

Summary: Maryvale School District Code of Conduct

The Maryvale School District and Board of Education are committed to providing a safe and orderly school environment where students may receive, and district personnel may deliver, quality educational services without disruption or interference. Responsible behavior by students, teachers, other district personnel, parents, and other visitors, is essential to achieving this goal. To this end, the board reviews and reauthorizes the *Code of Conduct* on an annual basis. The Code of Conduct contains provisions prohibiting discrimination and harassment, bullying and/or cyberbullying against any student, by employees or students on school property or at a school function, that creates a hostile environment by conduct, with or without physical contact and/or verbal threats, intimidation or abuse, of such a severe nature that:

1. Has or would have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits, or mental, emotional and/or physical well-being; or,
2. Reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause a student to fear for his/her safety; or,

3. Reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause physical injury or emotional harm to a student; or,
4. Occurs off school property and creates or would foreseeably create a risk of substantial disruption within the school environment, where it is foreseeable that the conduct, threats, or intimidation or abuse might reach school property.

Such conduct shall include, but is not limited to, threats, intimidation, or abuse based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practices, disability, sexual orientation, gender as defined in Education Law Section 11 (6), or sex; provided that nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to prohibit a denial of admission into, or exclusion from, a course of instruction based on a person's gender that would be permissible under Education Law Sections 3201-a or 2854 (2) (a) and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 USC Section 1681, et seq.), or to prohibit, as discrimination based on disability, actions that would be permissible under 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. In accordance with the **Dignity for All Students Act**, School District policy and practice must ensure that no student is subject to discrimination or harassment, bullying, or cyberbullying, based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender/gender identity or sex by school employees or

students on school property, on a school bus, or at a school function.

The following is a summary as required by New York State *Project SAVE* legislation. The full text is available at any one of our schools, the district office or web site.

Students Rights

- To take part in all activities without discrimination
- To be heard
- To know the rules, and have them explained if they don't understand
- To be in an environment where they can learn
- To be informed of their current academic standing
- To be treated with respect
- To be protected from intimidation, harassment, bullying (including cyberbullying) or discrimination

Student Responsibilities

- To help keep the school safe and orderly
- To be familiar with the rules
- To be in school
- To work to the best of their ability
- To do the work assigned
- To respond respectfully when asked to do something
- To control their behavior
- To ask when they don't understand
- To try to solve problems before they become problems
- To dress appropriately
- To accept responsibility

- To represent Maryvale with the highest standards of conduct, demeanor and sportsmanship
- To respect one another and treat others fairly in accordance with the District Code of Conduct and the provisions of the Dignity Act.

Student Dress Code

All students are expected to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to dress appropriately for school and school functions. Students and their parents have the primary responsibility for acceptable student dress and appearance. Teachers and all other district personnel should exemplify and reinforce acceptable student dress and help students develop an understanding of appropriate appearance in the school setting. *When on school property or at a school function, a student's dress, grooming and appearance, including hair style/color, jewelry, make-up and nails, must:*

- Be safe and appropriate for school;
- Not include jackets, backpacks, headwear or hazardous jewelry while in the buildings.
An exception can be made by the administrator;
- Not promote drugs, alcohol, gangs, Violence, or be obscene, vulgar or Discriminatory;
- Undergarments, including bra straps and underwear shall not be visible. See-through garments, showing of cleavage and bare shoulders, backs and midriffs and are also not permitted. Shorts, skirts, dresses or

any variation thereof must minimally be within 2 inches of the students longest finger when extended and when arms are relaxed at their side.

- Pajama/flannel/fleece pants are not permitted.
- Building administrators reserve the right to modify the dress code during the school year in order to keep up with current trends not anticipated by the Code of Conduct Review Committee. Ensure that underwear is covered with outer clothing. Pants must be worn at or above hips;
- Not interfere or disrupt the educational process.

Prohibited Student Conduct

The Board of Education expects all students to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner, with proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students, district personnel and other members of the school community and for the care of school facilities and equipment. The rules of conduct are intended to focus on safety and respect for the rights and property of others. Students who do not accept responsibility for their own behavior and who violate these school rules will be required to accept the penalties for their conduct.

Students may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension from school, when they:

- Engage in conduct that is disorderly;
- Engage in conduct that is insubordinate;
- Engage in conduct that is violent;

- Engage in conduct that endangers the safety, morals, health or welfare of others;
- Engage in misconduct while on the school bus;
- Engage in any form of academic misconduct;
- Engage in any conduct that encourages others to violate this Code of Conduct.

Disciplinary action, when necessary, will be firm, fair and consistent so as to be the most effective in changing student behavior. Students who are found to have violated the District's Code of Conduct may be subject to a variety of disciplinary penalties, either alone or in combination.

