



Behavioral Guidelines



MISSION STATEMENT

“Excellence in Teaching and Learning for All”

- To prepare all student to become competent, responsible, and productive individuals by providing challenging educational experiences in a positive, safe environment supported by the total community.

VISION STATEMENT

- We will provide lifelong learning opportunities that will develop the potential of all individuals and thereby improve the quality of life for all citizens of the district.
- The Darlington County Community will grow and prosper economically and culturally as the school district fosters an environment that produces well-educated, productive citizens.
- All families will receive validation of their important role in their child’s education within an atmosphere of mutual respect and collaboration.
- All students will demonstrate respect for others and possess the knowledge and skills to be productive members of the community with the desire to continue as life-long learners.
- All staff will be empowered through meaningful, professional experiences in a supportive and collaborative environment to ensure the success of all students.

VALUES

- **Integrity:** *Striving always to do the right thing in the right way*
- **Honesty:** *Having the courage and consideration to share the truth*
- **Respect:** *Recognizing and appreciating the value of others*
- **Trust:** *Believing in one another to do our best while maintaining confidentiality*
- **Accountability:** *Accepting the responsibility for our actions*

BELIEFS

- Excellence is achievable and always worth the investment.
- Education is the shared responsibility of the home, school, and community.
- All students can learn and perform at a higher level.
- The quality of a child’s education depends on the quality of the teacher.

- All decisions made in the best interest of the education, safety and well-being of students create successful schools and strong communities.

CODE OF ETHICS

I will:

- Be responsible for my own behavior
- Honor myself
- Respect others
- Be honest in everything I say and do
- Treat others the way I want to be treated
- Resolve conflicts and solve problems without violence and drugs
- Take pride in my total environment.

INTRODUCTION

The Darlington County School District's *Code of Ethics* outlines positive behavioral expectations for all students. The Code teaches appropriate behavior and encourages students to accept responsibility for their actions. Students must learn how to conduct themselves at school so that teachers can spend their time teaching all students. To ensure understanding of the expectations the *Code of Ethics* will be taught in conjunction with character education, conflict resolution and drug education.

PREAMBLE TO THE PARENT

You are our primary partner in the education of your child. Nothing the school wishes to accomplish is effective without your support.

Among your responsibilities are the following:

- to maintain regular communications with the school authorities concerning your child's progress and conduct
- to attend parental conferences when requested by school authorities or guidance counselors
- to provide your child with the resources needed to complete class work

- to ensure your child is in daily attendance and to promptly report and explain an absence or tardiness to school
- to provide transportation for your child to and from disciplinary activities such as detention hall or Saturday work detail which may be scheduled before or after school
- to assist your child in being healthy, neat, and clean
- to bring to the attention of school authorities any problem or condition which affects your child or other children of the school
- to discuss report cards and work assignments with your child
- to read and discuss this discipline code with your child

PREAMBLE TO THE STUDENT

Teaching-Learning Process

The primary objective of the Darlington County School District is to promote the teaching-learning process. You deserve the best education that our schools are capable of providing.

Before this objective can be adequately achieved, three conditions must be present:

1. You must be present at school and prepared for the day's work.
2. Teachers must be able to carry out their plans.
3. The classroom atmosphere must be such that learning can take place.

Respect for the Rights of Others

Every right you have has an obligation attached to it. Your rights must be balanced against the rights of others and their rights must be balanced against yours. Also, the purpose of the school and the requirements of the educational process must be weighed in deciding who has a right to do what and what behavior needs to be punished. Protecting your rights is the reason our society has laws and why a school has rules.

If you are one of those students who wants to take full advantage of your rights and opportunities at your school, while at the same time respecting the rights of others, your school and district personnel will support and help you.

Responsibility for Your Own Actions

You will be held responsible only for the things you do or fail to do. What others do, or do not do, is of little importance in

determining whether or not you have accepted your responsibility as a student/citizen of the Darlington County School District.

If you choose to follow bad examples set by a few of your fellow students, you will be held responsible for your actions and your actions only. The decision will be yours and so will the consequences.

Your first responsibility, then, is to decide how you should conduct yourself while you are at school. Your second responsibility is to be prepared to accept the consequences of your actions.

Your teachers and administrators regret that a considerable amount of time and energy must be spent in dealing with some students' physical, verbal, and personal actions which negatively affect the operation of your school.

