

Weakley County Board of Education

Descriptor Code:
6.300

Code of Behavior and Discipline

Revised Date:
06/03/10

The director of schools shall be responsible for the overall implementation and supervision of the Board's Code of Behavior and Discipline and shall ensure that students at all schools are subject to a uniform and fair application of the Code.

The principal of each school shall be responsible for implementation and administration in his/her school and shall apply the Code uniformly and fairly to each student at the school without partiality and discrimination.

The Board delegates to the director of schools the responsibility of developing more specific codes of behavior and discipline which are appropriate for each level of school, namely, elementary, middle, junior high and senior high. The development of each code shall involve principals and faculty members of each level of school and shall be consistent with the content of the Board's Code.

A copy of the Code shall be posted at each school and guidance counselors shall be supplied copies for discussion with students. The code shall be referenced in all school handbooks. All teachers, administrative staff and parents shall be provided copies of the Code.¹

INTRODUCTION: Weakley County Code of Behavior and Discipline

One of the greatest opportunities offered members of a democratic society is that of public education. As with other privileges there are also inherent responsibilities. In a social situation such as the public school, all participants, students, parents/guardians, teachers, administrators and others in the educational process, have the right and responsibility to know the basic standards of conduct and behavior that are expected. No student or other person involved in the public schools can realize his/her rights unless he/she exercises self-discipline and care to afford all others their rights.

PHILOSOPHY

In order to grow educationally, socially, and emotionally, children need to be in an environment in which there are concerned teachers who will set firm, consistent, positive limits while providing warmth and support for their appropriate behavior. Teachers must set firm, consistent limits, while at the same time remaining cognizant of the student's needs for warmth and positive support. No child will be allowed to engage in behavior that is self-destructive or violates the rights of his peers or teacher.

Teachers have the following rights:

1. The right to establish a classroom structure and routine that provides the optimal learning environment.

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2. The right to determine and request appropriate behavior from the students which encourage the positive social and educational development of the student.
3. The right to ask for help from parents, the principal, etc. when assistance is needed with a student.

Students have the following rights:

1. The right to have a teacher who is in the position to help the child limit his inappropriate self-destructive behavior.
2. The right to have a teacher who is in the position to provide the child with positive support for his appropriate behavior.
3. The right to choose how to behave and know the consequences that will follow.
4. The right to an orderly and safe educational environment.

The cooperation of parents and students is essential if good discipline in the schools is to be achieved. Parents may contribute to good discipline by accepting the responsibility to:

1. Maintain a positive attitude toward education;
2. Show an interest in their child's progress through regular communication with the school;
3. Teach their child to dress in a neat, clean, well-groomed and appropriate manner;
4. Insure the child's regular daily attendance;
5. Report and explain any absence to the school;
6. Teach their child respect for authority; and
7. Cooperate with school personnel in solving disciplinary problems.

No one teacher, no matter how good he/she is, or how much experience or training he/she has is capable of working successfully with each and every student without support. Students need to know what response there will be to their behavior by the teacher, both positive and negative. All students need to know that they and their positive behaviors are appreciated.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide a concise outline of rights and responsibilities of students in the Weakley County School System, including parents/guardians and the school personnel directly involved in the educational process. This policy does not address every

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possible offense, nor does it address every possible disciplinary action that could be taken by school personnel; instead, offenses and disciplinary actions are addressed in general categories. The policy offers the administrator, teacher, parent, and student a guide to enable them to act in good faith and make just decisions about student conduct.

APPLICATION

This policy applies to EVERY student K – 12 who is under the jurisdiction of the Weakley County School System. It will be in effect on school property during school hours. The policy will also apply at other times and places where teachers and school administrators have jurisdiction over students. This policy also applies to students when they are being transported on school buses.

This code attempts to match specific consequences with specific behavior. The numbers in parentheses which follow each rule refer to consequences which may be used if misbehavior occurs. Under certain circumstances, specific action is **mandatory** and is identified by an asterisk (*).

School personnel are encouraged to utilize **realistic** and **appropriate** methods of discipline. For example, cleaning the bathroom walls is an appropriate consequence for writing on them.

