

# Levittown Public Schools

## Code of Conduct



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## ***Levittown Public Schools Code of Conduct***

### **I. Introduction**

The Board of Education ("Board") is committed to providing a safe and orderly school environment where students may receive and district personnel may deliver quality educational services without disruption or interference. Responsible behavior by students, teachers, coaches, other district personnel, parents and other visitors is essential to achieving this goal.

The district has a long-standing set of expectations for conduct on school property and at school functions. These expectations are based on the principles of civility, mutual respect, citizenship, character, tolerance, honesty and integrity.

In accordance with the **Dignity for All Students Act**, School District policy and practice must ensure that no student is subject to discrimination, racial discrimination, or harassment, based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender/gender identity or sex by school employees or students on school property, on a school bus, or at a school function.

The Board recognizes the need to clearly define these expectations for acceptable conduct on school property, to identify the possible consequences of unacceptable conduct, and to ensure that discipline when necessary is administered promptly and fairly. To this end, the Board adopts this code of conduct ("code").

Unless otherwise indicated, this code applies to all students, school personnel, parents and other visitors when on school property or attending a school function.

## II. Definitions

For purposes of this code, the following definitions apply.

**"Disruptive student"** means an elementary or secondary student under the age of 21 who is substantially disruptive of the educational process or substantially interferes with the teacher's authority over the classroom.

**"Parent"** means parent, guardian or person in parental relation to a student.

**"School property"** means in or within any building, structure, athletic playing field, playground, parking lot or land contained within the real property boundary line of a public elementary or secondary school, or in or on a school bus, as defined in Vehicle and Traffic Law §142.

**"School Bus"** means every motor vehicle owned and operated for the transportation or pupils, children of pupils, teachers and other persons acting in a supervisory capacity, to or from school or school activities, or, privately owned and operated for compensation for the transportation of pupils, children of pupils, teachers and other persons acting in a supervisory capacity to or from school or school activities.

**"School function"** means any school-sponsored extra-curricular event or activity.

**"Disability"** means (a) a physical, mental or medical impairment resulting from anatomical, physiological, genetic or neurological conditions which prevents the exercise of a normal bodily function or is demonstrable by medically accepted clinical or laboratory diagnostic techniques, or (b) a record of such an impairment.

**"Employee"** means any person receiving compensation from a school district or employee of a contracted service provider or worker placed within the school under a public assistance employment program.

**"Race"** means a group of persons related by a common descent or heredity.

**"Color"** refers to the apparent pigmentation of the skin, especially an indication or possible indication of race.

**"Weight"** refers to a person's size.

**"National Origin"** means a person's country of birth or ancestor's country of birth.

**"Ethnic Group"** means a group of people who identify with each other through a common heritage including language, culture, and often a shared or common religion and or ideology that stresses ancestry.

**"Religion"** means specific fundamental beliefs and practices generally agreed to by large numbers of the group of the group or a body of persons adhering to a particular set of beliefs and practices.

“**Sex**” means the biological and physiological characteristics that define men and women.

“**Gender**” means the socially constructed roles, behaviors, activities, and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for men and women.

Sexual orientation means the sex to which a person is sexually attracted.

“**Violent student**” means a student under the age of 21 who:

1. Commits an act of violence upon a school employee, or attempts to do so.
2. Commits, while on school property or at a school function, an act of violence upon another student or any other person lawfully on school property or at the school function, or attempts to do so.
3. Possesses, while on school property or at a school function, a gun, knife, explosive or incendiary bomb, or other dangerous instrument capable of causing physical injury or death.
4. Displays, while on school property or at a school function, what appears to be a gun, knife, explosive or incendiary bomb or other dangerous instrument capable of causing death or physical injury
5. Threatens, while on school property or at a school function, to use any instrument that appears capable of causing physical injury or death
6. Knowingly and intentionally damages or destroys the personal property of any school employee or any person lawfully on school property or at a school function.
7. Knowingly and intentionally damages or destroys school district property.

“**Weapon**” means a firearm as defined in 18 USC §921 for purposes of the Gun-Free Schools Act. It also means any other gun, BB gun, pistol, revolver, shotgun, rifle, machine gun, disguised gun, dagger, dirk, razor, stiletto, switchblade knife, gravity knife, brass knuckles, sling shot, metal knuckle knife, box cutter, cane sword, electronic dart gun, Shirken, Kung Fu star, electronic stun gun, pepper spray or other noxious spray, explosive or incendiary bomb, or other device, instrument, material or substance that can cause physical injury or death when used to cause physical injury or death.

“**Extra-Curricular**” and “**Interscholastic activities**” and “**Interscholastic athletics**” means school sponsored activities that are either off school property, extend to before or after the school day, or that occur on holidays or weekends or other times when school is not in session. These activities are not mandated by any curriculum, either as adopted by the Board of Education in Levittown or by any other controlling agency.

“**Intimidation**”, “**Harassment**”, “**Menacing**”, and “**Bullying**” (**IHMB**) mean threatening, stalking or seeking to coerce or compel a person to do something; intentionally placing or attempting to place another person in fear of imminent physical injury; or engaging in verbal or physical conduct that threatens another with harm, including intimidation through the use of epithets or slurs involving race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, religious practices, gender, sexual orientation, age or disability that substantially disrupts the educational process

**“Cyberbullying”** means the repeated use of information technology, including, but not limited to, e-mail, instant message, blogs, chat rooms, pagers, cell phones, and gaming systems, to deliberately harass, threaten or intimidate others.

**“Sexting”** means sending, receiving or forwarding sexually suggestive nude or nearly nude photos through text message or email.

### **III. Student Rights and Responsibilities**

- A. Student Rights** - The district is committed to safeguarding the rights given to all students under state and federal law. In addition, to promote a safe, healthy, orderly and civil school environment, all district students have the right to:
1. Take part in all district activities on an equal basis regardless of race, color, weight, ethnic group, national origin, religion, age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation or disability.
  2. Present their version of the relevant events to school personnel authorized to impose a disciplinary penalty in connection with the imposition of the penalty.
  3. Access school rules and, when necessary, receive an explanation of those rules from school personnel.
  4. Right to request an investigation regarding discrimination/racial discrimination/bullying/harassment.
  5. Right to a safe learning environment.
  6. To be protected from intimidation, harassment, discrimination, or racial discrimination, based on actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, or religious practice, sex, gender/gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability, by employees or students on school property or at a school-sponsored event, function or activity.
- B. Student Responsibilities** - All district students have the responsibility to:
1. Contribute to maintaining a safe and orderly school environment that is conducive to learning and to show respect to other persons and to property.
  2. Be familiar with and abide by all district policies, rules and regulations dealing with student conduct. Attend school every day unless they are legally excused and be in class, on time, and prepared to learn.
  3. Work to the best of their ability in all academic and extracurricular pursuits and strive toward their highest level of achievement possible.
  4. React to direction given by teachers, administrators and other school personnel in a respectful, positive manner.
  5. Work to develop mechanisms to control their anger.
  6. Ask questions when they do not understand.
  7. Seek help in solving problems that might lead to discipline.
  8. Dress appropriately for school and school functions.
  9. Accept responsibility for their actions.
  10. Conduct themselves as representatives of the district when participating in or attending school-sponsored extracurricular events and to hold themselves to the highest standards of conduct, demeanor, and sportsmanship.
  11. To respect one another and treat others fairly in accordance with the District Code of Conduct and the provisions of the Dignity Act. To conduct themselves in a manner that fosters an environment that is free from intimidation, harassment, discrimination, or racial discrimination, . To report and encourage others, to report any incidents of intimidation, harassment, discrimination, or racial discrimination, .

## **IV. Essential Partners**

### **A. Parents - All parents are expected to:**

1. Recognize that the education of their child(ren) is a joint responsibility of the parents and the school community.
2. Send their children to school ready to participate and learn.
3. Ensure their children attend school regularly and on time.
4. Ensure absences are excused.
5. Insist their children be dressed and groomed in a manner consistent with the student dress code.
6. Help their children understand that in a democratic society appropriate rules are required to maintain a safe, orderly environment.
7. Know school rules and help their children understand them.
8. Convey to their children a supportive attitude toward education and the district.
9. Build good relationships with teachers, other parents and their children's friends.
10. Help their children deal effectively with peer pressure.
11. Inform school officials of changes in the home situation that may affect student conduct or performance.
12. Provide a place for study and ensure homework assignments are completed.
13. Teach their children respect and dignity for themselves, and other students regardless of actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender/gender identity, or sex, which will strengthen the child's confidence and promote learning in accordance with the Dignity for All Students Act.

