

FOREST HILLS SCHOOLS CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

The student code of conduct is based on the idea that learning takes place in a disciplined environment, and that students have a responsibility to use the services and facilities of the Forest Hills School District for the purpose of education. Rules that regulate student behavior have been adopted by the board of education. Other acts not listed may result in disciplinary action if the behavior is disruptive, hinders other students' learning, violates the rights of others, or is considered to be inappropriate.

Any student who engages in the following types of conduct is subject to disciplinary measures ranging from verbal reprimand, suspension, expulsion, emergency suspension, or permanent removal from school. Those students found to be in violation of the weapons policy of the school district are subject to a one-year expulsion from school. School personnel will consider a variety of factors in deciding the discipline that should be administered to a student. Students who help other students violate the code of conduct will also be disciplined.

This code applies while a student is in the custody or control of the school, on or close to school grounds, while at a school-sponsored function or activity, or on school-owned or provided transportation vehicles. In addition, the code will govern student activities at all times, on or off school property, when such conduct is reasonably related to the health, safety, and welfare of students, or when such conduct interrupts the educational process of the school.

Conduct prohibited by this code includes the following:

General Provisions:

1. Willfully aiding another person to violate school regulations.
2. Violation of any board rule, regulation, or policy.
3. Repeated violations of the student code of conduct and/or any other board rule, regulation, or policy.
4. Violating computer and/or on-line student privileges policy.

Damage to or theft of Public or Private Property:

5. Theft or possession of stolen goods.
6. Damage or destruction of private property on school premises or in areas controlled by the school.
7. Damage or destruction of school property, property of school employees, or property of students, on or off of school premises.

Disruption of the Educational Program or Self or Others:

8. Truancy
9. Tardiness
10. Improper or suggestive dress
11. Cheating or Plagiarizing
12. Continuously and/or intentionally creating a noise or acting in a manner that interferes with a teacher's ability to conduct class.
13. Demonstrations by individuals or groups causing disruption to the school program.

Threat to the Health, Safety, or Well-Being of Self and/or Others:

14. Upon initial arrival, leaving school property without permission.
15. Leaving school premises during school hours without permission of the proper school authority.
16. Presence during or outside of school hours where a student has no legitimate business without permission of the proper school authority.
17. Presence on school property with a communicable disease.
18. Disobedience of driving regulation while on school property.
19. Cursing.
20. Cellular telephones (including but not limited to camera phones), beepers, pagers, or any other related electronic communication devices are not to be turned on or visible during the school day. If a teacher or administrator observes any electronic communication device during the school day, it may be confiscated. Electronic devices with the capacity to take pictures raise concerns about individual privacy. No pictures are to be taken in the school building or on school property without administrative/teacher authorization.
21. Possession of an electronic laser pointing device or electronic light emitting device without express written permission of administration.
22. Failure to abide by reasonable dress and appearance codes set forth in student handbooks or established by administration or the board of education. This included the prohibition of all clothing, jewelry, signs, etc. which, at the discretion of the administration, is reasonably related to or represents gang or gang-like activity.
23. Possession of matches, lighters, or other similar devices.
24. Buying, selling, transferring, using or possessing any substance containing tobacco, including, but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, pipe, clove, cigarette, chewing tobacco, snuff, dip, or using tobacco.
25. Use of indecent or obscene language in oral or written form.
26. Publication of obscene, pornographic, or libelous material.
27. Fighting
28. Abuse of another. No student shall direct to, or about a school employee, or student, words, phrases, or actions which are considered to be slanderous or degrading, threatening, or obscene in nature. Name calling and negative, uncomplimentary, and offensive remarks related to physical handicaps or defects, mental handicaps, race, religion, nationality, or other reason
29. Hazing (to persecute, harass, or humiliate another student or employee)
30. Harassment of personnel or students during school or non school hours.
31. Assault on a school employee, student or other person.
32. Extortion of a student or school personnel.
33. Arson, or other improper use of fire.
34. Buying, selling, transferring, using, possessing or being under the influence of any alcoholic beverage or intoxicant of any kind.
35. Buying, selling, transferring, using, possessing any drug or alcoholic paraphernalia to include instruments, objects, papers, pipes, containers, etc.
36. Buying, selling, transferring, using, possessing or being under the influence of any drug, medications, inhalant, or other controlled substance which can be taken internally where the students involved cannot show a legitimate health or other reason for such use.
37. Buying, selling, transferring, using, possessing or being under the influence of any

controlled substance (drugs, narcotics, marijuana, etc.) or inhalants, or buying selling, using, possessing or being under the influence of any counterfeit controlled substance (any substance that is made to look like a controlled substance or that is believed to be a controlled substance).