When determining the consequence, the following circumstances should be taken into consideration:

1. Age and/or grade level of student
2. Frequency and seriousness of misconduct
3. Attitude of student

Corporal punishment and behavior involving disorderly conduct, weapons, or search and seizure will be handled according to Tennessee Code Annotated.

WEAKLEY COUNTY CODE OF BEHAVIOR

The following rules, regulations and procedures in no way attempt to replace or remove routine classroom discipline from the teachers in disciplinary measure that has proven successful.

I. Respect for Persons and Property – General Conduct

Right: Students have the right to be treated with respect.

Responsibility: Students have the responsibility to treat others with respect.

Right: Students have the right to a safe and orderly environment in which to learn.

Responsibility: Students have the responsibility to treat school property and the property of others with respect and to conduct themselves in a manner that does not

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interfere with the rights of others and is not harmful to the health and safety of others.

A. All students must:

1. Bring appropriate materials and supplies such as paper, pencil, pen, etc. (1-7)
2. Complete assigned work. (1-7)
3. Use class time properly. (1-7)
4. Take home and return required forms. (1-7)
5. Abide by rules and regulations regarding field trips. (1-9)
6. Obey teachers and all other professional staff members. (1-9)
7. Obey school's rules as defined in the school handbook. (1-16)
8. Account for all textbooks, library books, or other school-owned materials issued to them. (5,11,13)
9. Pay approved fees. (1-5)

B. Bus Students must:

1. Be ready on time and at the designated bus stop. (4*, 9)
2. Stand clear of the bus and do not cross the road or highway until the bus comes to a complete stop. (4*9)
3. Load in an orderly manner and be seated before the bus starts. (4*, 9)
4. Remain seated until the bus comes to a complete stop. (4*, 9) (No standing or moving while the bus is in motion.)
5. Keep arms, feet, heads, and other objects inside the bus at all times. (4*, 9)
6. Keep books, lunch boxes, etc., in your lap and pencils and pens in book satchels, books, or purses at all times. (4*, 9)
7. Refrain from bringing large containers, glass objects, or balloons of any type onto the bus. (4*, 9)
8. Observe the same rules of conduct as in a classroom. (4*, 9) (Talk quietly and be courteous.)
9. Refrain from eating, drinking, or using tobacco on the bus. (4*, 8, 9, 10)
10. Obey the bus driver promptly and courteously to help maintain a safe environment for all students on the bus, whether loading and unloading. (4*, 9)

C. Students who drive must:

1. Be a high school student. No middle school students shall be allowed to drive a motor vehicle on the school campus.
2. Sign an agreement along with the parents and the principal and furnish proof of liability insurance in the amounts of \$100,000/\$300,000/\$300,000.

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3. Vacate cars immediately upon arrival at school and not enter them again until the close of the school day. (4*, 5-8)
4. Remove keys and lock the vehicles. (4*, 5-8)
5. Have a valid Tennessee Driver's License or Driver Permit. (4*, 5-8)
6. Park in student parking area(s). (4*, 5-8)
7. Drive directly to place of employment without stopping or detouring for any reason, if enrolled a co-op program.

