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8310: Code of Student Conduct

Students/Discipline

PREAMBLE

[RIGL § 16-2-17](#) guarantees the right to a safe school, and sets forth due process rights with respect to student discipline. The East Greenwich School District (EGSD) recognizes that each student, faculty member, teacher, and administrator has a right to attend and/or work at a school that is safe, secure, conducive to learning, and free from the threat, actual or implied, of physical harm. EGSD is also committed to abiding by all protocols set forth by Rhode Island General Law. As such, this Code of Student Conduct sets forth standards of behavior and discipline that apply globally to all students across all grade levels.

In addition, school administrators establish student handbooks that provide further detail relating to disciplinary matters. These handbooks shall be updated annually and signed by each student's parent/guardian at the beginning of each school year. Each handbook clearly sets forth behavioral standards, as well as appropriate responses for not meeting those standards.

Finally, EGSD recognizes that the quality of any educational endeavor is determined largely by the level of interaction among students, parents, teachers, and administrators. It is the collective responsibility of the extended school community to support the students' developmental growth through learning and self-reflection. The EGSD community understands and values a diversity of people, environments, and perspectives, and all feel connected to their peers, their school and their larger community. Accordingly, expectations for each are outlined below:

Students

East Greenwich students are expected to maintain proper standards of behavior at all times and will:

- Be mindful of the diversity of people, environments, and perspectives.
- Respect the rights and dignity of others;
- Observe and adhere to school rules and regulations;
- Commit themselves to continued personal and educational growth; and
- Contribute to a positive school culture and climate.

East Greenwich School District Employees

It is expected that individuals will treat others with dignity and respect. The school community will:

- Implement the provisions of this Code of Student Conduct and student handbooks in an equitable manner, bearing in mind the diversity of people, environment, and perspectives;
- Maintain and nurture a school environment conducive to obtaining the optimum learning experience, understanding that school is a place for teaching and learning, and a place where academic, physical, social, and emotional growth are emphasized; and
- Ensure that there are established clear and consistent rules.

Parents

Parents and guardians are vital to the success of the school process. EGSD provides an atmosphere that encourages and seeks parental input. In partnership with their child's school, parents and guardians have the responsibility to reinforce acceptable standards of behavior - as well as the entire learning process - at home. Parents are therefore responsible for familiarizing themselves with district and school policies, rules and regulations, including this Code of Conduct, and their child's student handbook. **Parents will be notified and involved in all disciplinary infractions resulting in suspension, alternative educational placement, or police involvement.**

SCOPE OF POLICY

This Code of Conduct applies to all EGSD students involved in all school-related activities, including extra-curricular and co-curricular and athletic competitions, including but not limited to dances, school trips, distance learning, and athletic/academic competitions regardless of whether they are on or off campus, or whether they are participating in an activity or are a spectator to an event.

POTENTIAL RESPONSES FOR VIOLATION OF BEHAVIOR CODE

Life in the EGSD is guided by the principles of mutual respect, responsibility and the building of positive relationships between and among the adults and students who comprise our school community. Students are expected to meet certain standards of behavior. When student behavior does not reflect that set forth in the student handbook or this Code of Conduct, responses that are endorsed by the EGSD include but are not limited to the following:

- Positive interventions and supports
- Restorative responses
- Reflection and counseling
- Restrictive interventions

- Interventions/responses outlined in school level student handbooks
- Parent meetings
- Community Service
- In School Suspension
- Out of School Suspension

Removal from EGSD schools and placement in an alternative education program

Due to the unique nature of each infraction, school administrators shall have the right and responsibility to exercise immediate judgment in matters and may seek guidance from support personnel and higher administrative authorities. Administrators may consult with the police regarding those matters which they reasonably believe may be criminal in nature only.

Suspension

EGSD students may be suspended in accordance with Rhode Island general laws and Rhode Island Department of Education regulations.

Out of School Suspension Defined

Suspension is the temporary exclusion of a student from physical presence on the school property and from school related activities on or off school campus. All suspensions will be the responsibility of the principal and their designee in conformance with federal and state law, including due process requirements as set forth below.