### **B. Teachers & Coaches - All district teachers & Coaches are expected to:**

1. Maintain a climate of mutual respect and dignity, for all students regardless of actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender/gender identity, or sex, which will strengthen students' self-concept and promote confidence to learn.
2. Confront issues of discrimination, racial discrimination, and harassment in any situation that threatens the emotional or physical health or safety of any student, school employee or any person who is lawfully on school property or at a school function.
3. Address personal biases that may prevent equal treatment of all students in the school or classroom setting.
4. Conduct themselves in a professional way, using socially acceptable language. Examples of unacceptable language is cursing or swearing or using vulgar or abusive language.
5. Be prepared to teach and/or coach
6. Demonstrate interest in teaching and/or coaching and a concern for student achievement, either in the classroom or on the athletic field.
7. Know school policies and rules, and enforce them in a fair and consistent manner. Report incidents of discrimination, racial discrimination, and harassment that are witnessed or otherwise brought to a teacher's attention to a building administrator and/or Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) in a timely manner.
8. Teachers will communicate to students and parents:
  - a. Course objectives and requirements
  - b. Marking/grading procedures



- c. Assignment deadlines
  - d. Expectations for students
  - e. Classroom discipline plan.
  - f. Communicate regularly with students, parents and other teachers concerning growth and achievement.
9. Coaches will communicate to students and parents:
- a. Team objectives and requirements
  - b. Practice and game dates
  - c. Expectations of team members
  - d. Coaches will act, intervene and report bullying, harassment, discrimination, and or racial discrimination,
- C. Guidance Counselors & Social Workers
1. Maintain and encourage a climate of mutual respect and dignity for all students regardless of actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender/gender identity, or sex, with an understanding of appropriate appearance, language, and behavior in a school setting, which will strengthen students' self-image and promote confidence to learn.
  2. Assist students in coping with peer pressure and emerging personal, social and emotional problems.
  3. Initiate teacher/student/counselor conferences and parent/teacher/student counselor conferences, as necessary, as a way to resolve problems.
  4. Regularly review with students their educational progress and career plans.
  5. Provide information to assist students with career planning.
  6. Encourage students to benefit from the curriculum and extracurricular programs.
- D. Principals
1. Promote a safe, orderly and stimulating school environment, supporting active teaching and learning.
  2. Need to create an environment that values and teaches respect for all; an environment that is culturally sensitive and models positive behavioral interactions that clearly show that no tolerance exists for certain types of behaviors, including, but not limited to, bullying and harassment.
  3. Ensure that students and staff have the opportunity to communicate regularly with the principal and approach the principal for redress of grievances.
  4. Evaluate on a regular basis all instructional programs.
  5. Support the development of and student participation in appropriate extracurricular activities.
  6. Be responsible for enforcing the code of conduct and ensuring that all cases are resolved promptly and fairly.
  7. Ensure that the issues of bullying and cyber bullying are addressed with students throughout the year.
  8. Maintain and encourage a climate of mutual respect and dignity for all students regardless of actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender/gender identity, or sex, with an understanding of appropriate appearance, language, and behavior in a school setting, which will strengthen students' self-image and promote confidence to learn.

9. Follow up on any incidents of discrimination, racial discrimination, and harassment that are witnessed or otherwise brought to the Principal’s attention in a timely manner in collaboration with the Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC).

E. Superintendent

1. Promote a safe, orderly and stimulating school environment, free from intimidation, discrimination, racial discrimination, and harassment, supporting active teaching and learning.
2. Create an environment that values and teaches respect for all; an environment that is culturally sensitive and models positive behavioral interactions that clearly show that no tolerance exists for certain types of behaviors including, but not limited to, bullying and harassment.
3. Review with district administrators the policies of the Board of Education and state and federal laws relating to school operations and management.
4. Inform the Board about educational trends relating to student discipline.
5. Work to create instructional programs that minimize problems of misconduct and are sensitive to student and teacher needs, as well as courses that teach students how to be responsible “digital citizens”.
6. Work with district administrators in enforcing the code of conduct and ensuring that all cases are resolved promptly and fairly.

F. Board of Education

1. Collaborate with student, teacher, administrator, and parent organizations, school safety personnel and other school personnel to develop a code of conduct that clearly defines expectations for the conduct of students, district personnel and visitors on school property and at school functions.
2. Adopt and review at least annually the district's code of conduct to evaluate the code's effectiveness and the fairness and consistency of its implementation.
3. Lead by example by conducting Board meetings in a professional, respectful, courteous manner.
4. Appoint a Dignity Act Coordinator in each school building. The Dignity Act Coordinator will be thoroughly trained to handle human relations in the areas of race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender/gender identity, and sex. The Dignity Act Coordinator will be accessible to students and other staff members for consultation and advice as needed on the Dignity Act.

G. Expectation for Other School Staff

1. Maintain and encourage a climate of mutual respect and dignity for all students regardless of actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender/gender identity, or sex, with an understanding or appropriate appearance, language, and behavior in a school setting, which will strengthen students’ self-image and promote confidence to learn.

## **V. Student Dress Code**

The Board of Education requires students to attend school in appropriate dress that meets health and safety standards and does not interfere with the learning process. The Board also requires students to wear appropriate protective gear in certain classes (i.e., home and careers, technology, P.E.).

A student's dress, grooming, appearance and hygiene, including hairstyle, jewelry, make-up, and nails, shall:

1. Be safe, appropriate and not disrupt or interfere with the educational process.
2. Ensure that underwear and torso skin are completely covered with outer clothing.
3. Include footwear at all times. Footwear that is a safety hazard will not be allowed.
4. Not include the wearing of hats and/or any headgear in school, except for medical or religious purposes.
5. Not include items that are vulgar, obscene, libelous, or that denigrate others.
6. Not glorify, promote and/or endorse the use of alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs and/or encourage other illegal or violent activities, including those related to gang paraphernalia or organizations promoting violence or hatred. Those garments that are sexually suggestive as well, are banned.

Each building principal shall be responsible for informing all students and their parents of the student dress code at the beginning of the school year and any revisions to the dress code made during the school year.

Students who violate the student dress code shall be required to modify their appearance by covering or removing the offensive item, and if necessary or practical, replacing it with an acceptable item. Any student who refuses to do so shall be subject to discipline, up to and including in-school or out-of-school suspension for the day. Any student who repeatedly fails to comply with the dress code shall be subject to further disciplinary actions.

The Superintendent of Schools and other designated administrative personnel shall have the authority to require a student to change his/her attire, should it be deemed inappropriate according to the above guidelines.

## **VI. Prohibited Student Conduct**

The Board of Education expects all students to conduct themselves in an appropriate and civil manner, with proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students, district personnel and other members of the school community, and for the care of school facilities and equipment.

The best discipline is self-imposed, and students must learn to assume and accept responsibility for their own behavior, as well as the consequences of their misbehavior. District personnel who interact with students are expected to use disciplinary action only when necessary and to place emphasis on the students' ability to grow in self-discipline. It is expected that District personnel make every effort to have the student learn from the disciplinary experience rather than just punish the student.

The Board recognizes the need to make its expectations for student conduct while on school property or engaged in a school function specific and clear. The rules of conduct listed below are intended to do that and focus on safety and respect for the rights and property of others. Students who will not accept responsibility for their own behavior and who violate these school rules will be required to accept the penalties for their conduct.

