

### **4.3 -- STUDENT CONDUCT BEHAVIOR CODE**

The Van Buren Board of Education, in recognition of the importance of a safe and secure school environment and the necessity of providing a school atmosphere that is conducive to learning, expects all students to conduct themselves at all times in a manner that is in keeping with these interests.

The following activities are considered improper conduct and will subject the student to disciplinary action as indicated. A violation of the rule will occur whether the conduct takes place on the school grounds at any time, off the school grounds at a school activity, function, or event, or enroute to or from school on a school bus, or enroute to or from a school event on a school bus or other school vehicle.

a. No student shall participate in, recruit for, or display the colors of a gang. No student shall wear, use, distribute, display, or sell any clothing, jewelry, emblems, badges, symbols, signs, graffiti, or other items that are evidence of gang affiliation. No student shall commit any act to further the interest of any gang activity, including intimidation, possessing a weapon, fighting, assaulting, or threatening to assault others.

MINIMUM PENALTY: Verbal reprimand by school employee.

MAXIMUM PENALTY: Expulsion from school and filing of appropriate legal charges.

b. No student shall disrupt or interfere with the normal operation of the school, refuse to identify himself/herself on request of any school employee; or encourage other students to violate any rule or school board policy.

MINIMUM PENALTY: Verbal reprimand by school employee.

MAXIMUM PENALTY: Expulsion from school and legal action in the courts for any damages.

c. A student shall not cause or attempt to cause damage to school property or steal or attempt to steal school property. Parents of minor students under the age of eighteen (18) living with the parents may be liable for damages caused by said minor.

MINIMUM PENALTY: Verbal reprimand by school employee.

MAXIMUM PENALTY: Expulsion from school plus legal action in the courts for damages.

d. A student shall not cause or attempt to cause damage to or steal or attempt to steal private property.

MINIMUM PENALTY: Verbal reprimand by school employee.

MAXIMUM PENALTY: Expulsion from school plus legal action to recover damages.

e. A student shall not cause or attempt to cause physical injury or behave in such a way as could reasonably cause physical injury to a school employee, fellow student, or any other individual.

MINIMUM PENALTY: Corporal punishment of three (3) licks with approved instrument or three (3) days suspension (The principal will determine the most appropriate minimum for each individual case).

MAXIMUM PENALTY: Expulsion from school and legal action to recover any damages.

f. A student shall not possess, sell, use, transmit or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, or any other controlled, or purported controlled substance as defined in Act 590 of 1971 of the State of Arkansas, as amended, or beverage containing alcohol or intoxicant of any kind. (Controlled substances may be possessed and used by a student who has a prescription for the substance, provided the substance remains in the container in which it was obtained from the pharmacist until designated time for use.)

MINIMUM PENALTY: Suspension from school, notification of parents, notification of police, and recommendation concerning expulsion to the School Board.

MAXIMUM PENALTY: Suspension from school, notification of parents, notification of police, expulsion from school, and the filing of any applicable legal charges. Any habitual offender of this rule (2 or more offenses) will be required to go through some rehabilitation program including but not limited to professional counseling in order to return to school.

g. A student shall not possess any object that reasonably can be considered a weapon or dangerous instrument, or any contraband materials.

MINIMUM PENALTY: Confiscation of materials and verbal reprimand by school employee.

MAXIMUM PENALTY: Expulsion from school and filing of appropriate legal charges.

h. A student shall not fail to comply with reasonable directions or commands of teachers, student teachers, substitute teachers, teacher aides, principals, district administrators, school bus drivers or other school personnel.

MINIMUM PENALTY: Verbal reprimand by school employee.

MAXIMUM PENALTY: Ten day suspension.

i. The school district reserves the right to punish behavior which is subversive to good order and discipline in the schools, even though such behavior is not specified in the preceding rules.

MINIMUM PENALTY: Verbal reprimand by school employee.

MAXIMUM PENALTY: Expulsion from school and filing of legal charges to recover damages.

j. A student shall neither willfully attempt nor threaten to inflict injury upon another student or any school employee. Striking, fighting, or threatening directed at others is forbidden on school premises, on any school trip, or to-and-from school. Rude or abusive language directed toward others is considered abuse and is strictly forbidden. Violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action and may also constitute a criminal offense. All acts of violence committed on a school campus will be reported to law enforcement personnel.

MINIMUM PENALTY: Verbal reprimand by school employee.

MAXIMUM PENALTY: Expulsion from school and filing of legal complaint.

k. Individual schools within the district may add specific rules that apply to that school only, provided said rules are not in conflict with any of the above.

MINIMUM PENALTY: Verbal reprimand by school employee.

MAXIMUM PENALTY: Ten day suspension from school.

**HABITUAL OFFENDERS** of any of the school rules may receive the maximum penalty of expulsion upon the recommendation of the principal. Corporal punishment, in-school suspension, and other penalties that can be administered on the individual school campus are examples of penalties considered to be alternatives between minimum of verbal reprimand and a maximum of three (3) days suspension.

Any of the penalties above when applied to a **HANDICAPPED STUDENT** will be imposed after consideration of the student's handicapping condition to determine if the improper action was a result of the handicap. When suspension of a handicapped student is necessary, the student's **INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLAN (IEP) COMMITTEE** will be convened as soon as possible to determine a suitable education alternative.

A copy of the above discipline policies will be sent home by the students in each school within the Van Buren District during the first week the student is enrolled in that school building. A form to be signed by the parents and the student acknowledging receipt of the rules will be sent along with the rules which is to be returned to the school immediately. If the form acknowledging receipt of the discipline policies has not been signed and returned to the school within one week, a second form will be sent to the parents. After two weeks, an attempt will be made by the teacher and/or the principal to contact the parents through the mail or by telephone requesting the return of the completed form.

When the completed form is returned, it shall be placed in the student's file. Once the form is in the student's file, additional copies of discipline policies will not need to be sent to the parents unless there are changes or additions to the policies. In case of additions or changes, only the additions or changes must be sent to the parents along with the form to acknowledge receipt. Documentation of the efforts of the teacher and/or the principal to contact the parents and obtain the acknowledgment or receipt of the discipline policies will be placed in the file of the student if the receipt is not obtained.

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