

Statement of Philosophy

A primary task of the school is to create a stimulating learning climate for all students. Such a climate includes a broad exposure to the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a democratic society. That the school community is educating the young for citizenship is reason for scrupulous protection of the constitutional freedoms of the individuals involved. The school environment should afford opportunities for students to exercise their rights and assume their responsibilities for citizenship.

The rights of an individual are preserved only by the protection and preservation of the rights of others. Students are responsible for the manner in which their rights are exercised and must accept the consequences for actions that extend beyond the legitimate boundaries of those rights.

The School Board believes that the best discipline is self-discipline and that the school environment should allow students, insofar as practicable, to make responsible decisions about their behavior. The Committee believes that giving students the opportunity to practice self-discipline in school will lead to their making more responsible choices when not in school.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Each student has the right to a free public education and the responsibility to attend school regularly and not to interfere with or threaten the education of others.

Every student has the right to express his/her opinions either verbally or symbolically as long as that expression does not infringe upon the rights of others.

Students have the right to determine their patterns of dress and grooming provided that such dress and grooming do not interfere with the health and safety of themselves or others and do not interfere with the educational process of the school.

Except in extraordinary disciplinary action, no suspension from class shall be enforced against any student until he/she has been afforded due process.

NEPN/NSBA CODE: JK

Code of Conduct

The objective of this code is to establish such rules of student conduct which have been deemed by the Board to be necessary for the successful accomplishment of the mission of the schools. Rules of student conduct and administrative procedures for use in the schools shall be based upon but not limited to the following:

- A. No student shall intentionally threaten, assault, or cause physical injury to other students or any school personnel.
- B. No student shall steal or intentionally damage school or private property either on school premises, on any school bus, or during any school sponsored activity.
- C. A student shall not buy, sell, possess, use, transmit or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind.
- D. No student is allowed to use tobacco in the buildings or on the grounds of any Millinocket school while school is in session.
- E. A student shall not by use of violence, force, noise, coercion, intimidation or any other conduct cause disruption of any school function; nor shall any student urge others to engage in any such disruptive conduct.
- F. A student shall not possess, handle, or transmit a knife, razor, gun or any other object that reasonably can be considered a weapon.
- G. As students pursue their freedoms of speech, press, and assembly, they shall refrain from libel, slander, obscenity, personal attacks, or incitement to illegal action(s).

Disciplinary Action

Minor infractions of the above code of conduct are to be handled in accord with the disciplinary procedures developed by the administration. More serious infractions may be punishable by suspension and/or expulsion as specified in Board policy.

School personnel may use a reasonable degree of force to control a student who creates a disturbance or to remove the student from the scene of the disturbance. Corporal punishment, however, is not permitted in Maine.

Student Due Process Hearings

The Board recognizes that procedural safeguards are essential to ensure that students are afforded due process when they are faced with possible suspension or expulsion. Separate due process requirements are specified in Board policies (Student Suspension) and (Student Expulsion).

Administrative Procedures

Procedures for carrying out this policy are a part of the Administrative Handbook given to parents by the building principals.

Adopted: 9/13/88
Reviewed: 11/13/96