No written rules can cover all situations; however, the Darlington County School District's behavioral guidelines attempt to address the most widespread issues and situations. In situations not covered by these guidelines, your school administrators will make decisions in accordance with District policy and appropriate state laws. Circumstances and degrees of involvement will be considered in making the decision as to the seriousness of an offense.

Each school principal has the authority to use his/her discretion within the recommended guidelines of the code. If you violate one or more sections of the discipline guidelines, you may be subject to more severe disciplinary action than recommended in the guidelines.

You must understand that your responsibilities are just as important as your rights; one cannot exist without the other.

PURPOSE AND DESIGN

The Board of Education recognizes that rules of student conduct and consequences for violations are necessary for the orderly operation of the District's schools. Generally, it is the philosophy of the District to handle all student disciplinary matters at the lowest supervisory level possible and in the most reasonable manner possible. Ultimately though, the Superintendent is in charge of ensuring that sound disciplinary practices are followed throughout the District.

GUIDELINE DEFINITIONS

The behavioral guidelines are designed to be in effect during ALL in-school activities, graduation, closing of school activities, field trips and extracurricular activities sponsored by the school. The guidelines will be effective during the following times and in the following places:

- **On the school grounds during and immediately before or immediately after school hours**
- **On the school grounds at any other time when the school is being used by a school group**
- **Off the school grounds at a school-sponsored or district-sponsored activity, function, or event**
- **When being transported in vehicles dispatched by the district or one of its schools, including a school bus or other school vehicle**
- **At any time or place (including off school grounds and during non-school hours) where conduct directly interferes with the operations, discipline, or general welfare of the school, its students, or its staff**

Disciplinary action taken at the end of the year may be carried over to the following school year.

Authority of School Personnel

- **Teachers are authorized to make and enforce rules for effective classroom management and to foster appropriate student behavior, subject to the direction and approval of each building principal.**
- **School-wide rules will be developed by the building principal and the principal will have discretion for the consequences based on the facts and circumstances of each particular case.**
- **The discipline, suspension, and/or expulsion of students will not be based on race, religion, sex, color, disability, national origin, immigrant status, English-speaking status, or any other applicable status protected by local, state, or federal law.**

COVID-19 PANDEMIC GUIDELINES

DCSD continues to adjust our operations and practices and our community. The global pandemic coupled with the racial injustices have deeply affected our students, our staff, and families. As we reopen school for the 2020-21 school year, it is crucial that we redefine our beliefs and expectations for student participation in learning activities and reaffirm our expectations for interactions with staff, students, and activities/behavior that impact the school community. Examples include but are not limited to: social media, applications, and virtual platforms (Zoom, Google, etc.).

Based on the COVID-19 pandemic, DCSD is offering a variety of instructional experiences for students and families. These opportunities include the following:

- **Brick and Mortar Education (In-Person Instruction)**
- **Distance Education (Hybrid – both in-person instruction and at-home instruction and DCSD Virtual Academy)**

Whichever instruction experience your family has selected, our safety and behavior expectations remain the same. We want to operate to ensure we protect each other, e.g., I wear a mask to protect you and you wear a mask to protect me. Some of our enhanced safety expectations for students include: social distancing, handwashing, and wearing masks. All students should adhere to the safety guidelines provided. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary actions.

- **Masks must be worn in common areas: hallways, exiting vehicles/bus, playground, cafeteria, etc. While seated in their desks, students do not need to wear their masks. If student move around the classroom, masks must be worn.**
- **Physical/social distancing (recommended at least 6 ft. apart). Students who do not follow social distance requirements may not be able to continue with face-to-face instruction.**
- **Handwashing/sanitizing will be expected upon entry to school, before meals, and throughout the day.**

Student Code of Conduct Policies

Within the Student Code of Conduct, Administrators have the authority to use consequences up to Out of School Suspension when appropriate. These consequences consist of Timeout, Guidance Referrals, In School Suspension, Withdrawal of Privileges, and other school based policies and procedures. The Darlington County School District's Policies for Student Behavior consists of the following policies:

Policy JA	Student Policies, Goals, and Objectives
Policy JH, R	Student Absences and Excuses
Policy JI	Student Rights and Responsibilities
Policy JIAA, R	Sexual Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation
Policy JIAB, R	Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation
Policy JICA, R	Student Dress, Articles, Displays
Policy JICDA, R	Code of Conduct
Policy JICF	Secret Societies/Gang Activity
Policy JICFAA	Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying
Policy JICG	Tobacco Use by Students
Policy JICH, R	Drug and Alcohol Use by Students
Policy JICI	Weapons in Schools
Policy JICJ	Possession/Use of Student-Owned Electronic Communication Devices in Schools
Policy JICJA	Social Media and Electronic Communications
Policy JICJB	Student Tracking Safety Devices
Policy JIH, R	Student Interrogations, Searches, Arrests
Policy JIHC, R	Use of Metal Detectors
Policy JII	Student Concerns, Complaints, and Grievances
Policy JIJ	Student Protests, Demonstrations, and Strikes
Policy JK	Student Discipline
Policy JKD, R	Suspension of Students
Policy JKE, R	Expulsion of Students
Policy JLF	Student Welfare

DISCIPLINE BEHAVIOR GUIDELINE AGREEMENT FORM

Student's Name

Homeroom Teacher

The *Darlington County School District Behavioral Guidelines*. I acknowledge I have read the guidelines and I understand that I am subject to these guidelines. I have also been informed of the use of metal detectors and acknowledge that I am subject to their use as well as the rules and consequences surrounding them.

Student Signature

(Student Signature – required for grades 2 – 12)

My child has read the *Darlington County School District Behavioral Guidelines* and I understand that he/she is subject to these guidelines. I also acknowledge that my child has been informed of the use of metal detectors and is subject to their use as well as the rules and consequences surrounding them.

Parent Signature

(Signature required for all students)

Date

Please sign and submit the form to your principal.

CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT K-5

OFFENSE	FIRST OFFENSE	SECOND OFFENSE	THIRD OFFENSE
Sexual Harassment JIAA-R	Counselor referral/ up to 3 days OSS	Counselor referral/up to 3 days OSS	Counselor referral/up to 5 days OSS
Integrity, Lying, Cheating JICDA-R	Up to 3 days ISS/ parent conference	Counselor referral/up to 3 days ISS/parent conference Up to 1 day OSS	Counselor referral/ up to 3 days OSS/parent conference Up to 1 day OSS
Disruptive/Disrespectful Behavior/Insubordination – JICDA-R	Counselor referral/parent conference/ up to 3 days OSS	Counselor referral/ parent conference/up to 3 days OSS	Counselor referral/up to 5 days OSS
Student Dress Code JICA,R	ISS pending correction/Parent Conference	ISS pending correction/Parent Conference	Parent Conference/ up to 1 day OSS
Use of Wireless Communication Devices JICDA-R, JICJ, JICJA, JICJB	Confiscate/returned to student at the end of the day	Confiscated/parent must pick up	Confiscated/parent must pick up
Inappropriate Use of Computer JICDA-R JICJ, JICJA, JICJB	Warning/parent contact/ counselor referral/Computer Access Restrictions	Parent contact/-counselor referral/up to 3 days OSS/Computer Access Restrictions	Parent contact/ counselor referral/up to 5 days OSS/Computer Access Restrictions
Tobacco and Vaping Products including vaping products without THC JICDA-R	Warning/parent conference/counselor referral for tobacco awareness	Up to 1 day OSS/ tobacco awareness program	Up to 3 days OSS
Drugs and Alcohol (Includes Possession, Under the Influence, Paraphernalia, vaping products with THC, intent to sell) JICDA-R, JICH-R	Up to 10 days OSS, counselor referral with substance use program	Counselor referral/up to 10 days OSS/ possible LTS	Counselor referral/up to 10 days OSS/ possible LTS
Sell or Distribute Drugs JICDA-R,JICH-R	Counselor referral/up to 10 days OSS/ Expulsion	Counselor referral/up to 10 days OSS/possible LTS/ Expulsion	Counselor referral/up to 10 days OSS/possible LTS/ Expulsion
Gang Related Activity JICDA-R, JICF	Counselor referral/up to 3 days OSS/parent conference	counselor referral/up to 5 days OSS	counselor referral/up to 10 days OSS
Theft, Trespass and Damage to Property JICDA-R	Up to 1 day OSS/ counselor referral/ Restitution	Up to 3 days OSS/Restitution	Up to 5 days OSS/Restitution
Fighting, Bullying, Assaults, Threats and Harassment JICDA-R, JICFAA	Up to 5 Days OSS/ counselor referral/Parent conference	Up to 10 Days OSS/ counselor referral/ possible LTS	Up to 10 Days OSS/ counselor referral/ possible LTS/expulsion
Weapons, Bomb Threats, Terrorist Threats and Clear Threats to Safety JICDA-R, JICI	1 – 10 Days OSS/ Follow mandated consequences by law/ 365 Day Suspension	1 – 10 Days OSS/ Follow mandated consequences by law/ 365 Day Suspension	1 – 10 Days OSS/ Follow mandated consequences by law/ 365 Day Suspension
Sexual Offense	Parent Conf./Counselor referral/Up to 3 days OSS	Counselor referral/Up to 5 Days OSS	Counselor referral/Up to 10 Days OSS
Violation of COVID Safety Guidelines			