38. Sell, offer to sell, or possess a controlled substance on school premises or at a school related function (trafficking in drugs).

39. Possession or use of dangerous weapons or ordnance or objects, which look like weapons or ordnance, including but not limited to guns, firearms, ammunition, knives, grenades, sling shots, bows, arrows, machetes, brass knuckles, chains, studs, etc. or possession or use of objects which may render physical harm including but not limited to axes hatchets, hammers, saws

40. Convey, attempt to convey, or knowingly possess a deadly weapon or dangerous ordnance onto any property owned or controlled by or to any activity held under the auspices of the board of education.

41. Concealed weapons.

42. Indecent exposure.

43. Engaging in sexual acts, displaying excessive affection or other inappropriate behavior with a person of the same or opposite sex.

44. Turning in false fire, tornado, bomb, disaster or other alarms.

45. Making a bomb threat to a school building or any premises at which a school activity is occurring at the time of the threat.

46. Failing to report the action or plans of another person to a teacher or administrator where these actions or plans of another person, if carried out, could result in harm to another person or persons or damage to property, when the student has information.

47. Aggravated assault

48. Felonious assault

49. Involuntary manslaughter

50. Voluntary manslaughter

51. Murder

52. Aggravated murder

53. Gross sexual imposition

54. Felonious sexual penetration

55. Rape

56. Commission by a pupil of any crime in violation of the Ohio Criminal Code, Ohio Traffic Code, or the Ohio Juvenile Code.

Actions that Threaten the Efficient Operation of the School

57. Placing of signs and slogans on school property without the permission of the proper school authority.

58. Distribution on school premises of pamphlets, leaflets, buttons, insignia, etc. without permission of the proper school authority.

59. Disregard of reasonable directions or commands by school authorities including school administrators and teachers.

60. Skipping detention.

61. Disrespect to a teacher or other school authority.

62. Refusing to take detention or other properly administered discipline.

63. Any disruption or interference with school activities.

64. Any activity by a pupil which the pupil knows or should know will disrupt academic process or a curricular or extracurricular activity.
65. Any type of prohibited activity listed herein taking place on a school bus shall be reason for expulsion, suspension, or removal.
66. Failure to abide by rules and regulations set forth by administration for student parking.
67. Falsifying of information given to school authorities in the legitimate pursuit of their jobs.
68. Gambling.
69. Forgery of school or school-related document.

Suspension and Expulsion

Student who violates the student code of conduct may be suspended or expelled. Student who are suspended or expelled will be removed from curricular and/or extracurricular activities. Students may be suspended for up to 20 days; they may be expelled for up to 80 days. Students 16 years or older may be permanently removed from school if declared as a delinquent child under Ohio law by the courts in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code.

The following procedures will be followed if the administration recommends suspension or expulsion. Written notice of the intent to suspend shall be given to the student prior to an informal hearing with the district administrator. The informal hearing is to review why suspension is being considered. This notice will indicate the provisions of the student code of conduct being violated, description of the behavior being punished, and dates of the suspension.

If the informal hearing results in suspension of a student, a notice of suspension will be delivered to the student's parents. Notice of suspension will contain a date of the informal hearing, the reasons for suspension, dates of the suspension, and the student code of conduct provisions violated.

The following steps are required in order to expel a student:

- Notice of the district's intent to expel a student shall be delivered to the student and his/her parents.
- The student and parents may attend an informal hearing regarding the administration's intent to expel the student. This hearing must take place no earlier than three (3) days and no later than five (5) days after the notice of intent to expel is mailed.
- Parents may request in writing that the hearing be postponed to a later date and may have a representative attend.
- If the hearing results in the expulsion of a student, a notice of expulsion will be delivered to the student's parents. This notice of expulsion shall contain a date of the informal hearing, the reasons for the expulsion, and the dates of the expulsion.

Students and parents have the right to appeal a suspension or expulsion to the board's designee. Request for an appeal must be made in writing within ten (10) days after the effective date of the suspension and/or expulsion, and should be sent to the district administrator having the responsibility of hearing appeals. Students and parents may be represented in all appeal hearings. Students and parents who are dissatisfied with the results of the appeal may further appeal the suspension and/or expulsion to the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas. Students are not permitted to attend school or participate in extracurricular activities while a suspension is being appealed. If a suspension or expulsion is reversed, sufficient time will be given to make up all assignments and work missed as a result of the absence.

Notification of Students and Parents

The administration will make every effort to make sure students and parents are familiar with the student code of conduct. Copies of the student code of conduct will be posted in a central location in each school building. Additional copies will be available to students and their parents upon request.