Students may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension from school, when they:

- A. Engage in conduct that is disorderly. Examples of disorderly conduct include:
  - 1. Running in hallways.
  - 2. Making unreasonable noise.
  - 3. Using language or gestures that are profane, lewd, vulgar or abusive.
  - 4. Obstructing vehicular or pedestrian traffic.
  - 5. Engaging in any willful act that disrupts the normal operation of the school community.
  - 6. Trespassing. Students are not permitted in any school building, other than the one they regularly attend, without permission from the administrator in charge of the building.
  - 7. Computer/electronic communications misuse, including any unauthorized use of computers, software, or internet/intranet account; accessing inappropriate websites; or any other violation of the district's acceptable use policy.
  - 8. Unauthorized use of cameras, video and audio recording devices.
  - 9. Unauthorized use of personal communication devices (including cell phones) during the school day, including features such as video and audio recording.
- B. Engage in conduct that is insubordinate. Examples of insubordinate conduct include:
  - 1. Failing to comply with the reasonable directions of teachers, school administrators or other school employees in charge of students or otherwise demonstrating disrespect.
  - 2. Lateness for, missing or leaving school without permission.
  - 3. Skipping detention.
- C. Engage in conduct that is disruptive. Examples of disruptive conduct include:
  - 1. Failing to comply with the reasonable directions of teachers, school administrators or other school personnel in charge of students.
- D. Engage in conduct that is violent. Examples of violent conduct include:

1. Committing an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, and scratching) upon a teacher, administrator or other school employee or attempting to do so;
  2. Committing an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, and scratching) upon another student or any other person lawfully on school property or attempting to do so;
  3. Engaging in harassing conduct, verbal threats, intimidation, or abuse that reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause a student to fear for his or her physical well-being.
  4. Possessing a weapon, while on school district property. Examples of weapons include, but are not limited to: a gun, knife, explosive or incendiary bomb, or other dangerous instrument capable of causing physical injury or death;
  5. Displaying, while on school district property, what appears to be a gun, knife, explosive or incendiary bomb or other dangerous instrument capable of causing death or physical injury;
  6. Threatening, while on school district property to use any instrument that appears capable of causing physical injury or death;
  7. Knowingly and intentionally damaging or destroying the personal property of a student, teacher, administrator, other district employee or any person lawfully on school property, including graffiti or arson.
  8. Knowingly and intentionally damaging or destroying school district property.
- E. Engage in any conduct on school district property or during a school sponsored activity that endangers the safety, morals, health or welfare of others. Examples of such conduct include:
1. Lying to school personnel.
  2. Stealing the property of other students, school personnel or any other person lawfully on school property or attending a school function.
  3. Defamation, which includes making false or unprivileged statements or representations about an individual or identifiable group of individuals that harm the reputation of the person or the identifiable group by demeaning them. This can include posting or publishing video, audio recordings or pictures (written material, cell phones, Internet, YouTube, etc.)
  4. Discrimination which includes the use of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability as a basis for treating another in a negative manner.
  5. Bullying, which consists of inappropriate persistent behavior including threats or intimidation of others, treating others cruelly, terrorizing, coercing, or habitually insulting, humiliating and/or badgering others.
  6. Harassment, which includes a sufficiently severe action or a persistent, pervasive pattern of actions or statements directed at an identifiable individual or group which are intended to be or which a reasonable person would perceive as ridiculing or demeaning.
  7. Intimidation, which includes engaging in actions or statements that put an individual in fear of bodily harm.
  8. “Internet bullying” (also referred to as “cyberbullying”) including the use of instant messaging, email, websites, chat rooms, text messaging, or by any other electronic means., when such use interferes with the operation of the school; or infringes upon the general health, safety and welfare of students or employees.

9. Hazing, which includes any intentional or reckless act directed against another for the purpose of initiation into, affiliating with or maintaining membership in any school sponsored activity, organization, club or team.
  10. Selling, using or possessing obscene material.
  11. Using vulgar or abusive language, cursing or swearing.
  12. Smoking a cigarette, cigar, pipe, electronic cigarette, vape device, or using chewing or smokeless tobacco.
  13. Possessing, consuming, selling, distributing or exchanging alcoholic beverages or illegal substances, or being under the influence of either. "Illegal substances" include, but are not limited to, inhalants, marijuana, synthetic cannabinoids, cocaine, LSD, PCP, amphetamines, heroin, steroids, look-alike drugs, and any substances commonly referred to as "designer drugs. "
  14. Inappropriately using or sharing prescription and over-the-counter drugs.
  15. Gambling.
  16. Indecent exposure, that is, exposure to sight of the private parts of the body in a lewd or indecent manner.
  17. Initiating a report warning of fire or other catastrophe without valid cause, misuse of 911, or discharging a fire extinguisher.
- F. Engage in misconduct while on a school bus. It is crucial for students to behave appropriately while riding on district buses to ensure their safety and that of other passengers and to avoid distracting the bus driver. Students are required to conduct themselves on the bus in a manner consistent with established standards for classroom behavior. Excessive noise, pushing, shoving and fighting harassment, discrimination and racial discrimination, will not be tolerated.
- G. Engage in any form of academic misconduct. Examples of academic misconduct include:
1. Plagiarism.
  2. Cheating.
  3. Copying.
  4. Altering records.
  5. Assisting another student in any of the above actions.
- H. Engage in off-campus misconduct that endangers the health and safety of students or staff within the school or substantially disrupts or is likely to substantially disrupt the educational process. Examples of such misconduct include, but are not limited to:
1. Cyber bullying, which consists of the repeated use of information technology, including, but not limited to, e-mail, instant message, blogs, chat rooms, pagers, cell phones, and gaming systems, to deliberately harass, threaten or intimidate others.
  2. Sexting, which consists of sending, receiving or forwarding sexually suggestive nude or nearly nude photos through text message or email.
  3. Threatening or harassing students or school personnel over the phone or other electronic medium.
  4. Using message boards to convey threats, derogatory comments or post pornographic pictures of students or school personnel.

## **VII. Reporting Violations**

All students are expected to promptly report violations of the code of conduct to a teacher, guidance counselor, the building principal or his or her designee. Any student observing a student possessing a weapon, alcohol or illegal substance on school property or at a school function shall report this information, immediately to a teacher, the building principal, the principal's designee or the superintendent.

All district staff that is authorized to impose disciplinary sanctions is expected to do so in a prompt, fair and lawful manner. District staff that are not authorized to impose disciplinary sanctions are expected to promptly report violations of the code of conduct to their supervisor, who shall in turn impose an appropriate disciplinary sanction, if so authorized, or refer the matter to a staff member who is authorized to impose an appropriate sanction.

Any weapon, alcohol or illegal substance found shall be confiscated immediately, if possible, followed by notification to the parent of the student involved and the appropriate disciplinary sanction if warranted, which may include permanent suspension and referral for prosecution.

## **VIII. Disciplinary Penalties, Procedures and Referrals**

Discipline is most effective when it deals directly with the problem at the time and place it occurs, and in a way that students view as fair and impartial. School personnel who interact with students are expected to use disciplinary action only when necessary and to place emphasis on the students' ability to grow in self-discipline.

Disciplinary action, when necessary, will be firm, fair and consistent so as to be the most effective in changing student behavior. In determining the appropriate disciplinary action, school personnel authorized to impose disciplinary penalties will consider the following:

1. The student's age.
2. The nature of the offense and the circumstances which led to the offense.
3. The student's prior disciplinary record.
4. The effectiveness of other forms of discipline.
5. Information from parents, teachers and/or others, as appropriate
6. Other extenuating circumstances.

As a general rule, discipline will be progressive; this means that a student's first violation will usually merit a lighter penalty than subsequent violations.

If the conduct of a student is related to a disability or suspected disability, the student shall be referred to the Committee on Special Education and discipline, if warranted, shall be administered consistent with the separate requirements of this code of conduct for disciplining students with a disability or presumed to have a disability.

### **A. Penalties**

Students who are found to have violated the district's code of conduct may be subject to the following penalties, either alone or in combination. The school personnel identified after each penalty are authorized to impose that penalty, consistent with the student's right to due process. In addition, items on school grounds that violate the code of conduct may be confiscated.

1. Oral warning - any member of the district staff
2. Written warning - bus drivers, hall and lunch monitors, coaches, guidance counselors, teachers, principal, superintendent
3. Written notification to parent - bus driver, hall and lunch monitors, coaches, guidance counselors, teachers, principal, superintendent
4. Detention - teachers, principal, superintendent
5. Suspension from transportation - director of transportation, principal, superintendent
6. Suspension from athletic participation - coaches, principal, superintendent (See Separate section on Extra-Curricular and Athletic participation)
7. Suspension from social or extracurricular activities – activity director, principal, superintendent (See Separate section on Extra-Curricular and Athletic participation)
8. Suspension of other privileges - principal, superintendent
9. In-school suspension - principal, superintendent
10. Removal from classroom by teacher - teachers, principal



11. Short-term (five days or less) suspension from school - principal, superintendent, Board of Education
12. Long-term (more than five days) suspension from school - superintendent, Board of Education
13. Permanent suspension from school - superintendent, Board of Education.