D. Students may not ON SCHOOL GROUNDS, OR AT SCHOOL-SPONSORED FUNCTIONS:

1. Disrupt the class or school by:
 - a. Making unnecessary, rude or disrespectful remarks. (1-8)
 - b. Bothering or annoying others. (1-8)
 - c. Being out of their seats without permission. (1-8)
 - d. Bringing unauthorized items to school. (4*, 6-8, 10*)
 - e. Engaging in any other conduct which causes disruption. (1-8)
2. Intentionally damage textbooks, library books, or other materials. (4*, 5-9, 11, 13)
3. Run in halls or buildings. (1-8)
4. Leave the class or school grounds without permission. (4*, 13, 16)
5. Throw or project any object. (1-8)
6. Cheat or copy. (1-8, 12)
7. Possess, smoke or use any natural, synthetic, or simulated tobacco products anywhere on school grounds. (4*, 8, 13*, 14, 15, 16)
8. Possess or use alcohol and drugs.
9. Defy the authority of any member of the staff or any other person officially designated in authority, including but not limited to chaperones. (1-9, 12)
10. Engage in physical conduct of a sexual nature. (4*, 13*, 8, 12, 14-16)
11. Gamble. (4*, 5-8, 10, 12-16)
12. Commit an act of indecent exposure. (4*, 13*, 8, 12, 14-16)
13. Commit any act that interrupts the orderly conduct of the school. (1-16)
14. Fight or engage in any other physical contact that could result in injury. (1-9, 12-16)
15. Persist in breaking rules. (8, 12, 15, 16)
16. Use profane, obscene, indecent, or immoral language or gestures. (1-8, 4*, 12-15)
17. Use abusive language such as slander, public accusation, and racial, ethnic, or religious slurs. (4*, 1-9, 12-15)
18. Bring radios, portable media players, pets, or playing cards to school. (4*, 10)
19. Use personal communication devices, such as pagers and cell phones, during school hours. Personal communication devices, if in possession of a student during school hours, must not be on. (4*, 10*, 13*)
20. Haze other students. For initiations, school officials shall regulate the dress of pupils when this dress is unacceptable for school attendance. (4*)

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21. Possess knives, guns, firearms, or use any other object to inflict injury to person or property. (4*, 8, 10*, 13, 15, 16)
22. Commit any act of sexual harassment. (4*)
23. Commit any other criminal acts, which include, but are not limited to the following:
 - a. Arson-willfully setting fire to real or personal property. (4*, 13*, 14-16*)
 - b. Assault-attempting or threatening, physically or verbally, to do bodily harm to another. (4*, 13*, 14-16)
 - c. Battery-unlawfully doing bodily harm to another. (4*, 13*, 14-16)
 - d. Blackmail-extorting or attempting to extort money or property by the threat of exposure. (4*, 13*, 16)
 - e. Burglary-breaking into a building or vehicle for the purpose of removing personal or real property. (4*, 13*, 14-16)
 - f. Coercion-compelling others to act or take actions against their will, restraining by force, or repressing. (4*, 12, 13*, 16)
 - g. Extortion-attempting to take property or money from another by threat or use of force. (4*, 13*-16)
 - h. Stealing-taking away secretly something that does not belong to one. (4*, 13*, 15, 16)
 - i. Forgery-falsifying a document or signature. (4*, 13*, 12-16)

II. Free Speech and Student Publications

Right: Students have the right to express their opinions and points of view subject to reasonable time, place and content limitations consistent with law.

Responsibility: Students have the responsibility to listen courteously to the opinions and points of view of others.

A. All students must:

1. Obtain prior approval from the principal to distribute or post materials and to circulate petitions or surveys. (4*-8, 10, 12-16)
2. Use discretion in the production of any school publication. (4-8)
3. Obtain approval of contents by the principal before printing any school publication. (4*-8)
4. Obtain permission to solicit funds or sell advertisements for school publications. (4-8)
5. Abide by the rules concerning student publications. (4-8)

B. Students may **not**:

1. Circulate petitions or surveys during class time. (1-8)
2. Display or wear controversial symbols that will disrupt or interfere with the orderly operations of schools. (1-8)
3. Print articles, pictures, or comments, which could be harmful or cause embarrassment to others, the school, or community. (1-8)

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4. Distribute on school grounds any commercial, political, pornographic, or other unauthorized materials. (1-8)

Consequences:

1. Teacher/student conference.
2. Disciplinary action by teacher.
3. Detention.
4. Principal involvement.
5. School staff/parent conference.
6. Corporal punishment.
7. In-school suspension.
8. Suspension.
9. Suspension of bus riding privileges. (Student must attend school and parent must provide transportation.)
10. Confiscation. (In accord with a Discipline Procedure Agreement, the first time a personal communication device, such as a cell phone or pager, is confiscated, it will be returned only to the parent on the next school day. Subsequent confiscations will be for 10 days.)
11. Compensation, work detail, etc.
12. Administrative referral to student services and/or outside agencies, which may result in placement in special programs.
13. Parent notification.
14. Refer to Mental Health Center.
15. Refer to the School Board for hearing.
16. Refer to law enforcement authorities.

Legal Reference:

1. Student and Employee Safe Environment Act of 1996; TCA 49-6-4011, et. al.