed necessary to enforce the Student Code of Conduct and to maintain parent/guardian involvement.

B. Parents/Guardians are asked to:

- Read the Student Code of Conduct and Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Policy with your child and explain it as necessary.
- Be a good listener to both your child and the school staff when conflicts arise.
- Be a positive role model for your child.
- Contact the school as necessary.
- Participate as fully as possible in volunteer opportunities, student presentations, parenting programs, special projects, and assembly events.
- Follow rules and regulations of the school, classroom, bus and cafeteria.

C. Students are asked to:

- Follow rules and regulations of the school, classroom, bus and cafeteria.
- Make a sincere effort to do their best work.
- Cooperate with teachers, administrators, other school employees, and other students.
- Be courteous to others at all times.
- Respect all individual and cultural differences.
- Dress appropriately as stated in the "Student Dress Code."
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