## **B. Procedures**

The amount of due process a student is entitled to receive before a penalty is imposed depends on the penalty being imposed. In all cases, regardless of the penalty imposed, the school personnel authorized to impose the penalty must inform the student of the alleged misconduct and must investigate, to the extent necessary, the facts surrounding the alleged misconduct. All students will have an opportunity to present their version of the facts to the school personnel imposing the disciplinary penalty in connection with the imposition of the penalty.

Students who are to be given penalties other than an oral warning, written warning or written notification to their parents are entitled to additional rights before the penalty is imposed. These additional rights are explained below.

1. Detention-Teachers, principals and the superintendent may use after school detention as a penalty for student misconduct in situations where removal from the classroom or suspension would be inappropriate. Detention will be imposed as a penalty only after the student's parent has been notified to confirm that there is no parental objection to the penalty and the student has appropriate transportation home following detention.
2. Suspension from transportation-If a student does not conduct himself/herself properly on a bus; the bus driver is expected to bring such misconduct to the building principal's attention. Students who become a serious disciplinary problem may have their riding privileges suspended by the building principal or the superintendent or their designees. In such cases, the student's parent will become responsible for seeing that his or her child gets to and from school safely. Should the suspension from transportation amount to a suspension from attendance; the district will make appropriate arrangements to provide for the student's education. A student subjected to a suspension from transportation is not entitled to a full hearing pursuant to Education Law §3214. However, the student and the student's parent will be provided with a reasonable opportunity for an informal conference with the building principal or the principal's designee to discuss the conduct and the penalty involved.
3. Suspension from athletic participation, extracurricular activities and other privileges-See Separate section on Extra-Curricular and Athletic participation
4. In-school suspension-The Board recognizes the school must balance the need of students to attend school and the need for order in the classroom to establish an environment conducive to learning. As such, the Board authorizes building principals and the superintendent to place students who would otherwise be suspended from school as the result of a code of conduct violation in "in-school suspension." The in-school suspension

teacher will be a certified teacher. A student subjected to an in-school suspension is not entitled to a full hearing pursuant to Education Law §3214. However, the student and the student's parent will be provided with a reasonable opportunity for an informal conference with the district official imposing the in-school suspension to discuss the conduct and the penalty involved.

5. If the student violation involved the use, sale or possession of tobacco, the student may be required to enroll in a smoking cessation program as set forth in Section X (J)(5) of this document (page 26).
6. Teacher disciplinary removal of disruptive students
  - a. A student's behavior can affect a teacher's ability to teach and can make it difficult for other students in the classroom to learn. In most instances the classroom teacher can control a student's behavior and maintain or restore control over the classroom by using good classroom management techniques. These techniques may include practices that involve the teacher directing a student to briefly leave the classroom to give the student an opportunity to regain his or her composure and self-control in an alternative setting. Such practices may include, but are not limited to:
    - i. short-term "time out" in an elementary classroom or in an administrator's office;
    - ii. sending a student to the principal's office for the remainder of the class time only; or
    - iii. sending a student to a guidance counselor or other district staff member for counseling. Time-honored classroom management techniques such as these do not constitute disciplinary removals for purposes of this code.
  - b. On occasion, a student's behavior may become disruptive. For purposes of this code of conduct, a disruptive student is a student who is substantially disruptive of the educational process or substantially interferes with the teacher's authority over the classroom. A substantial disruption of the educational process or substantial interference with a teacher's authority occurs when a student demonstrates a persistent unwillingness to comply with the teacher's instructions or repeatedly violates the teacher's classroom behavior rules.
  - c. At the request of a teacher, and with the approval of Administration, a disruptive student may be removed from class for up to two days, during which time the student will be placed in a supervised area at the principal's discretion. The removal will apply to the class of the removing teacher only.
  - d. If the disruptive student does not pose a danger or ongoing threat of disruption to the academic process, the teacher must provide the student with an explanation for why he or she is being removed and an opportunity to explain

his or her version of the relevant events before the student is removed. Only after the informal discussion may a teacher remove a student from class.

- e. If the student poses a danger or ongoing threat of disruption, the teacher may order the student to be removed immediately. The teacher must, however, explain to the student why he or she was removed from the classroom and give the student a chance to present his or her version of the relevant events within 24 hours.
- f. The teacher must complete a district-established disciplinary removal form or email notification and meet with the principal or his or her designee as soon as possible, but no later than the end of the school day, to explain the circumstances of the removal and to present the removal form or email. If the principal or designee is not available by the end of the same school day, the teacher must leave the form or email notification with the secretary and meet with the principal or designee prior to the beginning of classes on the next school day.
- g. Within 24-hours after the student's removal, the principal or another district administrator designated by the principal must notify the student's parents, in writing, that the student has been removed from class and why. The notice must also inform the parent that he or she has the right, upon request, to meet informally with the principal or the principal's designee to discuss the reasons for the removal.
- h. The written notice must be provided by personal delivery, express mail delivery, or some other means that is reasonably calculated to assure receipt of the notice within 24 hours of the student's removal at the last known address for the parents. Where possible, notice should also be provided by telephone if the school has been provided with a telephone number(s) for the purpose of contacting parents.
- i. The principal may require the teacher who ordered the removal to attend the informal conference.
- j. If at the informal meeting the student denies the charges, the principal or the principal's designee must explain why the student was removed and give the student and the student's parents a chance to present the student's version of the relevant events. The informal meeting must be held within 48 hours of the student's removal. The timing of the informal meeting may be extended by mutual agreement of the parent and principal.
- k. The principal or the principal's designee may overturn the removal of the student from class if the principal finds any one of the following:
  - i. The charges against the student are not supported by substantial evidence.

- ii. The student's removal is otherwise in violation of law, including the district's code of conduct.
  - iii. The conduct warrants suspension from school pursuant to Education Law §3214 and a suspension will be imposed.
- l. The principal or his or her designee may overturn a removal at any point between receiving the referral form issued by the teacher and the close of business on the day following the 48-hour period for the informal conference, if a conference is requested. No student removed from the classroom by the classroom teacher will be permitted to return to the classroom until the principal makes a final determination, or the period of removal expires, whichever is less.
  - m. Any disruptive student removed from the classroom by the classroom teacher shall be offered continued educational programming and activities until he or she is permitted to return to the classroom.
  - n. Each teacher must keep a complete log (on a district-provided form) for all cases of removal of students from his or her class.
  - o. The principal must keep a log of all removals of students from class.
  - p. Removal of a student with a disability, under certain circumstances, may constitute a change in the student's placement. Accordingly, no teacher may remove a student with a disability from his or her class until he or she has verified with the principal or the chairperson of the Committee on Special Education that the removal will not violate the student's rights under state or federal law or regulation.

## 7. Suspension From School

- a. Suspension from school is a severe penalty, which may be imposed only upon students who are insubordinate, disorderly, violent or disruptive, or whose conduct otherwise endangers the safety, morals, health or welfare of others.
- b. The Board retains its authority to suspend students, but places primary responsibility for the suspension of students with the superintendent and the building principals.
- c. Any staff member may recommend to the superintendent or the principal that a student be suspended. All staff members must immediately report and refer a violent student to the principal or the superintendent for a violation of the code of conduct. All recommendations and referrals shall be made in writing unless the conditions underlying the recommendation or referral warrant immediate attention. In such cases a written report is to be prepared as soon as possible by the staff member recommending the suspension.

