

## **PUBLIC CONDUCT ON DISTRICT PROPERTY**

Code **KFA** Issued **3/10**

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Purpose: To establish the basic structure for appropriate conduct by the public on district property.

The board seeks to promote mutual respect, civility and orderly conduct between and among school employees, volunteers, parents/legal guardians, spectators and the general public. It is not the intent of the board to deprive any person of his/her right to freedom of expression. The intent of this policy is to maintain, to the greatest extent reasonably possible, a safe, harassment-free workplace for teachers, students, administrators, coaches, staff, parents/legal guardians and other members of the community. The board encourages positive communication and discourages abusive, hostile, threatening, profane or aggressive communication or actions.

### **Expected level of behavior**

School personnel will treat each other, volunteers, parents/legal guardians and other members of the public with courtesy and respect.

Parents/Legal guardians, spectators and other visitors will treat teachers, volunteers, administrators, coaches and other district employees with courtesy and respect.

### **Unacceptable behavior**

#### *Disorderly conduct*

Disorderly conduct includes, but is not necessarily limited to, behavior which interferes with or threatens to interfere with the operation of a classroom, an athletic event or practice, an employee's office or office area or areas of a school or facility open to parents/legal guardians and the general public. It also covers areas of a school or facility which are not open to parents/legal guardians and the general public.

Examples of disorderly conduct prohibited under this policy include, without limitation, the following.

- fighting or other violent conduct or conduct creating the threat of imminent fighting or other violence
- any utterance, gesture, display or abusive language which is intended and plainly likely to provoke violent retaliation and thereby cause a breach of the peace
- taking possession of, exercising control over or seizing part or all of any district building or facility without specific authority of the building principal or superintendent
- refusing to vacate any district building or facility in obedience to the superintendent, district office administrator, school building principal, school administrator, coach, teacher or school resource officer
- engaging in activity or behavior so as to obstruct the ingress or egress of any person(s) entitled to the use of any district building or facility in its normal and intended use
- engaging in activity or behavior which in any manner interferes with the customary or normal operation or functioning of any district building or facility

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- disrupting, disturbing or interfering with the teaching or coaching of students at any district building or facility or engaging in conduct which disturbs the peace order or discipline at any district building or facility

### *Disorder/Disrespectful language*

Disorder/Disrespectful language includes using lewd, vulgar or indecent language, shouting, swearing, cursing or displays of temper.

### *Assaults/Threats*

Assaults/Threats include assaulting or threatening to do bodily or physical harm to a teacher, school administrator, coach, school employee or student, regardless of whether or not the behavior constitutes or may constitute a criminal violation.

It is a crime to assault a school employee or school volunteer when the employee or volunteer is discharging or attempting to discharge his/her duties as an employee or volunteer or to assault a school employee or school volunteer as a result of the discharge or attempt to discharge that individual's duties as a district employee or volunteer.

For purposes of the law and this policy, the following definitions will apply.

“Duties” means any of the following.

- all activities on district property
- all activities, wherever occurring, during a school authorized event or the accompanying of students to or from that event
- all activities relating to the operation of district transportation

“Employee” or “volunteer” means any of the following.

- an employee of the district
- an independent contractor or an employee of an independent contractor of the board, if the contractor performs duties customarily performed by employees of the district
- an adult who volunteers his/her services or presence at any district activity and is under the supervision of a district/school administrator

### *Vandalism*

- Vandalism includes damaging or destroying district property.
- Any other behavior that disrupts the orderly operation of a school, classroom, athletic event or practice or any other district activity or facility.
- Abusive, threatening or obscene email or voice mail messages.

### **Parent/Legal guardian recourse**

Any parent/legal guardian who believes he/she was subject to behavior in violation of this policy on the part of any staff member or volunteer should bring such behavior to the attention of the principal, the staff member's immediate supervisor or the superintendent.

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## Authority of school personnel

### *Termination of meeting or telephone conversation*

If any employee, volunteer, parent/legal guardian, spectator or member of the general public uses obscenities or speaks in a demanding, loud, insulting and/or demeaning manner, the employee or volunteer to whom the remarks are directed will calmly and politely warn the speaker to communicate civilly. If the verbal abuse continues, the employee or volunteer to whom the remarks are directed may, after giving appropriate notice to the speaker, terminate the meeting, conference or telephone conversation.

### *Removal from school premises*

Any individual who engages in “unacceptable behavior” as defined in this policy may be directed to leave the district’s premises by a school’s principal or administrator, any district administrator, the superintendent, a coach, a teacher or a school resource officer. If the person refuses to leave the premises as directed, the authorized individual will seek the assistance of law enforcement and request that law enforcement take such action as is deemed necessary.

### *Limitations on access to school premises*

Any non-employee who engages in a single, serious act of “unacceptable behavior,” as defined in this policy, such as threatening or assaultive behavior or repeated acts of “unacceptable behavior” may be prohibited by the board, superintendent or a principal from coming on district premises. Violations of such prohibition may thereafter result in the prosecution of trespass and other applicable criminal charges.

Adopted 3/9/10

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### Legal references:

- A. S. C. Code, 1976, as amended:
  - 1. Section 16-17-420 - Disturbing school and penalties therefore.
  - 2. Section 59-19-90(5) - Board in control of property of district.
  - 3. Section 59-19-120 - Board may issue regulations governing use of school buildings for other than normal school activity.
  - 4. Section 59-63-110, et. seq. - Search of persons and effects on school property.