

RSU #63

- a. **NEPN/NSBA Code:** ADAA
- b. **Title:** Standards for Ethical and Responsible Behavior
- c. **Author:** Superintendent
- d. **Replaces Policy:**
- e. **Date Approved:** 05/22/2017 RSU #63
- f. **Previously Approved:** 11/18/2013
- g. **Policy Expiration:** Review as Needed
- h. **Responsible for Review:** Superintendent/Board of Directors
- i. **Date Reviewed:** 05/01/2017 Superintendent
05/01/2017 Policy Committee
- j. **References:** 20-A MRSA §§ 254, 1001(15), 1001(15-A)

Cross reference: JKD-Suspension of Students

k. Narrative:

- I. The RSU 63 School Board (the Board) believes promoting ethical and responsible behavior is an essential part of the district's educational mission. The Board recognizes ethics, constructive attitudes, responsible behavior, and "character" are important if a student is to leave school as a "responsible and involved citizen," as described in the Guiding Principles of the Maine Learning Results. The Board also recognizes Maine law requires the adoption of a district-wide Student Code of Conduct consistent with statewide standards for student behavior developed by the Commissioner of the Maine Dept. of Ed. in compliance with 20-A MRSA §§ 254(11).
- II. The Board seeks to create and maintain a school climate in which ethical and responsible behavior can flourish. The Board believes instilling a sense of ethics and responsibility in students requires setting positive expectations for student behavior as well as establishing disciplinary consequences for behavior that violates Board policy or school rules. Further, the Board believes in order to teach ethical and responsible behavior, adults who interact with students must strive to model and reinforce ethical and responsible behavior. To that end, the Board supports an active partnership between schools and parents.
- III. Recognizing that collaboratively identified core values are the foundation for a school culture that encourages and reinforces ethical and responsible student behavior, the Board is committed to the establishment and implementation of a process for identifying shared values and setting and enforcing standards for behavior, including prescription of consequences for unacceptable behavior. The process for identifying such shared values will invite and include the participation of Board members, school administrators, staff, parents, students, and the community. Core values will be reviewed periodically, with the opportunity for public participation. The Board will direct the Superintendent/designee to develop a process to assess school system progress toward achievement of an ethical and responsible school culture.
- IV. Following the identification of core values, the Board, with input from administrators, staff, parents, students, and members of the community, will adopt a Student Code of Conduct consistent with statewide standards for student behavior that will meet those required by law. These are found in:

- A.** Basic core values: Respect, Honesty, Compassion, Kindness, Responsibility, and Courage.
- B.** The Student Code of Conduct must be “consistent with,” not identical to, the statewide standards developed under 20-A MRSA §§ 254(11). This provides an opportunity for communities to identify their own core values and articulate what they “look like” when applied to behavior. The core values serve as a basis for school system expectations for student conduct. They:
 - 1.** define unacceptable student behavior;
 - 2.** establish standards of student responsibility for behavior;
 - 3.** prescribe consequences for violation of the Student Code of Conduct, including first-time violations, when appropriate;
 - 4.** describe appropriate procedures for referring students in need of special services to those services;
 - 5.** establish criteria to determine when further assessment of a current Individual Education Plan (IEP) is necessary, based on removal of the student from the class;
 - 6.** establish policies and procedures concerning the removal of disruptive or violent students from the classroom or a school bus. They address student disciplinary and placement decisions, when appropriate circumstances, and
 - 7.** establish guidelines and criteria when the Superintendent/designee may provide information to the local police or other appropriate law enforcement authorities regarding an offense that involves violence committed by any person on school grounds or other school property.
- V.** The Student Code of Conduct will be reviewed periodically by the Boards with input from administrators, staff, parents, students, and members of the community.
- VI.** Students, parents, staff, and the community will be informed of the Student Code of Conduct through handbooks and/or other means selected by the Superintendent/designee.
- VII.** Ethics and Curriculum: The Board encourages integration of ethics into content areas of the curriculum, as appropriate. The Board also encourages school administrators and staff to provide students with meaningful opportunities to apply values and ethical and responsible behavior through activities such as problem solving, peer mediation, and student government/leadership development.