Some examples of the potential consequences for violating the District Code of Conduct are:

- Verbal warnings;
- Written referrals/notification to parents;
- Loss of privileges;
- Community and/or volunteer service;
- Monetary restitution;
- Detention;
- Suspension from; transportation; sports; extracurricular activities;
- In-school or out-of-school suspension;
- Temporary removal from class;
- Permanent suspension
- Referral to appropriate law enforcement agency.

The complete list of potential consequences and disciplinary actions, and the personnel authorized to impose them, is included in the complete Code of Conduct.

Partners in Education

It takes the entire community to educate a student. Parents, teachers, student support personnel, school staff, administrators, the superintendent and board of education members must work together to recognize the Cheektowaga-Maryvale School District mission of “Enabling Growth through Education”. The expectations for each of these essential partners in the education of our children are outlined in the full Code of Conduct.

Some examples of expectations for parents include:

- Make certain your children’s attendance at school is regular, punctual and all absences are properly excused;
- Know and understand the rules your children are expected to observe at school. Be aware of the consequences for violation of these rules; and accept legal responsibility for your children’s actions;
- Convey to your children a supportive attitude towards education and the District;
- Teach your children, by word and example, respect for the law, for the authority of the school and for the rights and property of others;

- Become acquainted with your children’s school, its staff, curriculum and activities. Attend parent-teacher conferences, meetings and school functions and contacting school staff regarding concerns;
- Build good relationships with teachers, other parents and your children’s friends;
- Be involved with school activities and volunteer when possible;
- Demonstrate dependability, integrity and other standards of ethical conduct, including monitoring your child’s use of social media and encouraging responsible use of electronic communication;
- Ensure your children are familiar with the Code of Conduct and comply with the relevant portions;
- Comply with the relevant portions of the Code of Conduct for parents, visitors, etc.
- Teach their children respect and dignity for themselves, and other students regardless of actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender/gender identity, or sex, which will strengthen the child's confidence and promote learning in accordance with the Dignity for All Students Act.

Visitors to School

The Board of Education, building administrators, and teachers encourage parents, community members and other appropriate individuals to visit the Maryvale

schools and classrooms to observe the work of students, teachers and other staff. Since schools are a place of work and learning, however, certain limits must be set for such visits. The building administrator is responsible for all persons in the building and on the grounds.

The following rules apply to visitors to the schools:

- Anyone who is not a regular staff member or student of the school will be considered a visitor.
- Upon entering the building, all visitors to the school are required to provide a valid driver’s license, or other form of military ID, to be scanned into an electronic verification system. Once verification has been established, the visitor will be given an ID badge to be worn, and allowed to proceed into the building. When their business is complete, they will be required to notify the office they are leaving the building.
- Visitors attending school functions during non-school hours that are open to the public, such as parent-teacher organization meetings or public gatherings, are not required to register. Any classroom visitations are required to be scheduled in advance with the teacher, so that class disruption is kept at a minimum. The purpose of the visit will be made clear at that time in order to facilitate appropriate arrangements.

- During a classroom visitation, teachers will not take class time to discuss individual matters with visitors.
- If a staff member notices that a visitor does not have an identification badge, he/she should report the occurrence to the building administrator. Any unauthorized person on school property will be asked to leave. The police may be called if the situation warrants.
- Before a non-school person may take a child from the building, the visitor must be identified by the building administrator as one having the legal right to take the child.
- All visitors are expected to abide by the rules for public conduct on school property contained in this code of conduct.

Public Conduct on School Property

All persons on school property or attending a school function are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful and orderly manner and be properly attired for the function or activity.

No person, either alone or with others, shall:

- Disrupt the orderly conduct of classes or school programs and activities;
- Intentionally injure any person or threaten to do so;
- Use profane, lewd, abusive, vulgar language or gesture;
- Intimidate, harass or discriminate against any person, on the basis of

color, creed, national or ethnic background, religion, age, gender or disability;

- Possess or use weapons, display what appears to be a weapon or threaten to use a weapon in or on school property or at any school function except in the case of law enforcement officers;
- Possess or smoke a cigarette, cigar, pipe, electronic cigarette, including any paraphernalia associated herewithin, or using chewing or smokeless tobacco.
- Possess, consume, sell, distribute, exchange or be under the influence of alcoholic beverages or controlled substances or anything perceived as a potential drug or drug paraphernalia on school property or at a school function;
- Intentionally damage, destroy or attempt to damage or destroy school district property, or the personal property of a school district employee or student, which is lawfully on school property;
- Distribute or wear materials on school property or at a school function that are obscene, advocate illegal activity, obstruct the rights of others or are disruptive to the educational program;
- Enter any portion of the school building without proper authorization or remain in any school building or facility after it is closed, or loiter on or about school property;

- Incite or encourage others to commit any acts which are prohibited in the Code;
- Refuse to comply with the directive of identifiable school district officials;
- Gamble on school property or at school functions;
- Violate the traffic laws, parking regulations or other restrictions on vehicles;
- Violate any federal or state statute, local ordinance or school policy while on school property or at a school function (e.g. smoking, indecent exposure, etc.)