- d. The superintendent or principal, upon receiving a recommendation or referral for suspension or when processing a case for suspension, shall gather the facts relevant to the matter and record them for subsequent presentation, if necessary.
  - i. Short-term (5 days or less) suspension from school
    1. When the superintendent or principal (referred to as the “suspending authority”) proposes to suspend a student charged with misconduct for five days or less pursuant to Education Law §3214(3), the suspending authority must immediately notify the student orally. If the student denies the misconduct, the suspending authority must provide an explanation of the basis for the proposed suspension. The suspending authority must also notify the student’s parents in writing that the student may be suspended from school. The written notice must be provided by personal delivery, express mail delivery, or some other means that is reasonably calculated to assure receipt of the notice within 24 hours of the decision to propose suspension at the last known address for the parents. Where possible, notice should also be provided by telephone if the school has been provided with a telephone number(s) for the purpose of contacting the parents.
    2. The notice shall provide a description of the charges against the student and the incident for which suspension is proposed and shall inform the parents of the right to request an immediate informal conference with the principal. Both the notice and informal conference shall be in the dominant language or mode of communication used by the parents. At the conference, the pupil and the person in parental relation to the pupil shall, be authorized to present the pupil’s version of the event and to ask questions of the complaining witnesses.
    3. The notice and opportunity for an informal conference shall take place before the student is suspended unless the student’s presence in school poses a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disruption to the academic process. If the student’s presence does pose such a danger or threat of disruption, the notice and opportunity for an informal conference shall take place as soon after the suspension as is reasonably practicable.
    4. After the conference, the principal shall promptly advise the parents in writing of his or her decision. The principal shall advise the parents that if they are not satisfied with the decision and wish to pursue the matter, they must file a written appeal to the superintendent within five business days, unless they can show extraordinary circumstances precluding them from doing so. The

superintendent shall issue a written decision regarding the appeal within 10 business days of receiving the appeal. If the parents are not satisfied with the superintendent's decision, they must file a written appeal to the Board of Education with the district clerk within 15 business days of the date of the superintendents' decision, unless they can show extraordinary circumstances precluding them from doing so. Only final decisions of the Board may be appealed to the Commissioner within 30 days of the decision.

ii. Long-term (more than 5 days) suspension from school

1. When the superintendent or building principal determines that a suspension for more than five days may be warranted, he or she shall give reasonable notice to the student and the student's parents of their right to a fair hearing. At the hearing the student shall have the right to be represented by counsel, the right to question witnesses against him or her and the right to present witnesses and other evidence on his or her behalf.
2. The superintendent shall personally hear and determine the proceeding or may, in his or her discretion, designate a hearing officer to conduct the hearing. The hearing officer shall be authorized to administer oaths and to issue subpoenas in conjunction with the proceeding before him or her. A record of the hearing shall be maintained, but no stenographic transcript shall be required. A tape recording shall be deemed a satisfactory record. The hearing officer shall make findings of fact and recommendations as to the appropriate measure of discipline to the superintendent. The report of the hearing officer shall be advisory only, and the superintendent may accept all or any part thereof.
3. An appeal of the decision of the superintendent may be made to the Board that will make its decision based solely upon the record before it. All appeals to the Board must be in writing and submitted to the district clerk within 15 business days of the date of the superintendent's decision, unless the parents can show that extraordinary circumstances precluded them from doing so. The Board may adopt in whole or in part the decision of the superintendent. Final decisions of the Board may be appealed to the Commissioner within 30 days of the decision.

iii. Permanent suspension

1. Permanent suspension is reserved for extraordinary circumstances such as where a student's conduct poses a life threatening danger to the safety and well-being of other students, school personnel or any other person lawfully on school property or attending a school function.

e. Minimum Periods of Suspension

i. Students who bring a weapon to school

1. Any student, other than a student with a disability, found guilty of bringing a weapon onto school property will be subject to suspension from school for at least one calendar year. Before being suspended, the student will have an opportunity for a hearing pursuant to Education Law §3214. The superintendent has the authority to modify the one-year suspension on a case-by-case basis. In deciding whether to modify the penalty, the superintendent may consider the following:
  - a. The student's age.
  - b. The student's grade in school.
  - c. The student's prior disciplinary record.
  - d. The superintendent's belief that other forms of discipline may be more effective.
  - e. Input from parents, teachers and/or others.
  - f. Other extenuating circumstances.

2. A student with a disability may be suspended only in accordance with the requirements of state and federal law.

ii. Students who commit violent acts other than bringing a weapon to school

1. Any student, other than a student with a disability, who is found to have committed a violent act, other than bringing a weapon onto school property, shall be subject to suspension from school for at least five days. If the proposed penalty is the minimum five-day suspension, the student and the student's parents will be given the same notice and opportunity for an informal conference given to all students subject to a short-term suspension. If the proposed penalty exceeds the minimum five-day suspension, the student and the student's parents will be given the same notice and opportunity for a hearing given to all students subject to a long-term suspension. The superintendent has the authority to modify the minimum five-day suspension on a case-by-case basis. In deciding whether to modify the penalty, the

superintendent may consider the same factors considered in modifying a one-year suspension for possessing a weapon.

2. Any student, other than a student with a disability, who repeatedly is substantially disruptive of the educational process or substantially interferes with the teacher's authority over the classroom, will be suspended from school for at least five days. For purposes of this code of conduct, "repeatedly is substantially disruptive" means engaging in conduct that results in the student being removed from the classroom by teacher(s) pursuant to Education Law §3214(3-a) and this code on four or more occasions during a semester, or three or more occasions during a trimester. If the proposed penalty is the minimum five-day suspension, the student and the student's parent will be given the same notice and opportunity for an informal conference given to all students subject to a short-term suspension. If the proposed penalty exceeds the minimum five-day suspension, the student and the student's parent will be given the same notice and opportunity for a hearing given to all students subject to a long-term suspension. The superintendent has the authority to modify the minimum five-day suspension on a case-by-case basis. In deciding whether to modify the penalty, the superintendent may consider the same factors considered in modifying a one-year suspension for possessing a weapon.

f. Referrals

i. Counseling

1. The Guidance Office shall handle all referrals of students to counseling.

ii. PINS Petitions

1. The district may file a PINS (person in need of supervision) petition in Family Court on any student under the age of 18 who demonstrates that he or she requires supervision and treatment by:
  - a. Being habitually truant and not attending school as required by part one of Article 65 of the Education Law.
  - b. Engaging in an ongoing or continual course of conduct that makes the student ungovernable or habitually disobedient and beyond the lawful control of the school.



- c. Knowingly and unlawfully possesses marijuana in violation of Penal Law § 221.05. A single violation of § 221.05 will be a sufficient basis for filing a PINS petition.

iii. Juvenile Delinquents and Juvenile Offenders

1. The superintendent is required to refer the following students to the County Attorney for a juvenile delinquency proceeding before the Family Court
2. Any student under the age of 16 who is found to have brought a weapon to school; or
3. Any student 14 or 15 years old who qualifies for juvenile offender status under the Criminal Procedure Law §1.20 (42)
4. The superintendent is required to refer students aged 16 and older or any student 14 or 15 years old who qualifies for juvenile offender status to the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

**C. Remote Instruction**

In the event that the District must temporarily move to a remote learning environment, the District remains committed to providing a safe and orderly environment where students may receive and district personnel may deliver quality educational services without disruption or interference. [Expectations for student behavior in a virtual classroom](#) are the same as in a regular classroom as set forth in this Code of Conduct.

Remote Learning Guidelines for Students and Parents

**For Students**

- The privacy and confidentiality of all participants is important. Taking photos, screenshots and/or video is prohibited during the online class, as is posting any portions of the class to social media.
- Please arrive online at the scheduled time, and follow all provided links or passwords to your online class session.
- Find a quiet place, free from distraction (siblings, pets, televisions).
- Maintain respect in both speaking, writing, and appearance.
- Stay on mute. Only unmute if you have a question or something relevant to contribute, and raise your hand or signal to your teacher prior to unmuting.

- When utilizing the chat box, please be considerate, polite, and utilize proper spelling and grammar.
- Keep the video on and maintain eye contact to promote focus.
- Refrain from chewing gum, eating, or drinking in front of the camera.

**For Parents/Guardians:**

- The privacy and confidentiality of all participants is important. Taking photos, screenshots and/or video is prohibited during the online class, as is posting any portions of the class to social media.
- Please remember that online classes are for students; please refrain from interrupting the learning.
- Any interaction with the teacher and parent should occur by phone or email outside the classroom period.

Disciplinary penalties may include:

- Warning to the student
- Student asked to leave the current online session
- Teacher phone call to parent
- Dean/administrator call to parent
- Student prohibited from participating in online sessions for a period of time
- Student prohibited from participating in online sessions for the remainder of the year

## **IX. Alternative Instruction**

When a teacher removes a student of any age from class, or a student of compulsory attendance age is suspended from school pursuant to Education Law §3214, the district will take immediate steps to provide alternative means instruction for the student.

## **X. Extra-Curricular and Athletic Participation**

### **A. Mission Statement**

The District recognizes the valuable contribution Extra-Curricular and interscholastic activities make to a student’s growth and development. For many students, these activities not only provide learning activities in the social and cognitive domains but also often provide motivation for recalcitrant learners to come to school and actively participate in the academic day. To this end, the Levittown School District (hereinafter referred to as “the District”) provides a variety of Extra-Curricular activities that complement the educational and athletic development of each student. Parents/guardians and the school community need to work together to provide these activities for our children. This code is not meant to usurp or restrict the responsibility of parents. The Levittown School District feels very strongly that parents must monitor their own children’s behavior and impose their own discipline measures beyond those consequences outlined in this document.

