

GOOD CONDUCT CODE POLICY

I. STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The purpose of the Eligibility Code is to establish and provide for the enforcement of academic standards and standards of conduct for students participating in co-curricular activities in grades 7 through 12 of the Fort Dodge Community School District. Underlying this purpose is the premise that participation in co-curricular activities is a privilege to be earned not only by demonstrating a particular talent or ability but also by demonstrating exemplary conduct.

It is a privilege and an honor to participate in the full range of extracurricular activities at the Fort Dodge Community School District. These activities and participation in them adds a great deal to each student's education by promoting good citizenship and moral character, developing discipline and skills necessary to personal success and well being, and promoting the image and identify of the school and community. Students who choose to participate in extracurricular activities will conduct themselves appropriately at all times both on school grounds and away from the school. The responsibility of good conduct is an extension of the responsibility to represent the school and community in an appropriate manner.

A student will be ineligible to participate in an activity when the conduct of that student has been determined to be contrary to or in violation of the established rules and regulations set out in this policy.

Standards of Conduct: Any student whose conduct, either in or out of school, is such as to make him or her unworthy to represent the ideals, principles and standards of the Fort Dodge Community School District shall be declared ineligible to participate in co-curricular activities by the administration. It shall be the responsibility of all persons enrolled as students in grades 6 through 12 of the Fort Dodge Community School District to obey governmental laws and ordinances, to obey all policies, rules and regulations of the Fort Dodge Community School District, including rules and regulations for the particular activity in which the student is participating, and to conduct themselves in a manner that will reflect credit to themselves, their school, and their community.

It shall be a violation of the Eligibility Code for any student to commit any of the following acts even though the violation has occurred out of season or outside of the school year:

II. APPLICABLE ACTIVITY PROGRAMS

The Good Conduct Code applies to all extracurricular activities, including but not limited to: (Anytime a student is representing FDCSD)

1. All athletics
2. All music, speech, drama, and cheerleading activities
3. Student council and other elective offices
4. Team honors
5. School honors

III. DEFINITIONS

1. Competition/Performances

Means a specific event that is a component of an extracurricular program whether it is a contest, a performance, a school sponsored trip that is part of the extracurricular activity, etc.

2. Offense

Occurs when a student is determined by a school official to have violated the Good Conduct Code. Such violations shall be counted cumulatively from year to year (grades 9-12), regardless of the specific portion of the Good Conduct Code that is violated. Any offense(s) occurring under the District's previous policy shall count cumulatively toward any offense(s) under this Good Conduct Code.

3. Possession

With regard to alcohol, drugs, simulated controlled substances, and tobacco, possession shall mean under the actual control of or on the student's person, contained in property under the student's personal control, or accessible to and the student has knowledge of the prohibited substance's presence.

4. Mere Presence

"Possession" has been defined by the Iowa Supreme Court as being within reach of or in "close proximity to" the contraband [e.g., alcohol or other drugs]. Being in attendance at a function or party where the student knows or has reason to know that alcohol or other drugs are being consumed illegally by minors and failing to leave despite having a reasonable opportunity to do so is "mere presence."

IV. GOOD CONDUCT CODE GUIDELINES

Participation in school activities is a privilege. School activities provide the benefits of promoting additional interests and abilities in the students during their school years and for their lifetimes. Students who participate in extracurricular activities serve, and should be acknowledged, as standout student ambassadors of the school district throughout the 365 days of the calendar year. Students who wish to have the privilege of participating in extracurricular activities must conduct themselves in accordance with board policy. Students who fail to abide by this policy and the administrative regulations supporting it may be subject to disciplinary measures. The principal

or his/her designee shall keep records of violations of the Student Conduct Code.

If at the time of the violation, the student is not currently participating in any activity, then the student's period of ineligibility shall apply to the first extracurricular activity or activities in which the student participates.

V. CONDUCT REQUIREMENTS

Statement of Compliance

The Fort Dodge Community School District will enforce the Student Conduct Code for all co-curricular (extended requirements beyond the regular school day associated with a credited class which meets during the regular school day) and all extra-curricular (an activity which meets outside of the regular school day and receives no credit) activities.