Pursuant to RIGL §16-2-17, a “disruptive student,” defined as a student who exhibits persistent conduct which substantially impedes the ability of other students to learn, or otherwise substantially interferes with the rights of other students to be free from the threat, actual or implied, of physical harm, and who has failed to respond to corrective and rehabilitative measures presented by staff, teachers, or administrators, may be suspended out of school.

Principals and Assistant Principals are authorized to suspend students each school year for a cumulative ten (10) days or less if a student represents a threat to the rights of students, teachers, or administrators as described above. Suspended students and their parents/guardians should be provided with due process as outlined under the section “Suspension of Ten Days or Less.”

It is strongly encouraged that the parent/guardian of a student suspended outside of school meet with Administration prior to the student’s return to school. Students who are suspended from school will not be able to attend or participate in extracurricular activities during the period of suspension. Suspended students must remain off school property at any EGSD school or off campus school related activity for the duration of the suspension and until the reinstatement meeting with the parent. Suspended students who violate this rule will be considered to be trespassing and the police may be notified.

Extracurricular Suspension

Offenses, which threaten the safety of the EGSD community or violate the spirit of positive participation in student life, may carry up to a thirty (30) day extracurricular suspension. The administration may assign extracurricular suspension in the event of infractions including but not limited to:

- Assault and/or fighting
- Substance abuse
- Vandalism or damage to any school property
- Possession of weapons and/or replica weapons
- Theft
- Academic Dishonesty
- Disruption of school
- False fire alarms/Bomb threats
- Tampered smoke detectors
- Continual disregard for school rules
- Bullying, Harassment, and Intimidation

Suspension of Ten Days or Less

Before any suspension of up to cumulative ten days, a student must be afforded the following:

- A. Students shall be given written notice of the charges against them.
- B. If a student denies the charges, they will be given an explanation of the evidence.
- C. Students shall be given an opportunity to present their account of events to the Principal or Assistant Principal imposing the suspension at an informal conference.
- D. Notice and the informal conference shall generally precede the student's removal from school but, if prior notice and hearing are not feasible because the student's presence endangers persons or property or threatens disruption of the academic process thus justifying immediate removal from school, the requisite notice or hearing shall follow as soon as possible.
- E. Notice containing the reason for suspension and the duration thereof will be given to the parent or guardian if the student is under the age of 18 or the parent or guardian is permitted to access the student's records according to the standards set forth in the District's Access to Student Records Policy. Such notice shall be given in the family's preferred language.

Suspension of Greater than Ten Days

In cases where the Superintendent recommends that a suspension last or be extended beyond ten days, a student must be afforded the following:

- A. The student, and the parent(s) or guardian(s) of the student, shall be afforded notice of the recommendation for a suspension exceeding ten days, which includes, at a minimum:
 - a. A clear, written statement of the reason for suspension or removal and placement in an alternative educational placement;
 - b. Notice of the right to prompt public or private hearing, at the student's election, and the right to be represented by legal counsel or attorney at such hearing; and
 - c. If a hearing is requested, a prompt notice setting the time and place of such hearing, said time and place to be reasonable so as to allow sufficient time for preparation.
- B. Notices to the student's parent or guardian shall be written in the family's preferred language.
- C. The notice and hearing shall be provided to the student prior to the extension of the suspension or the student's removal to an alternative educational placement, except when it is not feasible to do so because the student's presence endangers persons or property or threatens disruption of the academic process, thus justifying immediate removal from school. The requisite notice and hearing shall follow as soon as possible.
- D. The student shall be afforded a hearing at which time the student shall have the right to representation by counsel, and the right to cross-examine witnesses and to present witnesses on their behalf.
- E. There shall be a complete and accurate (stenographic) record of the hearing including all exhibits. The record shall be preserved.
- F. The student shall be furnished a copy of the record without cost.
- G. A written decision shall be rendered within a reasonable time, based exclusively on the record established at the hearing.
- H. The student shall promptly be provided a copy of the decision.
- I. A copy of the decision shall be preserved.

Special Education Exception

Prior to suspending a child with a disability, as that term is defined by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1401 *et seq.* or accompanying regulations, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, or the laws or regulations of the State of Rhode Island, a manifestation determination hearing shall be held in order to determine if the behavior leading to the suspension is the result of a student's disability and/or the direct result of the district's failure to implement a student's IEP or 504 Plan.