This section applies to any and all Levittown School District students who wish to be involved in Extra-Curricular activities offered by Levittown Schools, including all clubs, organizations and athletics.

Extra-Curricular participation is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to the school, to the team/club, to the student body, and to the community. When a participant accepts this privilege he/she must also live up to the code of conduct beyond that of the general student body, on and off school property. It is imperative that all students abide by the following:

1. Show pride and respect for their school and for their fellow students whom they represent, by being good citizens, good sports, and good students.
2. Be loyal to the school, its coaching/advisory staff and contribute to team/school spirit.
3. Condition properly so that they can safely and adequately meet the physical demands of a sport.
4. Follow training rules that are established by the school and the coach.
5. Be responsible for all equipment issued, take proper care of it and return it at the proper time.
6. Abide by and respect all decisions of officials.
7. Support all school activities to the best of their ability.

### **B. Eligibility**

Extra-Curricular activities are open to all students of the Levittown School District. No person shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be discriminated against, under any educational program, or activity, or service, in this district,

on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, creed or religion, marital status, age, or disability.

### **C. Participation**

1. In order to participate in extracurricular programs, students (Grades 7 - 12) must maintain academic standards as determined by the District.
2. In order to participate in Athletics, the student must attend an anti-hazing presentation at a time and place to be determined by the District's Athletic Director.
3. The District also recognizes the amount of time students have is finite and participation in Extra-Curricular and interscholastic activities may create situations where students are drawn away from their homework and studies by after school activities. Since both issues are important, the District will provide a program of report card monitoring and required extra help when students engaged in Extra-Curricular and/or interscholastic activities are found to be failing, or in jeopardy of failing in their studies. For specific information regarding this issue, refer to Levittown Public Schools Board of Education Regulation #5200, adopted on October 28, 1998 and Revised on February 17, 1999.
4. Except for those instances when a student is attending extra help sessions, attendance at all athletic practices and games is mandatory. Only the coach can excuse an athlete from either practice or games. It is the athlete's responsibility to notify the coach in the event it becomes necessary to miss a practice or a game. In the event of an unauthorized absence from or lateness to a game or practice, the athlete may be suspended from the team. Attending an extra help session is an excused absence.
5. During the participation in practices, meetings, events and games, all injuries must be reported immediately so that the coach/advisor can file the appropriate report. Students should be aware that parental consent must be available for emergency hospital treatment. It is understood that voluntary participation in all sports requires an acceptance of risk of possible injury. Students can help make the game safer by using techniques which are legal and proper and which will not cause injury. The coaching staff is made up of professionals certified by the State who will continually and repeatedly teach techniques that are fundamental to the sport.
6. Club advisors can mandate that a student must participate in a certain number of meetings/events in order to be counted among that club's membership, however students who attend extra help sessions will not have that counted against them, as long as they provide the advisor with proof of attendance at the aforementioned extra help sessions.
7. Students who fail physical education class cannot participate in athletic competition until a passing grade is attained.

### **D. Transportation**

When the school provides transportation, all students will travel to and from the scheduled event on school transportation, unless they are released to their parents or legal guardian due to an emergency or unusual circumstance. The decision to release a student to the parents or legal guardians is at the discretion of the advisor or coach.

### **E. Vacations/Absences From School**

1. If a student misses scheduled events/activities/practices/games due to vacations with parents while school is in session, those absences will be considered unexcused.
2. In the event five consecutive days of school are missed, and a doctor's note stating the student is fit to participate in athletics is not presented, athletes must report to the school nurse and arrange for re-examination by the school physician before he or she may again join the team.
3. A student who has not been legally present in school may not participate in any Extra-Curricular activities, including proms, during that day.

### **F. Equipment**

1. The Board of Education supplies equipment for athletic programs in the district. All equipment issued must be maintained in good condition and returned at the completion of the season, without any alteration by athletes. If lost or damaged, equipment must be replaced or payment must be made to the school district. It is the responsibility of each athlete to safeguard his/her equipment against theft. An athlete may not participate on another team until all equipment is handed in or paid for.
2. The school district is not responsible for students' personal property at Extra-Curricular activities.

### **G. Student and Parent Contract**

1. The privilege of participation carries the responsibility of adherence to the Code of Conduct. As representatives of Levittown Schools, participants are expected to display exemplary conduct at all times, whether or not engaged in a formal activity.
2. Parents, participants and spectators are prohibited from smoking at school-sponsored events and on school grounds, whether it is inside the school or outside on the playing fields.
3. The Code of Conduct establishes the standards expected for participants in all Extra-Curricular activities. Failure to conform to the Code of Conduct will result in appropriate disciplinary action. A student agreement, parental permission slip and interscholastic health information form (athletics only) must be presented prior to Extra-Curricular involvement.

### **H. Enforcement**

The Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct is enforced during the school year, twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven days a week, while participant is enrolled in high school or middle school, **as long as there is a nexus between the student's conduct and school**. The Code is also in effect and enforced during school-supervised Extra-Curricular activities and events occurring over school recesses and the summer break. Consequences for code violations that occur in the summer/off-season will be enforced at the beginning of the school year/season.

## **I. Code of Conduct Violations**

### **Violation of the Code of Conduct under this section will occur when students:**

1. Conduct themselves in any way that would otherwise be a violation of the Levittown Schools Code of Conduct.
2. Are involved in threatening, hazing activities, and personal misconduct that involves police or court action whether during or outside school hours or sport seasons.
3. Are involved in bullying, cyber-bullying, discrimination, racial discrimination, or harassment in any form.
4. Attend a party or other gathering (unless accompanied at all times by the participant's parent/guardian) where alcohol or illegal drugs are available for consumption by the participant or any underage individual in attendance. A participant should leave a party or gathering immediately upon knowing of, or detecting by use of any of the participant's senses, the availability of alcohol or illegal drugs at the party or gathering. If a nexus is found to exist between school and the party or gathering, any student who decides to remain at the party or gathering may be questioned about his or her involvement and discipline measures may be enacted if a student has been found to be a participant or organizer during which illegal actions occur.
5. Consume, possess, use, purchase, sell, conceal, or transmit alcohol, any controlled substance, inhalant, paraphernalia, intoxicant, or any illegal drugs on school property or during school-sponsored events.
6. Use, possess or distribute tobacco products on school grounds or at school-sponsored events
7. Use, possess, or distribute firearms, dangerous weapon(s) or explosive devices on school grounds or at school-sponsored events.

## **J. Code Violation Consequences**

In addition to suspension/detentions meted out by school administration, students may be subject to suspension from extracurricular activities, including but not limited to clubs and sports. Students who violate the Drug and Alcohol portion of this Code (offenses #4 and #5 listed above), and who wish to participate in any Extra-Curricular activity must, in addition to any other consequence provided herein, attend Substance Abuse counseling, to be arranged by the school district. Students who violate offense #6, listed above, may continue to participate in Extra-Curricular activities, provided they attend and continue to attend a smoking/tobacco cessation program and do so for a minimum of 10 weeks. Attendance in the program is subject to verification by school personnel.

## **K. Suspension**

Students enrolled in Extra-Curricular activities who are under suspension from school may not participate in practices, contests, productions, performances, meetings, field

trips, etc., sponsored by the Extra-Curricular activity.

