

School City of Hobart Code of Conduct

The Board of School Trustees has adopted the following Code of Conduct. This Code of Conduct is applicable to students:

1. On school property at any time
2. During and immediately before and after any School activity at any location
3. Traveling to and from School or to and from a School activity

Violations of the Code of Conduct may be punishable by suspension, expulsion, or other discipline as determined by the administration. Violations may also be referred to law enforcement agencies where appropriate. The word “school” refers to going to and from school, at school, on school property, at school-sponsored events, and on school transportation.

1. Knowingly interfering with school purposes or inducing another student to do so
2. Stealing or damaging school property or property of another person
3. Knowingly causing bodily harm to another person or acting in a manner that can be foreseen to cause injury
4. Threatening another person with bodily injury
5. Possessing a firearm or any other object that is readily usable as a weapon or is dangerous to others (such as fireworks)
6. Possessing, providing or using a drug or any type of drug-related paraphernalia except as authorized by prescription
7. Possessing, providing or using any substance or any type of paraphernalia represented to be a drug or drug-related paraphernalia
8. Possessing or providing an alcoholic beverage
9. Consuming or being under the influence of a drug or alcohol except as authorized by prescription
10. Possessing, providing, or using tobacco or any tobacco product
11. Knowingly failing to report to scheduled assignment without permission or acceptable excuse
12. Failing or refusing to comply with directions of an adult supervising a class or school activity.
13. Directing unwelcome statements, communications, or conduct of a sexual nature to another person (See Harassment below)
14. Materially altering any school document such as a hall pass
15. Violating Indiana or Federal law; committing an unlawful act that interferes with school purposes
16. Leaving a school activity or School property without prior approval of a teacher or supervising adult
17. Cheating on an academic assignment such as a test or homework, or knowingly assisting another student in cheating
18. Attempting or conspiring with another person to violate any student behavior standard

****The following sections are a continuation of the Code of Conduct****

A. Anti-Harassment

The school prohibits the harassment, intimidation, or bullying of any student on school property or school sponsored events. Harassment, intimidation and bullying are defined as any intentional written, verbal, or physical act directed towards another student that:

- a. causes mental or physical harm to the other student; and
- b. is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for another student.

Discipline for any substantiated incidents of bullying, harassment, or intimidation will be prescribed in accordance with the appropriate section of the Student Discipline Code.

The school also prohibits retaliation against any person who reports an incident, files a complaint, or otherwise participates in an investigation. Filing false charges is also prohibited and will result in appropriate disciplinary sanctions. Suspected retaliation should be reported in the same manner as bullying, harassment, and intimidation detailed below. Students should report incidents of bullying, harassment, or intimidation to the principal, assistant principal, teachers or counselors. Complaints will be reported to the Complaint Coordinator, the Superintendent. The Superintendent will conduct a prompt investigation. The parents of any child involved in prohibited conduct will be notified and permitted to view any reports related to the conduct subject to laws governing student privacy. A meeting with all concerned parties will be held within 5 work days after receipt of a complaint. Any findings based on this meeting will be reduced to writing. At the close of the investigation, a written decision, including any disciplinary action, will be made by the Superintendent.

The School believes that every individual deserves to be able to come to School without fear of demeaning remarks or actions. The harassment/bullying of other students, members of the staff, or any other individual is not permitted. This includes any speech or action that creates a hostile, intimidating, or offensive learning environment.

Conduct constituting harassment may take different forms, including but not limited to the following:

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment, may include, but is not limited to:

- A. Verbal harassment or abuse
- B. Pressure for sexual activity
- C. Repeated remarks with sexual or demeaning implications
- D. Unwelcome touching
- E. Sexual jokes, posters, cartoons, etc.
- F. Suggesting or demanding sexual involvement, accompanied by implied or explicit threats concerning one's grades or safety
- G. A pattern of conduct, which can be subtle in nature, that has sexual overtones and is intended to create or has the effect of creating discomfort and/or humiliation to another
- H. Remarks speculating about a person's sexual activities or sexual history, or remarks about one's own sexual activities or sexual history

Other Protected Forms of Harassment

A. Verbal

1. Written or oral innuendos, comments, jokes, insults, threats, or disparaging remarks concerning a person's gender, national origin, religious beliefs, etc. toward a fellow student, staff member, or third party.
2. Conducting a "campaign of silence" toward a fellow student, staff member, or third party by refusing to have any form of social interaction with the person.

B. Nonverbal

Placing insulting or threatening objects, pictures, or graphic commentaries in the school environment or making insulting or threatening gestures toward a fellow student, staff member, or third party.

C. Physical Contact

Any intimidating or disparaging action such as hitting, pushing, shoving, or spitting on a fellow student, staff member, or third party.

