

Teacher's Responsibilities and Authority

Teachers are responsible for establishing clear behavioral expectations and maintaining a classroom environment focused on learning, as well as 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.

RCW 28A.600.020 states that a student who creates a disruption of the educational process in violation of the building disciplinary standards while under a teacher's immediate supervision may be excluded by the teacher from his or her individual classroom and instructional or activity area for all or any portion of the balance of the school day, or up to the following two days, or until the principal or designee and teacher have conferred, whichever is first. Before imposing a classroom exclusion, a staff member must attempt another form of discipline unless the student's presence poses a danger to others or a threat of disruption to the educational process.

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

Principal's Responsibilities and Authority- Continued

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, classroom exclusions, 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 re-entry 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 re-engagement plans are required. Grievances and/or appeals from decisions rendered may be directed to the Board of Directors.



STUDENT DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

2019-2020

Dr. Josh Middleton, Superintendent

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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 3240: 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 a confrontational situation or display of violent behavior after directive is 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 and/or Fighting: intent to do serious physical harm (actual or attempt to hit, kick, strike or make contact directly or indirectly with an object. See policy 3240 (reasonable self-defense)

Dangerous Conduct: poses danger to another, includes dangerous use of motor vehicles on school grounds, or during a 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, or Distribution of Tobacco and Vaping Paraphernalia: possession, use or sale of tobacco or vaping paraphernalia.

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

Possession of Potentially Dangerous Item, Possession or Use of a Gun or Lethal Weapon, and/or Explosive Device- see policy 3240; RCW 28A.600.420, RCW 9A.04.110. **May be grounds for expulsion up to one year, as well as contacting local law enforcement.** Items such as a gun, knife, sword, firecrackers, bullets, or other potentially dangerous item, including toys that resemble dangerous items or weapons.

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.

Derogatory Hate Speech Misconduct: Speech in which has the intent to offend or harm another with the use of words referring to ones sexual orientation, race, gender, social class, disability, or other protected category.

Definition of Disciplinary Terms

Discipline: All forms of corrective action applied following misconduct, except suspension or expulsion.

Classroom Exclusion: Exclusion of a student from a classroom or instructional activity area for behavioral violations that disrupt the educational process.

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.