

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR STUDENTS

MISSION STATEMENT - Our Mission is to enhance every student's potential to succeed in our ever changing society.

VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is to have every student create a positive self-image through productive and responsible action, build self-confidence and respect for others and for the environment, develop high expectations, contribute positively within diverse groups, and communicate effectively in preparation for business and careers as well as social interaction.

CONDUCT POLICY PHILOSOPHY FOR STUDENT

In order to provide all students an equal educational opportunity, the Northeastern Clinton Central School District Board of Education expects all students to respect the laws of the community and the rights of the other members of the community. In return, the students will be given due respect and constitutional protection within this institution and elsewhere. A student is responsible for the way he/she exercises his/her rights, and he/she must accept the consequences of his/her actions. It is the goal of this document to help young people to assume their roles in a democratic society and to offer them protection from any infringement on their constitutional rights. Northeastern Clinton Central School District believes strongly in the positive development of its students in both the areas of academics and personal growth. Students must be given the opportunity in each of these areas to their fullest extent. To provide and sustain the proper atmosphere for our students to progress and develop requires cooperation and understanding by students, teachers, parents, administrators, and the Board of Education. To be successful, a student must know that the school and his family are willing to work together in order to resolve any problems which might arise; thus we have developed a Bill of Rights for students. It is impossible to list all students' rights and responsibilities, but it must be emphasized that lack of responsibility means weakening of rights.

BILL OF STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Pursuant to Section 100.2(1) of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, a bill of student rights and responsibilities is

established. Students in the Northeastern Clinton Central School District shall:

1. Be suspended from instruction only after their rights have been observed. Refer to Student Council Policy found in this handbook-Ed. Law 3214.
2. Have the opportunity to present his or her version of the facts and circumstances, leading to the imposition of disciplinary sanctions, to the professional staff member imposing such sanction.
3. Take part in all District activities on an equal basis regardless of race; sex, or national origin.
4. Take part in student government activities unless properly suspended from participation pursuant to the District's discipline policy.
5. Address the Board of Education on the same terms as any citizen.
6. Be entitled to free speech and all other constitutional guarantees.
7. Be helped with personal problems in a confidential manner.

It shall be the responsibility of all students in the Northeastern Clinton Central School District:

1. To be familiar with and abide by all District policies, roles, and regulations pertaining to student conduct
2. To work to the best of their ability in all academic and extracurricular pursuits and strive toward the highest level of achievement possible.
3. To conduct themselves when participating in or attending school-sponsored extracurricular events as a representative of Northeastern Clinton Central School District and as such hold themselves to the highest standards of conduct, demeanor, and sportsmanship. .
4. To be in regular attendance of school and in class.
5. To be responsible for contributing to the maintenance of an environment that is conducive to learning and be expected to show due respect to other persons and to property.
6. To make constructive contributions to their school.

Discipline is a vital part of the school program. It is the responsibility of every staff member to work with a concerted effort to maintain, develop, and improve the program of discipline within the school. Staff members supervising students have the initial responsibility for maintaining discipline. In the event that the staff member is unable to correct the immediate situation and/or the problem continues, the matter is to be referred to the Building Principal. The Principal will then be responsible for resolving the problem.

Due Process Requirements

The following due process requirements are to be adhered to at all times in resolving problems pertaining to student conduct:

1. Publish and post all notice rules and regulations. Provide adequate notice of conferences and hearings. State charges clearly.
2. Right to Counsel- All individuals have the right to counsel.
3. Judgment by Impartial Party- Judgement must be made by an official who has not participated in or been a part to an action under consideration.
4. Right to avoid self-incrimination- An individual is free to remain silent.
5. Cross-Examination- The accused has a right to question those bringing or presenting evidence.
6. Right to call witnesses- The accused has a right to call or bring witnesses.
7. Proof of Guilt- A "preponderance of evidence" is required to make a finding.
8. Record- A record of the proceedings must be maintained and made available upon request.
9. Right to Appeal- The student or parent may request that the matter be reviewed at the next step at any time. * Equitable

Treatment

In cases where students subject to the athletic code and students not subject to the athletic code are to be disciplined for misconduct, which occurred during a school-related activity, all such students shall be treated in a like manner.

SCHOOL CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

Early Identification and Resolution of Student Discipline Problems

If a student's conduct in the classroom is objectionable and detracts from the learning situation, the teacher should discuss the matter thoroughly and firmly in private with the student. If objectionable conduct continues and the teacher is convinced that further discussion will not be effective, the teacher should contact the parent(s)/guardian(s) to arrange a conference with them. Pupil service personnel, administrators, teachers, and others will report students to the Building Principal when they believe such students present a discipline problem. The Principal will conduct an investigation of the reports, which may include conferences with the complainant, students, parents, teachers, and other pupil service personnel or others, as s/he deems appropriate for the early identification and resolution of the suspected problem. If the Principal suspects that the problem may be a manifestation of a handicapping condition, s/he will refer the matter to the Committee on Special Education in school. Staff members supervising students have the

initial responsibility for maintaining discipline. In the event that the staff member is unable to correct the immediate situation and/ or the problem continues, the matter is to be referred to the Building Principal/Assistant Principal. They will then be responsible for resolving the problem.

