

2.4 CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY (CHANGED FROM CODE OF CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOR POLICY)

Guidelines for appropriate student behavior shall be set by the Executive Director and published annually in the Code of Student Conduct, which shall be made available to students and parents. Students are expected to follow the student behavior guidelines while on school property which includes the physical premises of the school campus, school bus, and all school sponsored curricular or extra-curricular activities on or away from the school campus. In addition, as permitted by NC law, the Board of Directors authorizes the discipline of students for conduct occurring away from school property if the conduct otherwise violates the Code of Student Conduct and has, or is reasonably expected to have, a direct and immediate impact on the orderly and efficient operation of the school or the safety of individuals in the school environment.

Some violations of the Code of Student Conduct are less severe infractions involving a lower degree of dangerous and harmful behaviors. Less serious violations of the Code of Student Conduct may result in disciplinary measures or responses up to and including short-term suspension (exclusion from school for 10 or fewer school days). Unless circumstances dictate otherwise, consequences that occur when students do not follow the guidelines shall be progressive in nature. Other disciplinary measures or responses may include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following: parent conferences, behavior management plans, individual or small group sessions with the school counselor, community service, after school detention, and in school suspension.

Serious violations of the Code of Student Conduct may result in any of the consequences that may be imposed for minor violations. In addition, serious violations that threaten to substantially disrupt the educational environment may result in long-term suspension (an exclusion from school of more than 10 days), and serious violations that threaten the safety of students, school employees or school visitors may result in long-term suspension or expulsion. Certain violations involving firearms or explosive devices may result in a 365-day suspension. Corporal punishment is prohibited in the school system and shall not be used in any circumstances to maintain discipline.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

We believe for every right there is a responsibility. This responsibility includes the freedom to exercise your rights in a manner that is not offensive to the recipient.

Student Rights	Student Responsibilities
A safe environment free from violence, bullying, or harassment	Follow school behavior expectations and report instances of bullying or unsafe situations to school staff
A productive learning environment	Engage in behaviors which support a positive educational environment

Be informed about school rules concerning attendance expectations	Attend school and all classes daily and on time
Have school staff that is willing to hear the needs and concerns of students	Express needs and concerns in an appropriate manner
Engage in respectful speech that expresses their thoughts and opinions as long as it is not disruptive to the educational environment	Respect the rights of others when expressing their views
To have personal property respected	Respect the personal property of others

REPORTING PROCEDURES

A school employee, student or volunteer who witnesses or has reliable information that a student or school employee has engaged in or been subject to any act listed in this policy must report the incident to the related teacher or school administrator. Failure to report is a violation of this Code of Student Conduct Policy and may subject the student, volunteer or employee to disciplinary action. In addition, any student who knowingly gives false information; knowingly makes a false report; or subsequently makes a false report of retaliation, will be subject to disciplinary action.

Any student who believes that he/she has been the subject of any Code of Student Conduct violation or has witnessed any such behavior against another student or employee should report such behavior **immediately to a teacher or school administrator. Written documentation of the student's report** may be requested by administration.

Individuals (including parents and other community members) may report complaints of Code of Student Conduct violations (anonymously if so desired). The school will attempt to investigate and respond to such complaints. Based on the available information, appropriate action will be taken.

COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS

Notwithstanding anything set forth in this Code of Student Conduct Policy, the Executive Director will ensure that Scholars Academy complies with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations regarding the discipline of students (including students with disabilities), including, without limitation, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and N.C.G.S. 115C-390.1 et seq.

In the event of any long-term suspension (greater than 10 consecutive days) or exclusion, Scholars Academy will promptly notify local public-school officials in the school district to which the student is otherwise assigned of the circumstances surrounding the **disciplinary action, including the student's name, special education status, length of suspension, and the circumstances giving rise to the disciplinary action.** In addition, at the beginning of each school year, Scholars Academy will notify parents that a local school board may refuse to admit any student who is suspended or excluded from Scholars Academy for actions that would lead to suspension or exclusion from a traditional public school, until the period of suspension or exclusion has expired.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

A copy of the Scholars Academy Code of Student Conduct will be included the Parent/Student Handbook and distributed to each enrolled family at the beginning of each school year, as well as uploaded to the school website. All students and parents will be required to return the student/parent signature page of the Parent/Student Handbook to the office for school records at beginning of each school year. In addition, a copy of the Scholars Academy Code of Student Conduct will be included in the Staff Handbook and distributed to staff at the beginning of each school year. All staff will be required to return the staff signature page of the Staff Handbook to the office for school records at the beginning of each school year.

The Executive Director and/or Associate Director will review the Scholars Academy Code of Student Conduct with school-based personnel and will work with teachers to ensure that instructional planning incorporates strategies through the schoolwide Social and Emotional Learning program to facilitate student knowledge of self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision-making. Classroom instruction shall include age-appropriate bullying prevention awareness activities that include the bully, target and bystanders. Activities and strategies should be targeted at promoting positive and productive interaction among students. Instructional material and resources shall be selected by the administration and/or school-based committee according to evaluation criteria developed by the administration and made easily accessible to all teachers. The needs of staff and students will be addressed through ongoing curriculum and staff development.

Legal References: 17 U.S.C. 101 et seq.; N.C.G.S. 115C-390.1 et seq.; N.C.G.S. 115C-407.15 et seq.

Last Modified: September 25, 2017