Any student who believes that s/he is the victim of any of the above actions or has observed such actions taken by another student, staff member, or other person associated with the Corporation, or third parties should make contact with one of two or three staff members selected by each building principal with whom the students would most likely be comfortable in discussing a matter of this kind.

The student may make contact either by a written report, by telephone, or personal visit. During this contact, the reporting student should provide the name of the person(s) whom s/he believes to be responsible for the harassment and the nature of the harassing incident(s). A written summary of each such report is to be prepared promptly on Form 5517 F1 and a copy forwarded to the building principal. Each report received by a designated person shall be investigated in a timely and confidential manner. While a charge is under investigation, no information is to be released to anyone who is not involved with the investigation, except as may be required by law or in the context of a legal or administrative proceeding. No one involved is to discuss the subject outside of the investigation.

The purpose of this provision is to:

- A. Protect the confidentiality of the person who files a complaint
- B. Encourage the reporting of any incidents of harassment
- C. Protect the reputation of any party wrongfully accused of harassment

B. Bullying

Bullying as defined in State law means overt, unwanted, repeated acts or gestures, including verbal or written communications or images transmitted in any manner (including digitally or electronically), physical acts committed, aggression, or any other behaviors, that are committed by a student or group of students against another student with the intent to harass, ridicule, humiliate, intimidate, or harm the targeted student and create for the targeted student an objectively hostile school environment that:

- (1) places the targeted student in reasonable fear of harm to the targeted student's person or property;
- (2) has a substantially detrimental effect on the targeted student's physical or mental health;

- (3) has the effect of substantially interfering with the targeted student's academic performance;
- or
- (4) has the effect of substantially interfering with the targeted student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, and privileges provided by the school.

This type of behavior is a form of harassment, although it need not be based on any of the legally protected characteristics, such as sex, race, color, national origin, marital status, or disability. It would include, but not be limited to, such behaviors as stalking, intimidating, menacing, coercion, name-calling, taunting, making threats, and hazing.

Any student who believes s/he has been or is currently the victim of bullying should immediately report the situation to the building principal or assistant principal, or the Superintendent. The student may also report concerns to a teacher or counselor who will be responsible for notifying the appropriate administrator or Board official. Complaints against the building principal should be filed with the Superintendent. Complaints against the Superintendent should be filed with the Board President. Every student is encouraged, and every staff member is required, to report any situation that they believe to be bullying behavior directed toward a student. Reports may be made to those identified above.

C. Use of an Object as a Weapon

Any object that is used to threaten, harm, or harass another individual may be considered a weapon. This includes, but is not limited to padlocks, pens, pencils, laser pointers, jewelry, etc. Intentional injury to another individual may result in a report to the police as well as discipline by the school. This violation may subject a student to expulsion.

D. Knowledge of Dangerous Weapons or Threats of Violence

Because the Board of School Trustees believes that students, staff members, and visitors are entitled to function in a safe school environment, students are required to report knowledge of dangerous weapons or threats of violence to the principal. Failure to report such knowledge may subject the student to discipline.

E. Criminal Gang Activity

The Corporation prohibits criminal gang activity and similar destructive or illegal group behavior on Corporation property, on buses owned by the Corporation or used to transport Corporation students, and at school-sponsored functions. The Corporation prohibits reprisal or retaliation against individuals who report criminal gang activity and similar destructive or illegal group behavior or who are victims, witnesses, bystanders, or others with reliable information about an act of criminal gang activity and similar destructive or illegal group behavior.

Definitions:

- A. "Criminal gang," as used in this policy, means a group with at least three (3) members that specifically:
 - 1. either:
 - a. promotes, sponsors, or assists in, or
 - b. participates in, or
 - 2. requires as a condition of membership or continued membership

the commission of a felony or an act that would be a felony if committed by an adult or the offense of battery (I.C. 35-42-2-1).

- B. "Criminal gang activity," as used in this policy, means to:
1. actively participate in a criminal gang;
 2. knowingly or intentionally commit an act:
 - a. with the intent to benefit, promote, or further the interests of a criminal gang; or
 - b. which is a felony or misdemeanor and would lead a reasonable person to believe results in benefitting promoting or furthering the interests of a criminal gang; or
 - c. for the purpose of increasing the person's own standing or position within a criminal gang;
 3. knowingly or intentionally solicit, recruit, entice, or intimidate another person to join a criminal gang or remain in a criminal gang;
 4. threaten another person because the other person:
 - a. refuses to join a criminal gang;
 - b. has withdrawn from a criminal gang; or
 - c. wishes to withdraw from a criminal gang;when engaged in by a student who attends a Corporation school.

Procedures for Reporting Suspected Criminal Gang Activity

Students and parents should report a suspected incident of criminal gang activity to the principal. The principal and the school safety specialist may take appropriate action to maintain a safe and secure school environment.