

## Teacher's Responsibilities and Authority

Teachers are responsible for establishing and maintaining a classroom environment focused on learning, as well as for enforcing student conduct expectations. Teachers have the authority to administer disciplinary actions for any student who disrupts the learning environment or who does not meet student conduct expectations.

Teachers are essential partners in determining appropriate disciplinary actions, and thus may make recommendations to the principal following student misconduct.

## Principal's Responsibilities and Authority

Principals are responsible for maintaining a learning-focused environment, and must enforce student conduct expectations, school rules, and state and federal laws. When student misconduct or unlawful behavior occurs, principals are charged with conducting a fair and thorough investigation that takes into account the individual circumstances, severity of the misconduct and the level of disruption caused to the learning environment in order to determine appropriate consequences. Principals have the authority to discipline, suspend or expel any student for any violation of student conduct expectations.

Principals review student conduct expectations and school rules with staff at the start of each year and make copies of discipline policies available to students and parents in the student handbook. In situations where unlawful behavior occurs, Granite Falls Schools are assisted by and cooperate with local, county and state law enforcement agencies.

All discipline, short-term suspensions, long-term suspensions or expulsions shall be administered in compliance with state law and the rules of the state Board of Education, WAC 392-400.

## Due Process: Suspension, Expulsion, Appeals

District officials will adhere to constitutionally and legally sound procedures of due process.

**Short-Term Suspensions** of one to ten days; parents shall have the right to an informal conference with the building principal, then the right to a grievance conference with the superintendent/designee within two business days.

**Long-Term Suspensions** of more than ten days; a written request for a hearing with the superintendent/designee must be received within three business days. A re-entry conference will be held with the district and student/parents within 20 days of long-term suspension.

**Expulsions and Emergency Expulsions** parent/student may make a written request for a hearing with the superintendent/designee within three business days for expulsion or ten business days for emergency expulsion. A reentry conference will be held between the district and student/parents within 20 days of expulsion. The school has 10 days to convert the emergency expulsion into a different form of discipline. The district will provide notice and afford due process rights for the conversion action. Re-entry conferences and reengagement plans are required. Grievances and/or appeals from decisions rendered may be directed to the Board of Directors.



# STUDENT DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

*2017-2018*

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## Belief Statement

The district adheres to a philosophy of developing and upholding high expectations for all student conduct in order to maintain an environment focused on learning. Students are expected to follow school rules at all times while on school grounds, district transportation or at school events. Consequences for misbehavior are outlined in both the Student Discipline/Corrective Action Procedures and building discipline procedures.

- Safety is the top priority of the Granite Falls School District.
- Teaching and Learning shall be the priority in the classroom.
- All students have the right to an education and the responsibility to uphold that right for others.
- All students and staff have the right to a safe, secure learning and working environment.
- Students and staff are responsible for demonstrating respect for each other.
- All students can learn to be self-managers of their behavior and are accountable for their actions.
- Exceptional misconduct will not be tolerated in the Granite Falls School District.

## Exceptional Misconduct

Exceptional Misconduct, as referenced in WAC 392-400-245 and WAC 392-400-260, refers to conduct so serious in nature or so disruptive to the operation of the school that it warrants immediate short-term suspension, long-term suspension or expulsion.

NOTE: Student-Parent Handbooks provide more detail and are available at each school and the district website. Please also refer to policy 5050: Student Conduct for more details.

## Definition of Misconduct

**Disruption to Program:** disruption of the learning environment or program by bomb scares, false fire alarms, firecrackers, etc.

**Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying:** intentional hurtful, threatening verbal, written or physical conduct. It is unsolicited or unwelcome conduct. Includes digital/cyber bullying.

**Abusive Behavior:** angry refusal to comply creating confrontational situation or display of violent behavior after directive given; verbally abusive behavior.

**Defiance/Failure to Comply:** repeated/deliberate failure to comply with a reasonable request from a staff member. Refusal to obey instructions, policies, rules or regulations of the school.

**Assault/Fighting:** intent to do serious physical harm (actual or attempt to hit, strike or make contact directly or indirectly with an object). See policy 5050 (reasonable self-defense)

**Dangerous Conduct** poses danger to another, includes dangerous use of motor vehicles on school grounds, school activity, or endangering students on a school bus.

**Lewd, Obscene or Profane Language, Gestures, Materials:** deemed significantly harmful/disruptive to the learning environment. Includes images, digital materials or sounds. Includes gang imagery or symbols.

**Possession/Use/ Distribution of Tobacco:** possession, use or sale of tobacco.

**Possession/Consumption/Use/Distribution of Alcohol/ Drugs or Chemical Substances,** including drug related items or imitation of drug use/use of paraphernalia.

**Possession of Potentially Dangerous Item/ Explosive Device** including toys that resemble dangerous items/ weapons (gun, knife, firecracker, bullets, etc.).

**Possession/Use of a Gun/Lethal Weapon** - see policy 5050; RCW 28A.600.420, RCW 9A.04.110. **May be grounds for expulsion up to one year, as well as contacting local law enforcement.**

**Sexual Misconduct** includes possession or transmission of sexually explicit pictures, video, etc. possession/transmission via cell phone, internet or other device.

**Violation of Federal, State or Local Law:** Arson, Burglary, Extortion, Destruction of Property, Theft, etc.

## Definition of Disciplinary Terms

**Discipline:** all forms of corrective action applied following misconduct, except suspension or expulsion. Includes the exclusion of a student from a class or activity provided that the time frame does not exceed the balance of the immediate class, subject or activity period.

**Suspension:** denial of attendance at school or any school related activity.

**Short-Term Suspension:** suspension for any portion of a school day up to ten consecutive school days. Students are expected to complete all work missed during a short-term suspension.

**Long-Term Suspension:** a suspension that exceeds more than 10 days. Long term suspension may result in loss of credit.

**Expulsion:** denial of attendance for a defined period of time.

**Emergency Expulsion:** immediate expulsion of a student when the superintendent or designee believes that the student's presence poses an immediate and continuing danger to the student, other students or school personnel, or an immediate and continuing threat of substantial disruption of the education process.

## Exceptional Misconduct Not Tolerated

The District Discipline Review Committee comprised of administrators, staff, parents, a board member and student has recommended the behaviors listed above be termed exceptional misconduct for which a student will be disciplined, up to or including being suspended or expelled from school.