

# **JAWS follows the JPS policies for Behavior and Bullying:**

## Behavior

**Introduction-** The Board of Education is committed to providing a school environment in which staff may deliver and students may receive educational services without disruption or interference. Expectations for students are based on principles of civility, mutual respect, and otherwise doing what is necessary to be a functioning member of a school community. These expectations apply to conduct on School District premises, while en route to and from school, while in attendance at school functions, as well as when off-campus, to the extent the off-campus behavior is likely to or does substantially disrupt District academic or extracurricular activities or programs.

**Attendance-** Regular school attendance is expected of all students. The Superintendent shall develop and implement regulations to promote regular school attendance.

**Student Appearance-** Students' dress and grooming must not disrupt the educational process, interfere with the maintenance of a positive teaching/learning climate or compromise reasonable standards of health, safety and decency.

**Student Code of Conduct-** The Superintendent, in consultation with selected School District personnel, will develop and implement a legally compliant Student Code of Conduct. The Student Code of Conduct will apply to student behavior on school premises, while en route to and from school, at School District related events, as well as to off-campus behavior, to the extent the off-campus behavior is likely to or does substantially disrupt District academic or extracurricular activities or programs, or to the extent the District is legally required to consider the off-campus behavior, such as criminal sexual conduct and cyberbullying.

- Principals are delegated the authority to suspend a student from school for misconduct for a period not to exceed ten (10) school days. The Student Code of Conduct to be developed by the Superintendent is to include the due process protections that will apply in connection with such suspensions.
- The Student Code of Conduct will include a procedure for considering and disposing of recommendations by the administration for long term suspensions (in excess of 10 school days) and expulsions. The procedure will be consistent with this policy.

**Long-Term Suspensions and Expulsions.** The Board of Education delegates to the Superintendent the authority to issue long-term suspensions and expulsions, pursuant to legally compliant procedures set forth in the Student Code of Conduct. The Superintendent's decision on such suspensions and expulsions will be final.

The Superintendent may also develop and implement an Athletic and Extracurricular Code of Conduct. The Code will be developed on the foundational basis that participation in athletics and extracurricular activities is a privilege; not a right.

The Superintendent will post the School District's Student Code of Conduct and Athletic and Extracurricular Code of Conduct on the School District's website and take other reasonable measures to assure that students and parents are aware of their existence.

Other Student Behavior - Michigan law requires that the Board adopt policies concerning bullying, "verbal assault" and locker searches. The Board adopts the following policies, which the Superintendent is to incorporate into the Student Code of Conduct.

Student Bullying - The Board recognizes that bullying and cyberbullying significantly interfere with the learning process. Through this Policy, the Board prohibits bullying "at school," as defined below, as well as off-campus conduct that is likely to lead to a material or substantial disruption of the school learning environment for one or more students.

This Policy is intended to protect all students from bullying, including cyberbullying, regardless of the subject matter or motivation for the behavior. The Board, through this Policy, also prohibits retaliation or false accusations against a target of bullying, as well as a witness or another person with reliable information about an act of bullying. The identity of an individual who reports an act of bullying shall remain confidential.

In order that this Policy be properly implemented, the Board directs that:

#### Implementation

*Responsible School Official.* The Principal of each school building is primarily responsible for implementing this Policy for the school to which he or she is assigned.

*Publication.* The Superintendent shall revise the District's Student Code of Conduct, consistent with this Policy, to specifically prohibit bullying and cyberbullying, as defined below. The Superintendent is directed to post this Policy on the District's website.

*Reporting.* The Superintendent shall report to the Board of Education, on an annual basis, all verified incidents of bullying, and the resulting consequences that were imposed.

*Administrative Regulations.* The Superintendent shall promulgate such administrative regulations as he/she may deem necessary for the implementation of this Policy. The regulations shall include all of the following:

- A procedure for an individual to report an act of bullying;
- A procedure for the prompt investigation of a report of an act of bullying by the building principal or his/her designee;

- A procedure for providing notification to the parent or guardian of both the claimed victim of an act of bullying and the parent or guardian of the alleged perpetrator;
- A procedure to protect the confidentiality of a person making a report of bullying;
- A procedure for documenting any prohibited bullying incident that is reported; and
- A procedure for the Superintendent to report to the Board of Education, on an annual basis, all verified incidents of bullying, and the resulting consequences that were imposed.

