

Student Discipline Procedures

Student Code of Conduct

Socrates Academy's expectation for student behavior are based upon the following governing principles:

1. Students will act with courtesy, consideration, tolerance, and patience in all interactions with others both at school and during school-sponsored activities.
2. Students shall treat school property and facilities with care and respect.
3. Students shall treat the property of others with care and respect.
4. Students will follow Socrates Academy's Honor Code and be honest in all academic and social situations.
5. Student behavior will reflect positively upon Socrates Academy and in alignment with Socrates Academy Core Values.

Good discipline is imperative to the success of Socrates Academy: it is helping a student adjust to the requirements of their environment rather than punishment for their not having adjusted, it is turning unacceptable conduct into acceptable conduct, and it is not humiliating or embarrassing. The ultimate, unique achievement of good discipline is self-discipline on the part of the student. Each teacher/team has a plan for managing student behavior that incorporates effective strategies consistent with the purpose and principles established by Board policies regarding student behavior. Teachers are encouraged to seek positive, innovative and constructive methods of correcting and managing student behavior in an effort to avoid repeated misbehavior and suspension.

Consequences for violating the policies in this handbook, teacher/team standards, or rules may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Parental involvement
- Behavior improvement agreements (contracts)
- Individual or small group sessions with an administrator
- Detention during lunch or before/after school
- Exclusion from extracurricular activities
- Suspension or exclusion

Socrates Academy is not required to engage in progressive discipline. Some offenses are so serious they warrant more severe consequences including, but not limited to, immediate suspension and/or recommendation for longer-term consequences.

This Student Code of Conduct is not to be seen as all-inclusive. The administration reserves the right to amend or add to these lists as unique situations arise. The administration further reserves the right to deviate from the stated disciplinary action(s) based on unique or aggravating factors.

Failure to follow the instruction of a teacher, administrator or other school official and any conduct in violation of any written rule, policy or procedure or code of Socrates Academy may result in appropriate disciplinary measures.

DEFINITIONS

- **Detention:** An assigned time [either during lunch/PA or after school] in which a scholar completes an assigned reflective activity.
- **Community Service:** Acts of service to the school community (i.e., campus beautification)
- **Short-Term Suspension:** suspension from school, school activities and school grounds for a period of up to ten (10) school days.
- **Long-Term Suspension:** suspension from school, school activities and school grounds for more than ten (10) school days, but less than exclusion.
- **Exclusion:** Permanent removal of the student from school, school activities and school grounds. A charter school student who has been excluded may return to his local educational agency pursuant to North Carolina law.
- **Expulsion:** Permanent termination of the student-school relationship. This applies only to students 14 years of age or older whose continued presence constitutes a clear threat to the safety of other students or school staff.

CLASS I OFFENSES

Result: After School Detention, In School Reflection, Lunch/PA Detention, Community Service, Administrator Conference

- Uniform/Dress Code violations
- Littering on school property
- Repeatedly refusing to complete school assignments
- Violation of the Technology Use Agreement
- Repeatedly neglecting to bring learning materials to class
- Cell phone/headphone use during the school day

CLASS II OFFENSES

Result: After School Detention, In School Suspension or Short/Long-term Out of School Suspension

- Committing repeated Class I offenses
- Failure to comply with other assigned consequences
- Deliberately disrupting the normal educational process in the classroom
- Failure to attend an assigned class without a valid excuse, skipping school
- Use of profanity and/or an obscene gesture
- Use of discriminatory remarks that goes against our Core Values

- Mild horseplay (tripping, pushing, shoving, smacking)
- Play fighting
- Mild teasing
- Lying to or deliberately deceiving a teacher or a staff member
- Willfully leaving the classroom or school grounds without permission
- Inappropriate public displays of affection
- Failure to follow instructions of school staff
- Unauthorized/inappropriate use of any electronic device while on school property not associated with the educational process during normal school hours.
- Throwing objects in the classroom or on school grounds
- Repeated tardiness to class period(s)
- Use of inappropriate language
- Insubordination
- Repeated violations of the Honor Code such as cheating and/or plagiarism
- Taking unauthorized or inappropriate photos or videos of another individual
- Bullying/harassment (cyber-bullying included)
- Any conduct committed off-campus that (a) if committed on campus would constitute a Class II offense and (b) has a reasonable relationship to school operations
- Causing breakage to another student's school-issued technology