Student shall:

1. Abide by the Good Conduct Code at all times and in all places.
2. Abide by any additional, specific rules and regulations which the coach sponsor of the activity has established (such as training hours, attendance at practice, etc.) Such rules will be approved by the activities director and shared with the principal before distribution to students. Students and parent/guardians will be required to sign a copy of a document as an acknowledgement of their agreement to abide by them.

General Standard

Good Conduct consists of behavior which reflects the generally accepted social and moral requirements of the community, is legal, and at all times reflects respect for and sensitivity to other persons, regardless of nationality, gender, religion, race or disability, and a respect for their rights, property, and dignity.

VI. VIOLATIONS

Violations of the Good Conduct Code include but are not limited to the following prohibited conduct and actions. Student shall not commit a crime under any governmental law or ordinance except laws and ordinances regulating the use of motor vehicles under which a violation is classified as a simple misdemeanor. A determination that a student has violated the Eligibility Code by the commission of a crime may be made without regard to whether the student is prosecuted or convicted of such crime by other authorities.

1. Sell, manufacture or distribute illegal drugs, controlled substances, imitation controlled substances or drug paraphernalia.
2. Possess, use or threaten to use any instrument that is generally considered a weapon or an imitation weapon or an explosive.

3. Possess, use, or be under the influence of illegal drugs, controlled substances, imitation controlled substances, or drug paraphernalia. Misuse of prescription or over the counter drugs is also prohibited.
4. The use, consumption, possession or distribution of alcoholic liquor, wine, beer or of any controlled substance as defined in Chapter 124 of the Code of Iowa or of "look-alike" substances.
5. Assault or physically abuse any person at school or during school activities or coming to and/or going from school or a school activity.
6. Presence at a function where such substances are served illegally to minors shall be a violation of this Eligibility Code even if the student does not consume the substance. (Mere presence)
7. Use, possesses, and/or transmit tobacco or imitation substances.
8. Engaging in any act that would be grounds for arrest or citation in the criminal or juvenile court system (excluding minor offenses such as traffic), regardless of whether the student was cited, arrested, convicted, or adjudicated for the act(s);
9. Participate in any conduct which, by Iowa, is illegal, whether or not an arrest or conviction occurs, except simple misdemeanor traffic violations.
10. Use inappropriate or offensive conduct such as fighting, hazing, or harassment of others as well as identity theft.
11. If a student transfers in from another Iowa school or school district and the student had not yet completed a period of ineligibility for a violation of a Good Conduct Rule in the previous school, the student shall be ineligible if the administration determines that there is a general knowledge in our school district of the fact of the student's misconduct or violation in the previous district.

VII. DETERMINATION OF VIOLATION

1. When a student is suspected of violating the Fort Dodge Good Conduct Policy, the first step of the Fort Dodge Community School District will be to determine if a violation has occurred. This determination will be made by the ~~principal~~ and activities director.
2. Prior to making a final determination that there has been a violation, the activities director shall be informed of the alleged violation and perform an investigation. The student/guardian shall be notified orally and in writing of the alleged violation(s). The student will be given an opportunity to respond to the alleged violation(s).
3. The Fort Dodge Community School District may determine that there has been a violation of the Good Conduct Code whether or not criminal charges have been filed, whether a student's trial is pending or

whether or not the student is found guilty by a court of law as long as there is reasonable evidence to support the finding of a Good Conduct Code violation.

4. Once the determination is made that a student has violated the Fort Dodge Good Conduct Code, the activities director will meet with the coach, activity sponsor, or advisor and they shall make a determination of the appropriate penalty. The student and his/her parent(s)/guardian shall be informed in writing of this decision (the nature of the violation and the determination of the penalty) by mail to the student's residence (or other address if the parents/guardian have a different address on file for mailing purposes with the school) within two school days of the determination. In addition, the parent(s) /guardian will be notified orally, if possible.