Definitions. The following definitions shall apply for purposes of this Policy:

*"Bullying"* means any written, verbal or physical act, or any electronic communication, including, but not limited to, cyberbullying, that is intended or that a reasonable person would know is likely to harm one or more District students, either directly or indirectly, by doing any of the following:

- (i) Substantially interfering with educational opportunities, benefits or programs;
- (ii) Adversely affecting a student's ability to participate in or benefit from educational programs or activities by placing a student in reasonable fear of physical harm or by causing substantial emotional distress;
- (iii) Having an actual and substantial detrimental effect on a student's physical or mental health; or,
- (iv) Causing substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school.

*"At school"* means in a classroom, anywhere else on school premises, on a school bus or other school-related vehicle and at a school-sponsored activity or event, whether or not the activity or event is held on school premises. "At school" includes the off-premises use of a telecommunications access device or telecommunications service provider if the device or service provider is owned by or under the control of the District.

*"Cyberbullying"* means any electronic communication that is intended or that a reasonable person would know is likely to harm one or more pupils either directly or indirectly by doing any of the following:

- (i) Substantially interfering with educational opportunities, benefits or programs;
- (ii) Adversely affecting a student's ability to participate in or benefit from educational programs or activities by placing a student in reasonable fear of physical harm or by causing substantial emotional distress;

(iii) Having an actual and substantial detrimental effect on a student's physical or mental health;  
or

(iv) Causing substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school.

**Accountability-** Each student in the School District is accountable for his/her own behavior, based on age-appropriate expectations. Respect for all students is part of a safe and healthy learning environment. Each student is expected to demonstrate respect through their interactions with the give-and-take of friendships, group cooperation, social interaction, compromise and acceptance of differences among other students and staff.

**Retaliation-** Retaliation against a target of bullying, a witness, another person with reliable information about an act of bullying or any person who reports, is thought to have reported, files a complaint, or otherwise participates in an investigation or inquiry concerning allegations of bullying is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Such retaliation shall be considered a serious violation of Board policy independent of whether a complaint is found to have been substantiated. Suspected reprisal or retaliation should be reported in the same manner as bullying.

Making intentionally false reports about bullying for the purpose of getting someone in trouble is similarly prohibited and will not be tolerated.

Retaliation and intentionally false reports may result in disciplinary action.

The Superintendent is directed to implement this Policy and is authorized and directed to promulgate such administrative regulations as may be deemed necessary.

**Verbal Assault-** A verbal assault is a communication or series of communications that does or is intended to put a reasonable person in fear of harm to himself/herself or his/her property. The Superintendent will address verbal assault within the Student Code of Conduct.

**Locker and Other Searches-** Lockers provided to students are the property of the School District and students and others have no expectation of privacy with respect to the lockers or their contents. School District principals and their designees may search student lockers at any time for any reason and may request the assistance of local law enforcement personnel. When conducting locker searches, School District personnel will respect the privacy rights of students regarding items found that are not illegal or possession of which is not in violation of School District policy. Any searches of personal property on school grounds will be conducted in a manner consistent with applicable legal standards.

**Personal Electronic Devices-** The School District reserves the right to prohibit the possession or use of personal electronic devices on School District property or at School District-related functions. For purposes of this Policy, "personal electronic device" means a privately owned device that is used for audio, video or text communications.

Students are permitted to use personal electronic devices only as follows:

- Before and after the regular school day.
- During the student's scheduled lunch time.
- As directed by a teacher or other professional staff member for educational purposes.

Students may possess personal electronic devices on their person but the devices must be powered off and kept out of sight in backpacks/purses or lockers except during the times, above.

The Superintendent may develop regulations to further control student possession and use of personal electronic devices.