CLASS III OFFENSES

Result: Suspension or possible disciplinary hearing for repeated and/or severe behavior, which could include but would not be limited to a Long-Term Suspension or Permanent Exclusion from attending The School.

- Committing a combination of or repeated Class I and/or Class II offenses
- Using school technology or network to access pornographic, violent or other unacceptable content either at school or at home using school-owned electronic devices
- Accessing, producing, posting, displaying or sending offensive message, music or images, including images of exposed body parts
- Defaming any staff member
- Trafficking, possessing and/or using tobacco/nicotine products on school property or at a school-sponsored event including the use or possession of electronic cigarettes or paraphernalia
- Stealing or possessing stolen property
- Threatening to physically harm or attack another student, staff member or adult on school property or at a school-sponsored event
- Physically striking or attacking a student, staff member or adult whether as an individual act or with the assistance of others
- Possessing, handling, transferring or bringing a weapon or ammunition (including a toy weapon; example – toy gun, toy knife) on school property or at a school-sponsored event
- Creating or encouraging other students to join in a disturbance, so as to cause the disruption of normal school operations

- Accessing or disseminating pornography, graphic content, sexual content or any other inappropriate material on an electronic device or in print
- Possessing, selling, exchanging, distributing, attempting to purchase, using or being under the influence of alcohol, illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, or any substance purported to be an illegal drug, prescription medicine or alcohol on school property or at a school-sponsored event. This includes distribution of or purposely taking more than the prescribed amount of medically necessary prescription medication.
- Touching or conduct that is sexual or inappropriate in nature or which is reasonably deemed offensive to that person
- Damage/destruction/vandalism/arson of or trespassing on school property
- Hazing
- Bomb threat/hoax, false alarms
- Possession or use of explosives, fireworks, sparklers, smoke/stink bombs on school grounds or at a school-sponsored event
- Any conduct committed off-campus that (a) if committed on campus would constitute a Class III offense and (b) has a reasonable relationship to school operations
- Creating or encouraging other students to join in a disturbance, so as to cause the disruption of normal school operations

Note: Any student who inadvertently possesses or finds a weapon or illegal substance or stolen property, which may subject the student to exclusion, can be recommended for these sanctions if the student voluntarily surrenders the property to a school staff person prior to discovery by another person. This should be done as soon as the student realizes that he/she is in possession of the weapon or substance or stolen property.

Any student who has been given out-of-school suspension three or more times in the same academic year may be recommended for exclusion.

Socrates Academy and its employees shall follow applicable rules concerning the discipline of students who qualify under relevant special education laws.

Administration shall have the authority to suspend a student for up to ten (10) school days at a time (*i.e.*, a Short-Term Suspension). There are **no appeals** for short term suspensions of 10 days or less.

For Class III offenses, the Principal may recommend a Long-Term Suspension, and/or Exclusion, and/or participation in a Behavioral Contract. Decisions as to Long-Term Suspensions and/or Exclusion shall be made by the Principal after appropriate written notice to the parties involved and a hearing if one is requested. The Board Chair shall appoint a hearing officer. Student appeals from the decision of the Principal or hearing officer shall be heard by a panel of three Board members who shall be appointed by the Board Chair. Appeals must be made in writing to the Board Chair within ten (10) days of the decision of the Principal or hearing officer. The hearing will be scheduled by the Board Chair.

The School's disciplinary procedures will be exercised in a manner consistent with state and federal law, including the Gun Free Schools Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the

Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The disciplinary procedures applicable to students with disabilities and those who have Section 504 accommodation plans are available on the school's website.