

acceptable item. Students who refuse to do so will be subject to discipline, up to and including suspension, and their parents will be notified.

When can a teacher remove a student from the classroom?

When other reasonable methods fail to restore order, the Code of Conduct and State law allow teachers to remove persistently disruptive students from the classroom for up to two classes or 1-1/2 hours if the students are with the same teacher for the majority of the day. The goal is to ensure that classrooms remain focused on teaching and learning.

Can a student's locker be searched by school officials?

The Code of Conduct states that student lockers, desks, and other storage areas at school, as well as computers and software, may be searched at any time by school officials. Students are responsible for what is kept in their lockers.

The District also has the right to monitor e-mail, websites, and Internet access of students while at school.

In addition, the District has the right to search anyone on school property and any items they may be carrying, as authorized by state and federal law for persons entering public buildings. Anyone entering District property is deemed to have consented to such search. No one refusing such search will be permitted to remain on District property.

What are the consequences for violating the Code of Conduct?

The rules in the Code focus on safety and respect for others. Students who violate the rules,

including the dress code, will face disciplinary consequences. These can include:

- Oral or written warnings to the student and his/her parent.
- Removal from the classroom.
- In-school suspension or after-school detention.
- Revocation of District computer and Internet privileges.
- Short-term suspension from school (five days or less).
- Long-term suspension from school (more than five days).
- Removal from the regular school program.

What role do students play in enforcing the Code of Conduct?

Students play an important role in maintaining safety and order in school and in enforcing the Code of Conduct. The school is your place of learning, and your help is needed to keep it a safe and productive place.

Students are expected to promptly report violations of the Code of Conduct to a teacher, principal, or other school staff member. This includes students who observe others possessing weapons, alcohol, or illegal substances on school property (including school buses) or at school functions.

Students are encouraged to use the District's Safe School Hotline, **1-800-41-VOICE (418-6423 ext. 359)**, to report information that may help prevent danger or injury to others. Callers may remain anonymous.

The Board of Education knows that the majority of Rochester students conduct themselves in a respectful, civil manner and are committed to maintaining the safety and order of their schools. That commitment is the key to the success of the Code of Conduct and to the success of our students themselves.

Code of Conduct



in the
Rochester City School District



STUDENT GUIDE

As a student, you deserve a safe, orderly school environment in which you can do your very best!

That's why the Rochester Board of Education sets and enforces high standards of conduct for everyone in Rochester's schools.

In 2001, the Board adopted a Code of Conduct describing the responsible behavior expected of students, teachers, administrators, other school staff, parents, and visitors to schools. By following these expectations, we ensure that all students can receive the quality education they are entitled to without disruption.

This brochure provides answers to some commonly asked questions about the Code of Conduct, which is reviewed and updated annually. A copy of the entire Code of Conduct is available in your school office and on the district's website: www.rcsdk12.org

STUDENT RIGHTS

The Code of Conduct states that all students have the right to:

- Have a safe, orderly, and courteous school environment.
- Take part in all District activities on an equal basis.
- Access school rules and, when necessary, receive an explanation of those rules from school personnel.
- Present their side of the story to school personnel when involved in disciplinary matters.

Why have a Code of Conduct?

The purpose of the Code of Conduct is to set clear expectations for behavior that will promote safety and order on school property. This is necessary so that students can have the best learning environment possible.

What are the expectations for students?

All students are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate and civil manner, with proper regard for the safety and welfare of others. According to the Code of Conduct, as a student you are expected to:

- ★ Work to the best of your ability and strive toward the highest levels of achievement.
- ★ Attend school every day and be in class on time and prepared to learn.
- ★ Contribute to a safe and orderly school environment and show respect toward others.
- ★ Follow the rules for appropriate student conduct, including the student dress code.
- ★ Seek help from school staff in solving problems that might lead to disciplinary action.
- ★ Treat teachers, administrators and other school personnel in a respectful, positive manner.
- ★ Accept responsibility for your actions.
- ★ Report to school officials any information that may help prevent danger or injury to others. Tell a teacher, principal, or other staff member, or use the District's Safety Hotline: 1-800-41-VOICE (86423), ext. 359.

Expectations for teachers, administrators, other school staff, parents, and visitors to schools are also contained in the Code of Conduct.

What types of behavior are not allowed under the Code of Conduct?

The Code of Conduct prohibits student behavior that is:

- Violent—including assault, possession of weapons, bullying, use of threatening actions or words in person or by computer, and destruction of property.
- Disorderly—actions which disrupt the normal operation of the school or endanger the health, safety, welfare, or morals of others.
- Disruptive—actions which interfere with the education of other students or the ability of the teacher to teach.
- Insubordinate—failure to comply with school or District rules or the reasonable directions of school personnel.
- Dishonest—including cheating and plagiarism.

In addition, for academic and other reasons, students cannot bring cell phones or devices with camera capacity to school.

What is the dress code for students?

All students are expected to dress appropriately for school and school functions and to give proper attention to personal cleanliness, grooming, and appearance. Inappropriate dress and appearance can be distracting and interfere with student learning.

Specifically:

- All aspects of a student's appearance (including hair style, hair color, jewelry, make-up, and nails) should be safe, appropriate, and not disrupt or interfere with the educational process.

- The following are not appropriate on school property:

- ✗ Stocking caps, "do rags," and bandanas
- ✗ Hats (except for medical or religious purposes)
- ✗ Revealing clothing such as men's muscle shirts, women's tube tops, net tops, halter tops, spaghetti straps, plunging necklines, and see-through clothing.
- ✗ Clothing that exposes a student's navel, buttocks, bare chest, or cleavage.
- ✗ Clothing that includes words or images that are vulgar, obscene, or disrespectful of others.
- ✗ Clothing that promotes the use of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs or that encourages illegal or violent activities.
- ✗ Clothing that reveals underwear. Pants should be held up with a belt of appropriate size for the student's waist.

Students and their parents have the primary responsibility for ensuring that students are dressed and groomed in a manner consistent with the dress code. Teachers and other school personnel are expected to model and reinforce appropriate dress at school and to help students understand its importance. Visitors to schools, including parents, are also expected to dress appropriately while on school property or attending school functions.

Students who violate the dress code will be required to cover or remove the inappropriate item and, if practical, to replace it with an