* Law Enforcement may be notified

** Law Enforcement shall be notified

(Parental contact must occur on all offenses)

CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT 6-8 (Principal can make referral for hearing on any discipline offense)

OFFENSE	FIRST OFFENSE	SECOND OFFENSE	THIRD OFFENSE
Sexual Harassment JICDA-R, JIAA-R*	Counselor referral/up to 3 days OSS	Counselor referral/ up to 5 days OSS	Counselor referral/ up to 10 days OSS
			ADDITIONAL OFFENSE Up to 10 days OSS/possible LTS/Expulsion
Integrity, Lying, Cheating JICDA-R	Up to 3 days ISS/Parent conference/Counselor referral	Counselor referral up to 3 days ISS/parent conference	Counselor referral/ up to 3 days OSS/parent conference
Disruptive/Disrespectful Behavior/Insubordination JICDA-R	Counselor referral up to 3 days OSS	Counselor referral/ up to 5 days OSS	Counselor referral/ up to 10 days OSS
Student Dress Code JICA-R	Up to 1 day ISS	Up to 2 days ISS	Up to 2 days OSS
Use of Wireless Communication Devices JICDA-R, JICJ, JICJA, JICJB	Warning and Parent contact	Up to 2 days ISS pending parent conference	Up to 3 days OSS/Parent Conference
Inappropriate Use of Computer JICDA-R, JICJ, JICJA, JICJB	Warning/parent contact/ counselor referral	Parent contact/ counselor referral/up to 3 days OSS	Parent contact/counselor referral/up to 5 days OSS
Tobacco and Vaping Products including vaping products without THC JICDA-R	Warning/up to 3 days OSS/tobacco awareness	Up to 3 days OSS/ tobacco awareness with additional resources	Up to 5 days OSS/Expulsion
Drugs and Alcohol JICDA-R, JICH-R ** (Includes Possession, Under the Influence, Paraphernalia, vaping products with THC)	Up to 10 days OSS/ possible DCIS/LTS/ Expulsion Substance Abuse Awareness Program (scoring at least 80%)	Up to 10 days OSS/ possible DCIS/LTS/Expulsion	Up to 10 days OSS/ possible DCIS/LTS/Expulsion
Sell or Distribute Drugs JICDA-R, JICH-R**	Counselor Referral/Up to 10 days OSS/ Possible DCIS/Expulsion	Counselor referral/10 days OSS/possible DCIS/LTS/ Expulsion	Counselor referral/10 days OSS/possible DCIS/LTS/ Expulsion
Gang Related Activity JICDA-R, JICF *	Counselor Referral/Up to 10 Days OSS/ possible DCIS/LTS/ Expulsion	Counselor referral/Up to 10 Days OSS/ possible DCIS/LTS/ Expulsion	Counselor referral/Up to 10 Days OSS/ possible DCIS/LTS/ Expulsion
Theft, Trespass and Damage to Property JICDA-R *	Counselor Referral/ Warning Up to 3 days OSS/Restitution	Up to 5 days OSS/Restitution	Up to 10 days OSS/Restitution/ possible DCIS/LTS/expulsion
Violation of COVID Safety Guidelines			
Fighting, Bullying, Assaults, Threats and Harassment JICDA-R, JICFAA *	Counselor Referral/ Up to 10 days OSS/DCIS/ possible LTS	Up to 10 days OSS/DCIS/ possible LTS	Up to 10 days OSS/DCIS/ possible LTS
Weapons, Bomb Threats, Terrorist Threats and Clear Threats to Safety JICDA-R, JICI**	1 – 10 days OSS/possible DCIS Follow mandated consequences by law/365 Day Suspension	1 – 10 days OSS/possible DCIS Follow mandated consequences by law/365 Day Suspension	1 – 10 days OSS/possible DCIS Follow mandated consequences by law/365 Day Suspension