No student with a disability shall be excluded, suspended, or withdrawn from any school-based education program for reasons deriving only from the student's disability or for reasons directly deriving from the District's failure to implement a student's IEP or 504 Plan. The sole exception to this regulation shall be whenever the Superintendent of Schools, upon substantial evidence, determines that the child: (1) carried a weapon to or possessed a weapon at school, on school premises, or to or at a school function under the jurisdiction of the district; (2)

knowingly possessed or used illegal drugs, or sold or solicited the sale of a controlled substance, while at school, on school premises, or at a school function under the jurisdiction of the district; or (3) has inflicted serious bodily injury upon another person while at school, on school premises, or at a school function under the jurisdiction of the district.

A child so excluded may only be excluded from school for forty-five (45) days and shall be afforded home tutoring and counseling therapy as determined by an evaluation team in an effort to determine a reassignment to a program which can better meet the specific needs of the student. A complete record of each such exclusion, including the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, shall be filed with the Commissioner of Education within thirty (30) days of each such exclusion. Disabled students excluded for disciplinary reasons must be accorded all the safeguards provided in the Regents Regulations for Governing Exclusions of Students from School.

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF SPECIFIC INFRACTIONS

Certain consequences set forth below may be applied to students at all grade levels. Additional details are provided in each of the school-level student handbooks.

Attendance and Absences

Statewide attendance requirements are set forth in [RIGL §16-19-1](#). Specifically, subsection (a) provides: “Every child who has completed or will have completed six (6) years of life on or before September 1 of any school year and has not completed eighteen (18) years of life shall regularly attend some public day school during all the days and hours that the public schools are in session in the city or town in which the child resides. Every person having under his or her control a child as described in this section shall cause the child to attend school as required.” School-specific attendance requirements and consequences can be found in school student handbooks.

Student Dress Code

It is expected that all students will dress in a manner consistent with good health practices, safety regulations, and in a manner that will not disrupt the learning environment. School student handbooks may contain a more detailed description of appropriate dress for each building.

Academic Integrity

Students are encouraged to do their own work and have a sense of pride in their own accomplishments. Cheating or plagiarism in any form is a serious violation of trust between students and teachers and an impediment to teaching and learning. Cheating and plagiarism are defined as “to steal and pass off the ideas or words of another as one's own” and “to present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source” (Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary). Examples of cheating and plagiarism include but are not limited to such activities as:

- Copying another student's test paper or any other school assignment, including daily homework or class work;

- During a test or when writing a paper, using material that is not authorized by the person giving the assignment;
- Collaborating with another student during a test or assignment without teacher consent;
- Knowingly using, giving, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or in part, the contents or answers of a test or other assignment;
- Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for oneself, to take a test or complete an assignment; and
- Using another person's works, research or ideas, whether found in print or through technology, without citing to the original author and source.

Building-specific procedures and related consequences associated with cheating and plagiarism may be found in school student handbooks.

Substance Abuse

The use, possession, transportation, sale, or distribution of alcohol, prescription drugs, non-prescription drugs, and/or controlled substances violates state and federal laws and will not be tolerated at EGSD schools. Any student found to be under the influence of, or in possession of alcohol, illegal drugs and/or intoxicants or controlled drugs, except those medications prescribed by a medical doctor for the use of the student and for which the user has a valid, current prescription, whether during school hours or at a school sponsored activity on or off school property, will be subject to the following penalties and actions:

- Parents will be notified immediately and will be requested to meet with an administrator.
- The East Greenwich Police Department may be notified.
- The student may be suspended from school for five (5) school days in addition to 30 days extra-curricular suspension.
- With parental approval, the student will be referred to the East Greenwich Substance Abuse Counselor. If approval is obtained and an appointment is made, the suspension of first-time offenders may be reduced from five (5) days at the discretion of the principal. In addition, the 30 days extra-curricular suspension could be modified.
- Any student who violates this policy more than once in a school year may be subject to a ten (10) day suspension from school, a sixty (60) day suspension from all extra-curricular activities, suspension of parking privileges for sixty (60) days, and may be referred to the Superintendent with recommendation for removal to an alternative educational placement.

Tobacco, Vaping, and Smoking

[Rhode Island General Laws § 23-20.9-5](#) requires that every school in Rhode Island post enforcement procedures to prohibit tobacco use and state that tobacco products are prohibited in all buildings. Please refer to [District Policy #1239 on Non-Smoking](#) for more information.