STUDENT CONDUCT OFFENSES DEFINED

Due to the fact that infractions vary in severity, they have been divided into two groups or levels:

- Level II is the most severe
- Level I is less severe

After school detention may be assigned for a violation of any Level II offense or for a repetition of Level I offenses.

LEVEL I

1. There will be no obscene, abusive, or disrespectful clothing, or pins/buttons in the building.
2. Hands, feet, and objects will be kept to themselves.
3. No walkman's/CD players will be allowed during the regular school day. Possession or use of radios, tape-CD players, walkman's, pagers, cell phones during regular school hours are not allowed, except with authorization from the principal.
4. There will be no physical displays of affection on school property (e.g., groping, kissing, etc.)
5. Students must have an authorized pass when at a location other than that scheduled. (It is suggested that students carry passes in hand so they are visible to faculty/staff/ Administration.)
6. There will be no running in the corridors.
7. Littering is not allowed. This includes anything left on the tables or floor in the lunchroom.
8. Gum chewing is up to the discretion of the classroom teacher.
9. No food or beverages should be removed from the cafeteria with the exception of p.m. CV-TEC students only.

LEVEL II

1. No gambling will be allowed on school property. Money and devices will be confiscated. Card playing will only be allowed in an organized activity.
2. No forging of papers or passes will be allowed.
3. There will be no disrespectful language or gestures.
4. There will be no defacement or destruction of school property (e.g., desks, walls, lockers, etc.) or any property of others while

participating in a school-sponsored activity (e.g., school trip, sporting event, etc.) or while under the supervision of a school employee.

Reimbursement may be required where appropriate.

5. There will be no fighting or inflicting bodily harm on other students.

6. There will be no cutting classes. Students will be considered to be cutting class unless the teacher to whom they are assigned gave them prior permission to be elsewhere.

7. There will be no dangerous objects (e.g., knives, clubs, lighters, etc.) on school property; such objects will be confiscated.

8. There will be no possession of cigarettes, lighters, drug paraphernalia, or alcohol on school property or at school sponsored events.

9. There will be no deliberate acts of disrespect (e.g., insubordination) toward those in authority. The severity of this offense (as Level I or II) is at the discretion of the person reporting the incident.

10. There will be no truancy. Truancy occurs when a student, whose parents/ guardians expects him/her to be in school, does not attend. This is a violation of New York State Education Law.

11. There will be no Unlawful Detention. Unlawful detention occurs when a student is absent with the knowledge or consent, stated or implied, of the parent/ guardian, for other than legal reasons. Examples of unlawful detention include: "shopping," "visiting," "babysitting," or "over sleeping".

12. There will be no Illegal Tardiness. Illegal tardiness occurs when a student arrives to school/ class late without a legal excuse.

13. Students will arrive to school/ class on time except where properly authorized by a signed pass.

14. There will be no alcohol or drugs in possession or use on school property.

15. There will be no throwing of objects or food in the cafeteria.

SCHOOL CONDUCT

In the halls: Students are to walk through the halls in a quiet and orderly manner. They are to go directly to the place they have permission to go and return.

Smoking: Smoking or possession of smoking related materials (lighters, matches, pipes, papers etc.) is not allowed on school grounds, or at school sponsored events, by students at anytime (smoking on school grounds is prohibited by State Health Laws. The penalties are the same as outlined in this handbook

*4 Compliance with Rules: Teachers and support staff have the authority and responsibility to see that ALL students obey and follow school rules and regulations at ALL TIMES. It is your responsibility and duty, as students, to carry out directions given by any teacher or staff member. At no time will a student be rude to any teacher or staff member. In such instances, proper disciplinary action will be taken.

SCHOOL CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

It is the Board of Education's belief that each student should be treated as a person responsible for his own behavior. The school administration, faculty, and staff will assist each student in a program of personal responsibility with a few sensible rules of conduct, focusing on safety and respect for the right and property of others. Students who cannot accept responsibility and violate school rules will be required to accept the penalties and more regulated supervision. These rules of conduct shall be consistently applied in the classrooms and through the School District. Discipline is most effective when it deals directly with the problem at the time and place it occurs and in a way that is viewed as fair and impartial by the student. Therefore, before seeking outside assistance, teachers will first use all their resources to create a change of behavior in the classroom. When the teacher has made every effort to bring about positive behavioral change and has been unsuccessful, the student will be referred to the administration. Once done, the administration assumes the role of deciding what further action will be taken. Disciplinary action, when necessary; will be firm, fair, and consistent.