



CODE OF CONDUCT

It is the goal of the Lincoln Public Schools to establish and maintain respectful learning environments. The development and display of appropriate behavior, self-discipline and responsibility is a prerequisite for good education. School is a place where children and adults spend many hours learning, working and playing together. Schools need expectations of behavior that ensure that everyone can be free from distraction, fear, or discomfort, so that learning can be successful. All members of the Lincoln school community have the following rights in our schools:

- ❖ To be physically safe
- ❖ To work together in a common space that is pleasant, safe and orderly
- ❖ To be free from insults, bullying, harassment or abusive treatment
- ❖ To be protected by local, state, and federal laws

The Code of Conduct for the Lincoln Public Schools complies with chapter 71, section 37H of the Massachusetts General Laws, and federal regulations. Self-discipline and the ability of a learner to control their behavior is the desired outcome for our schools' Code of Conduct. Collaboration and cooperation between families and school personnel is an important step to achieving this outcome. Please take the time to review our expectations for student behavior as a family.

We believe that all behaviors are communication and mistakes are a part of learning. The word discipline means "to teach". Understanding that children are at many developmental levels we believe that responses to behaviors must be tailored to the developmental level and specific needs of the child. We strive to implement steps that help students learn and grow before disciplinary steps are taken. School personnel work to understand the context and root causes for a student's behaviors and consider the appropriate actions and consequences that will help a child to learn and grow. Sometimes disciplinary action is necessary or required by Massachusetts law or regulations but suspension and expulsion are always used a last resort.

While it is the school's expectation that students follow the code of conduct, school personnel will take disciplinary action when behavior is disruptive to the learning process, destructive to property, abusive of others, or causes risk of injury. When positive behavioral supports and educational supports are not successful it may become necessary to take disciplinary measures.

The following rules are not intended to be all-inclusive and disciplinary consequences may result from other conduct, which is inconsistent with maintaining a respectful learning environment or is disruptive to the safe operation of the school. These rules apply in each of our schools and the general enforcement of the rules is the responsibility of all school personnel. Serious infractions are times when students are sent away from the classroom and will be investigated by the school Principal who will also be responsible for determining disciplinary consequences, if necessary.

LPS students at all times will:

- ❖ Be respectful of themselves, of others, of the school
- ❖ Act with honesty and integrity, modeling by example
- ❖ Act in a manner that supports the learning of themselves and others
- ❖ Advocate for themselves and others
- ❖ Use their voice to speak up and stand up
- ❖ Work with others to constructively resolve conflict
- ❖ Act as an environmental and cultural steward, taking action to make the world a better place
- ❖ Practice awareness, sensitivity, concern, and respect to connect with others' feelings, opinions, experiences, and culture.

LPS students will not:

- ❖ Break, damage, steal or destroy school property
- ❖ Break, damage, steal or destroy personal property of others
- ❖ Fight, tease, bully, or call others names
- ❖ Use hateful, discriminatory, vulgar or profane language
- ❖ Bring objects to school that are dangerous to others or disruptive to the educational process. This includes illegal objects such as knives, firearms, fireworks or other objects whether they are real or facsimile
- ❖ Possess or use illegal substances such as alcohol or drugs and will not smoke or vape any substance in any form on school property or at any school sponsored event

Student behavior expectations will be included in the district Student and Parent handbook and principals will communicate the expectations to students and parents/guardians through school based means of communication such as newsletters, direct messaging, and presentations to students.

Principals and staff shall not use academic punishment of any form as a consequence to inappropriate behaviors/actions by students.

The Principal may, as a disciplinary measure, remove a student from privileges, such as extracurricular activities and attendance at school-sponsored events, based on the student's misconduct. Such a removal is not subject to the remainder of this policy, law, or regulation.

Ref:

LPS Policy JIC – Student Discipline

Approved at School Committee Meeting of May 26, 2011