#### **L. Appeal Panel**

1. An administrator shall be appointed by the Principal to investigate suspected violations of the Code of Conduct under this section, and shall render a decision within two weeks.
2. A student/parent may appeal the decision of the Principal or the Principal's designee by requesting review by an Appeal Panel.
3. The principal will establish the Appeal Panel annually. It will include, but is not limited to:
  - ❑ An assistant principal/dean of students
  - ❑ The building athletic director
  - ❑ A guidance counselor
  - ❑ A coach
  - ❑ A co-curricular advisor
  - ❑ The on-site drug and alcohol counselor.
4. The original administrator investigating the claim shall not be a voting member of the committee, but will make a full report as to his or her findings regarding this incident and may be present at all times.
5. A student charged with a violation of this Code will be given a written notice of violation. The student may appear before, and be heard by the Appeal Panel, with or without a representative.
6. The Panel may, in its discretion, conduct further investigation, including requesting the appearance before it, of the alleged violator and/or witnesses with information concerning the alleged violations.
7. Decisions rendered by the Appeal Panel will require a simple majority vote based on the evidence presented.
8. The student may appeal the decision by presenting a written request to the building principal within 2 days after receiving the notice of violation.
9. The Appeal Panel is not bound by formal rules of evidence of procedure in the conduct of its investigations and deliberations, and there is no right on the part of the participant to record the proceedings or to confront or cross-examine witnesses.
10. The Appeal Panel may withhold awards or honors pending its decision.
11. A participant may request review by the Assistant Superintendent for Administration of a decision by the Appeal Panel finding a Code violation. Such a request must be in writing and given to the principal with 2 days of being notified of the Appeal Panel's decision. The participant shall have the right to appear before the Assistant Superintendent for Administration, with or without a representative. The Assistant Superintendent for Administration's decision in the matter is final. Pending the Assistant Superintendent's review and decision, the decision of the Appeal Panel shall remain in full force and effect.



## **XI. Discipline of Students with Disabilities**

The Board recognizes that it may be necessary to suspend, remove or otherwise discipline students with disabilities to address disruptive or problem behavior. The Board also recognizes that students with disabilities enjoy certain procedural protections whenever school authorities intend to impose discipline upon them. The Board is committed to ensuring that the procedures followed for suspending, removing or otherwise disciplining students with disabilities are consistent with the procedural safeguards required by applicable laws and regulations.

This code of conduct affords students with disabilities subject to disciplinary action no greater or lesser rights than those expressly afforded by applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

### **A. Authorized Suspensions or Removals of Students with Disabilities**

1. For purposes of this section of the code of conduct, the following definitions apply
  - a. A "suspension" means a suspension pursuant to Education Law § 3214.
  - b. A "removal" means a removal for disciplinary reasons from the student's current educational placement other than a suspension and change in placement to an interim alternative educational setting (IAES) ordered by an impartial hearing officer because the student poses a risk of harm to himself or herself or others.
  - c. An "IAES" means a temporary educational placement for a period of up to 45 days, other than the student's current placement at the time the behavior precipitating the IAES placement occurred, that enables the student to continue to progress in the general curriculum, although in another setting, to continue to receive those services and modifications, including those described on the student's current individualized education program (IEP), that will enable the student to meet the goals set out in such IEP, and include services and modifications to address the behavior which precipitated the IAES placement that are designed to prevent the behavior from recurring. "Weapon" means the same as "dangerous weapon" under 18 U.S.C. § 930 (g) (w) which includes "a weapon, device, instrument, material or substance, animate or inanimate, that is used for, or is readily capable of, causing death or serious bodily injury, except ... [for] a pocket knife with a blade of less than 2 1/2 inches in length."
  - d. "Controlled substance" means a drug or other substance identified in certain provisions of the federal Controlled Substances Act specified in both federal and state law and regulations applicable to this policy.
  - e. "Illegal drugs" means a controlled substance except for those legally possessed or used under the supervision of a licensed health-care

professional or that is legally possessed or used under any other authority under the Controlled Substances Act or any other federal law.

2. School personnel may order the suspension or removal of a student with a disability from his or her current educational placement as follows:
  - a. The Board, the district (BOCES) superintendent of schools or a building principal may order the placement of a student with a disability into an IAES, another setting or suspension for a period not to exceed five consecutive school days and not to exceed the amount of time a non-disabled student would be subject to suspension for the same behavior, subject to the provisions of paragraph 4(d) of this Section.
  - b. The superintendent may order the placement of a student with a disability into an IAES, another setting or suspension for up to 10 consecutive school days, inclusive of any period in which the student has been suspended or removed under subparagraph (a) above for the same behavior, if the superintendent determines that the student has engaged in behavior that warrants a suspension and the suspension or removal does not exceed the amount of time non-disabled students would be subject to suspension for the same behavior.
  - c. The superintendent may order additional suspensions of not more than 10 consecutive school days in the same school year for separate incidents of misconduct, as long as those removals do not constitute a change of placement.
  - d. The superintendent may order the placement of a student with a disability in an IAES to be determined by the committee on special education (CSE), for the same amount of time that a student without a disability would be subject to discipline, but not more than 45 days, if the student (a) carries or possesses a weapon to school or to a school function, (b) knowingly possesses or uses illegal drugs or sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance while at school or a school function, or (c) causes serious bodily injury to another student or staff member.
3. Subject to specified conditions required by both federal and state law and regulations, an impartial hearing officer may order the placement of a student with a disability in an IAES setting for up to 45 days at a time, if maintaining the student in his or her current educational placement poses a risk of harm to the student or others.
4. Change of Placement Rule
  - a. A disciplinary change in placement means a suspension or removal from a student's current educational placement that is either:
    - b. for more than 10 consecutive school days; or

- c. for a period of 10 consecutive school days or less if the student is subjected to a series of suspensions or removals that constitute a pattern because they cumulate to more than 10 school days in a school year and because of such factors as the length of each suspension or removal, the total amount of time the student is removed and the proximity of the suspensions or removals to one another.
- d. School personnel may not suspend or remove a student with disabilities if imposition of the suspension or removal would result in a disciplinary change in placement based on a pattern of suspension or removal.

However, the district may impose a suspension or removal, which would otherwise result in a disciplinary change in placement, if the Manifestation Team has determined that the behavior was not a manifestation of the student's disability, or if the student is placed in an IAES for behavior involving weapons, illegal drugs or controlled substances or causing bodily injury to others.

#### B. Special Rules Regarding the Suspension or Removal of Students with Disabilities

1. The district's Committee on Special Education shall:
  - a. Conduct functional behavioral assessments to determine why a student engages in a particular behavior, and develop or review behavioral intervention plans whenever the district is first suspending or removing a student with a disability for more than 10 school days in a school year or imposing a suspension or removal that constitutes a disciplinary change in placement, including a change in placement to an IAES, for misconduct involving weapons, illegal drugs or controlled substances.
  - b. If subsequently, a student with a disability who has a behavioral intervention plan and who has been suspended or removed from his or her current educational placement for more than 10 school days in a school year is subjected to a suspension or removal that does not constitute a disciplinary change in placement, the members of the CSE shall review the behavioral intervention plan and its implementation to determine if modifications are necessary.
  - c. If one or more members of the CSE believe that modifications are needed, the school district shall convene a meeting of the CSE to modify such plan and its implementation, to the extent the committee determines necessary.
2. The parents of a student who is facing disciplinary action, but who has not been determined to be eligible for services under IDEA and Article 89 at the time of misconduct, shall have the right to invoke applicable procedural safeguards set forth in federal and state laws and regulations if, in accordance with federal and state statutory and regulatory criteria, the school district is deemed to have had knowledge that their child was a student with a disability before the behavior precipitating disciplinary

- action occurred. If the district is deemed to have had such knowledge, the student will be considered a student presumed to have a disability for discipline purposes.
- a. The superintendent, building principal or other school official imposing a suspension or removal shall be responsible for determining whether the student is a student presumed to have a disability.
  - b. A student will not be considered a student presumed to have a disability for discipline purposes if, upon receipt of information supporting a claim that the district had knowledge the student was a student with a disability, the district either:
    - i. conducted an individual evaluation and determined that the student is not a student with a disability, or
    - ii. determined that an evaluation was not necessary and provided notice to the parents of such determination, in the manner required by applicable law and regulations.
  - c. If there is no basis for knowledge that the student is a student with a disability prior to taking disciplinary measures against the student, the student may be subjected to the same disciplinary measures as any other non-disabled student who engaged in comparable behaviors.
3. However, if a request for an individual evaluation is made while such non-disabled student is subjected to a disciplinary removal, an expedited evaluation shall be conducted and completed in the manner prescribed by applicable federal and state laws and regulations. Until the expedited evaluation is completed, the non-disabled student who is not a student presumed to have a disability for discipline purposes shall remain in the educational placement determined by the district, which can include suspension.
  4. The district shall provide parents with notice of disciplinary removal no later than the date on which a decision is made to change the placement of a student with a disability to an IAES for either misconduct involving weapons, illegal drugs or controlled substances or serious bodily injury because maintaining the student in his/her current educational setting poses a risk of harm to the student or others; or a decision is made to impose a suspension or removal that constitutes a disciplinary change in placement. The procedural safeguards notice prescribed by the Commissioner shall accompany the notice of disciplinary removal.
  5. The parents of a student with disabilities subject to a suspension of five consecutive school days or less shall be provided with the same opportunity for an informal conference available to parents of non-disabled students under the Education Law.
  6. Superintendent hearings on disciplinary charges against students with disabilities subject to a suspension of more than five school days shall be bifurcated into a guilt

phase and a penalty phase in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Commissioner's regulations incorporated into this code.