VIII. PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS

Penalties: Any student who, is confronted with an allegation, the basis of the allegation, and given an opportunity to tell the student's side, is found to have violated the school's Good Conduct Rule, during the school year or summer, will be deemed ineligible for a period of time, as described below.

Administrative Determination

If the administration determines it advisable (such as upon receipt of a police report), the administration shall conduct an investigation into allegations of violations under the Eligibility Code. Such investigation shall not be limited by any formal rules of evidence or procedure (for example, police reports may be utilized even if not admissible in a court of law). The student/guardian shall be told orally and/or in writing of the charges against the student. If the student denies the charges, the student shall be given an opportunity to explain his/her side of the story and shall be given an explanation of the evidence against the student. If the administrator finds it advisable, the student may be allowed to confront witnesses against the student and/or call witnesses on behalf of the student; however the administrator shall not be obligated to compel persons to give statements. There need be no delay between the time of notice of the charges and the student's opportunity to respond. Written notice of a determination that a student has violated the Eligibility Code shall be mailed or delivered to the student's parent or guardian who shall contain a statement of the disciplinary sanction to be imposed. The penalty for a violation is ineligibility for a definite number of contests or appearances for the activity the penalty is to be applied to. The student must participate in practice during the period of ineligibility; however, the student shall not be permitted to dress for, travel, or participate in the contest.

If a student drops out of any activity prior to completion of the ineligibility period or completion of the season, the full penalty will be fulfilled when the student seeks to go out for another activity. If a student violates the Eligibility

Code at a time when he or she is ineligible to participate in co-curricular activities by virtue of a prior violation or academic ineligibility the period of ineligibility for such subsequent violation shall commence after the period of ineligibility for all prior violations.

First Offense

A student whose violation of the Good Conduct Code constitutes a first offense will be ineligible to participate in all extra curricular activities for a period of 25% of scheduled extra curricular activities or performances. The 25% will begin on the day it has been determined by administration. The student will become eligible upon completion of the 25% ineligibility period. The before mentioned activities season must be completed in good standing with the coach for the suspension to be served.

Penalty Reduction for First Offense

Any student who has a violation on their first offense shall have the penalty that would have been imposed, reduced by one-half (1/2) if the student completes counseling from the district's assigned counselor. The administration will have the sole authority and discretion to determine whether a student has complied with this section and is eligible for a penalty reduction.

Second Offense

A student whose violation of the Good Conduct Code constitutes a second offense will be ineligible to participate in all extra curricular activities for 50% of the next scheduled activity. The 50% begins on the day it has been determined by administration a violation has occurred. Reduction in penalty will not be available.

Third Offense or more

A student whose violation of the Good Conduct Code constitutes a third offense or more will be ineligible to participate for twelve (12) months in all extracurricular activities. Reduction in penalty will not be available.

IX. SUSPENSION/EXPULSION UNDER THE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

If a student receives a disciplinary out-of-school suspension or expulsion because of a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, the student will not be allowed to participate for the comparable period of time in any extracurricular activity, including practices, meetings, and competitions/performances and will be denied all school transportation to or from such practices, meetings and/or competitions/performances for the duration of the suspension or expulsion.

In the event a student receives a disciplinary in-school suspension, the coach/sponsor will determine whether attendance at a practice, meeting and/or competition performance is permitted during the length of the in school suspension.

IX. STUDENT APPEAL

A student may contest the activity director and principal's determination of a violation and/or penalty imposed for a violation of the Good Conduct Code. All appeal hearings shall be informal and a student may be accompanied by his/her parent or guardian. A student may be represented by legal counsel in any hearing before the district's Board of Directors.

Appeal.

A student who is dissatisfied with the penalties assigned for a violation of the Good Conduct Code may appeal the decision. In order to appeal the decision, the student must submit to the building principal a written request within five (5) school days of the assignment of the penalty. The student and activities director shall appear before principal within five (5) school days. The building principal shall consider the circumstances and evidence and put his/her findings in writing to the student and parent within five (5) school days.

In order to appeal the building principal's final decision, the student must submit to the superintendent a written request for an appeal hearing within five (5) school days.

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