*Law Enforcement may be notified. **Law Enforcement shall be notified. (Parental contact must occur on all offense)

CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT 9-12

OFFENSE	FIRST OFFENSE	SECOND OFFENSE	THIRD OFFENSE
Sexual Harassment JIAA-R*	Counselor referral/up to 5 days OSS	Counselor referral and up to 10 days OSS	Counselor referral and up to 10 days OSS/possible ALA referral
			ADDITIONAL OFFENSE 10 days OSS/ LT/expulsion
Integrity, Lying, Cheating JICDA-R	Parent conference/up to 3 days ISS /counselor referral	Up to 3 day ISS/counselor referral	Up to 3 days OSS/counselor referral
Disruptive/Disrespectful Behavior/Insubordination JICDA-R*	Administrative Conference/ up to 3 days OSS	Counselor referral up to 5 days OSS	Counselor referral/up to 10 days OSS
			ADDITIONAL OFFENSE Up to 10 days OSS
Student Dress Code JICA-R	Up to 1 day ISS	Up to 2 days ISS	Up to 2 days OSS
Use of Wireless Communication Devices JICDA-R, JICJ, JICJA, JICJB	Up to 2 days ISS	Up to 2 days OSS	Up to 2 days OSS pending parent conference
Inappropriate Use of Computer JICDA-R, JICJ, JICJA, JICJB	Warning/parent contact/counselor referral	Parent contact/ counselor referral/ up to 3 days OSS	Parent contact/ counselor referral/ up to 5 days OSS
Tobacco and Vaping Products including vaping without THC JICDA-R	Warning/up to 1 day OSS/tobacco awareness (scoring at least 80%)	Up to 1 day OSS/ tobacco awareness with additional resources	Up to 3 days OSS
Drugs and Alcohol JICDA-R, JICH-R ** (Includes Possession, Under the Influence, Paraphernalia, vaping with THC)	Up to 10 days OSS/ possible DCIS/LTS/ Expulsion/Substance Abuse Counseling	Up to 10 days OSS/ possible DCIS/LTS/ Expulsion	Up to 10 days OSS/possible DCIS/LTS/ Expulsion
Sell or Distribute Drugs JICDA-R, JICH-R **	Counselor Referral/10 days OSS/ possible DCIS/LTS/ Expulsion	10 days OSS/ possible DCIS/LTS/ Expulsion	10 days OSS/possible DCIS/LTS/ Expulsion
Gang Related Activity JICDA-R, JICF*	Counselor Referral/ Up to 10 Days OSS/ possible DCIS/LTS/Expulsion	Up to 10 Days OSS/ possible DCIS/LTS/ Expulsion	Up to 10 Days OSS/possible DCIS/LTS/ Expulsion
Theft, Trespass and Damage to Property JICDA-R) *	Counselor Referral/ Up to 3 days OSS/restitution	Up to 5 days OSS/restitution	Up to 10 days OSS/restitution/ possible DCIS/LTS/Expulsion
Violation of COVID Safety Guidelines			
Sexual Offense	Up to 10 OOS, DCIS, Counseling	Up to 10 days OSS/ DCIS/365 Day Suspension	Up to 10 Days OSS/DCIS//365 Day Suspension
Fighting, Bullying, Assaults, Threats and Harassment JICDA-R, JICFAA *	Counselor Referral/ Up to 10 Days OSS/DCIS/ possible LTS	Up to 10 Days OSS/DCIS/ possible LTS	Up to 10 Days OSS/DCIS/ possible LTS/Expulsion
Weapons, Bomb Threats, Terrorist Threats and Clear Threats to Safety JICDA-R, JICI **	1 – 10 Days OSS/possible DCIS Follow mandated consequences by law/365 Day Suspension	1 – 10 Days OSS/possible DCIS Follow mandated consequences by law/365 Day Suspension	1 – 10 Days OSS/possible DCIS Follow mandated consequences by law/365 Day Suspension

* Law Enforcement may be notified ** Law Enforcement shall be notified (Parental contact must occur on all offenses)