Assault and/or Fighting

EGSD does not condone fighting, threatening, or aggressive behavior in any form.

Students should seek nonviolent alternatives and support to fighting before it happens, such as notifying an adult. A student behaving in such a way as to cause fear, physical harm, or attempted injury to any other person(s), or who engages in behavior that incites or escalates a situation, such as taunting, name-calling, shouting, or using profane language or gestures, may receive detention, suspension, or be referred to the Superintendent. Students who engage in physical contact (initiating or responding) may be subject to consequences outlined in the student handbook. The East Greenwich Police Department will be notified when deemed appropriate.

School Safety Threats

Any student who is found to have placed or has made a threat to school safety in any school building or on school property may be suspended from school up to ten (10) days if appropriate, and from extracurricular activities up to thirty (30) days. Depending on the nature of the infraction, the student may be recommended for the Superintendent for removal to an alternative educational placement. The East Greenwich Police and/or Fire Departments may be notified. A re-admission hearing may be held with the Superintendent. Offenses that classify as school safety threats include but are not limited to:

- Arson
- Bomb threats
- Damage to property (public or private) such as buildings, grounds, equipment, or materials
- Digital trespassing
- False use of school fire alarms
- Possession of alcohol, drugs, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, vaping products, lighters, or any tobacco product
- Possession and/or use of fireworks
- Possession of weapons or replicas of weapons
- Tampering with smoke detectors

Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment

EGSD recognizes that the bullying of a student creates a climate of fear and disrespect that can seriously impair the student's health and negatively affect learning. As such, students shall comply with this Code of Student Conduct and [District Policy #8245 Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment](#).

Please refer to the [Rhode Island Statewide Bullying Policy](#), and RIGL [16-21-34](#), [16-21-30](#) for additional information.

Disruption of School

Students involved in demonstrations and/or protests or other actions, on school property or at school events, that disrupt the school day will be addressed in accordance with the student's school handbook. Additionally, using violence, force, coercion, threat, harassment, obstruction or other verbal or physical means to disrupt or incite others, which interferes with the education process, may be subject to suspension or referral to the Superintendent. The educational process includes all curricular and extracurricular activities. The East Greenwich Police Department may be notified depending on the

extent of disruption.

Bus Conduct

While riding EGSD-provided transportation, students are under the care, custody and control of EGSD. As such, students shall comply with this Code and [District Policy #2160 Transportation](#) while on board a school bus. Students shall also comply with any related language contained in their school handbook.

Articles Not Permitted in School

Any article(s) deemed dangerous and disruptive to the educational process or learning environment include but are not limited to those embedded within this Code. Articles that are otherwise prohibited may be permitted when authorized by a school administrator or their designee.

Refer to the student handbooks and RIGL [16-21.2-11](#), [11-47-60](#), and [11-47-60.2](#) for additional information.

Theft

Any student determined to have taken or received property belonging to EGSD or another individual, or determined to have made attempts in that regard, may be subject to responses as outlined in this Code. The East Greenwich Police Department may be notified. Immediate restitution may be required.

Other Violations

Additional student actions not expressly provided within this Code, that are determined by the EGSD administration to warrant intervention, may require appropriate responses as outlined within.

REFERENCES:

[East Greenwich Public Schools Strategic Plan: Our Vision 2020](#)

[Rhode Island Early Learning & Development Standards \(2013\)](#)

[Rhode Island Social Emotional Learning Standards: Competencies for School and Life Success \(2017\)](#)

Rhode Island Department of Education, School Removals: Procedures and Requirements

<https://www.ride.ri.gov/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Students-and-Families-Great-Schools/Health-Safety/Discipline/School-Removals-Procedures-Requirements.pdf>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

By signing below, I affirm that I have read and understood the expectations, procedures, and consequences outlined in the **Student Code of Conduct**, and in my **school student handbook**. I understand that this acknowledgement shall be in force and in full effect for five years after the date of signature. Declining to sign this form does not absolve students of the expectations, policies, and procedures within the Student Code of Conduct.

Student Name

Student Signature & Date

Parent Name

Parent/Guardian Signature & Date

Student's ID Number / Student's Year of Graduation

Date Received: _____

By: _____