7. The removal of a student with disabilities other than a suspension or placement in an IAES shall be conducted in accordance with the due process procedures applicable to such removals of non-disabled students, except that school personnel may not impose such removal for more than 10 consecutive days or for a period that would result in a disciplinary change in placement, unless the Manifestation Team has determined that the behavior is not a manifestation of the student's disability.
8. During any period of suspension or removal, including placement in an IAES, students with disabilities shall be provided services as required by the Commissioner's regulations incorporated into this code.

### C. Expedited Due Process Hearings

1. An expedited due process hearing shall be conducted in the manner specified by the Commissioner's regulations incorporated into this code, if:
  - a. The district requests such a hearing to obtain an order of an impartial hearing officer placing a student with a disability in an IAES where school personnel maintain that it is dangerous for the student to be in his or her current educational placement, or during the pendency of due process hearings where school personnel maintain that it is dangerous for the student to be in his or her current educational placement during such proceedings.
  - b. The parent requests such a hearing from a determination that the student's behavior was not a manifestation of the student's disability, or relating to any decision regarding placement, including but not limited to any decision to place the student in an IAES.
    - i. During the pendency of an expedited due process hearing or appeal regarding the placement of a student in an IAES for behavior involving weapons, illegal drugs or controlled substances, serious bodily injury, or on grounds of dangerousness, or regarding a determination that the behavior is not a manifestation of the student's disability for a student who has been placed in an IAES, the student shall remain in the IAES pending the decision of the impartial hearing officer or until expiration of the IAES placement, whichever occurs first, unless the parents and the district agree otherwise.
    - ii. If school personnel propose to change the student's placement after expiration of an IAES placement, during the pendency of any proceeding to challenge the proposed change in placement, the student shall remain in the placement prior to removal to the IAES, except where the student is again placed in an IAES.

2. An expedited due process hearing shall be completed within 15 business days of receipt of the request for a hearing. Although the impartial hearing officer may grant specific extensions of such time period, he or she must mail a written decision to the district and the parents within five business days after the last hearing date, and in no event later than 45 calendar days after receipt of the request for a hearing, without exceptions or extensions.
3. Referral to law enforcement and judicial authorities
  - a. In accordance with the provisions of IDEA and its implementing regulations:
    1. The district may report a crime committed by a child with a disability to appropriate authorities, and such action will not constitute a change of the student's placement.
    2. The superintendent shall ensure that copies of the special education and disciplinary records of a student with disabilities are transmitted for consideration to the appropriate authorities to which a crime is reported.

## **XII. Corporal Punishment**

Corporal punishment is any act of physical force or punishment upon a student for the purpose of punishing that student. Corporal punishment of any student by any district employee is strictly forbidden.

However, in situations where alternative procedures and methods that do not involve the use of physical force cannot reasonably be used, reasonable physical force may be used to:

1. Protect oneself, another student, teacher or any person from physical injury.
2. Protect the property of the school or others.
3. Restrain or remove a student whose behavior interferes with the orderly exercise and performance of school district functions, powers and duties, if that student has refused to refrain from further disruptive acts.

The district will file all complaints about the use of corporal punishment with the Commissioner of Education in accordance with Commissioner's regulations.

### **XIII. Student Searches and Interrogations**

The Board of Education is committed to ensuring an atmosphere on school property and at school functions that is safe and orderly. To achieve this kind of environment, any school official authorized to impose a disciplinary penalty on a student may question a student about an alleged violation of law or the district code of conduct. Students are not entitled to any sort of "Miranda" -type warning before being questioned by school officials, nor are school officials required to contact a student's parent before questioning the student. However, school officials will tell all students why they are being questioned.

In addition, the Board authorizes the superintendent, building principals, the school nurse and district security officials to conduct searches of students and their belongings if the authorized school official has reasonable suspicion to believe that the search will result in evidence that the student violated the law or the district code of conduct.

An authorized school official may conduct a search of a student's belongings that is minimally intrusive, such as touching the outside of a book bag, without reasonable suspicion, so long as the school official has a legitimate reason for the very limited search.

The building principal (or, in the absence of, the principal's designee) may search a student or the student's belongings based upon information received from a reliable informant. Individuals, other than the district employees, will be considered reliable informants if they have previously supplied information that was accurate and verified, or they make an admission against their own interest, or they provide the same information that is received independently from other sources, or they appear to be credible and the information they are communicating relates to an immediate threat to safety. District employees will be considered reliable informants unless they are known to have previously supplied information that they knew was not accurate.

Before searching a student or the student's belongings, the authorized school official should attempt to get the student to admit that he or she possesses physical evidence that they violated the law or the district code, or get the student to voluntarily consent to the search. Searches will be limited to the extent necessary to locate the evidence sought. Strip searches of students are prohibited.

Whenever practicable, searches will be conducted in the privacy of administrative offices and students will be present when their possessions are being searched.

#### **A. Cars/Vehicles**

All vehicles entering school grounds shall be subject to search to ensure the safety and security of students, staff, and visitors. Students who are issued a parking permit are subject to all applicable District rules and regulations and are subject to search by authorized school officials and District Campus Patrol Security Officers if there is a reasonable suspicion that the search would turn up evidence that the student broke the law or school rules.



## **B. Student Lockers, Desks and other School Storage Places**

The rules in this code of conduct regarding searches of students and their belongings do not apply to student lockers, desks and other school storage places. Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy with respect to these places and school officials retain complete control over them. This means that student lockers, desks and other school storage places may be subject to search at any time by school officials, without prior notice to students and without their consent.

## **C. Documentation of Searches**

The authorized school official conducting the search shall be responsible for promptly recording the following information about each search:

1. Name, age and grade of student searched.
2. Reasons for the search.
3. Name of any informant(s).
4. Purpose of search (that is, what item(s) were being sought).
5. Type and scope of search.
6. Person conducting search and his or her title and position.
7. Witnesses, if any, to the search.
8. Time and location of search.
9. Results of search (that is, what items(s) were found).
10. Disposition of items found.
11. Time, manner and results of parental notification.

The building principal or the principal's designee shall be responsible for the custody, control and disposition of any illegal or dangerous item taken from a student. The principal or his or her designee shall clearly label each item taken from the student and retain control of the item(s), until the items is turned over to the police. The principal or his or her designee shall be responsible for personally delivering dangerous or illegal items to police authorities.

## **D. Police Involvement in Searches and Interrogations of Students**

District officials are committed to cooperating with police officials and other law enforcement authorities to maintain a safe school environment. Police officials, however, have limited authority to interview or search students in schools or at school functions, or to use school facilities in connection with police work. Police officials may enter school property or a school function to question or search a student or to conduct a formal investigation involving students only if they have:

1. A search or an arrest warrant; or
2. Probable cause to believe a crime has been committed on school property or at a school function; or
3. Been invited by school officials.

Before police officials are permitted to question or search any student, the building principal or his or her designee shall first try to notify the student's parent to give the parent the opportunity to be present during the police questioning or search. If the student's parent cannot be contacted prior to

the police questioning or search, the questioning or search shall not be conducted. The principal or designee will also be present during any police questioning or search of a student on school property or at a school function.

Students who are questioned by police officials on school property or at a school function will be afforded the same rights they have outside the school. This means:

1. They must be informed of their legal rights.
2. They may remain silent if they so desire.
3. They may request the presence of an attorney.

#### **E. Child Protective Services Investigations**

Consistent with the district's commitment to keep students safe from harm and the obligation of school officials to report to child protective services when they have reasonable cause to suspect that a student has been abused or maltreated, the district will cooperate with local child protective services workers who wish to conduct interviews of students on school property relating to allegations of suspected child abuse, and/or neglect, or custody investigations.

All requests by child protective services to interview a student on school property shall be made directly to building principal or his or her designee. The principal or his or her designee shall set the time and place of the interview. The principal or designee shall decide if it is necessary and appropriate for a school official to be present during the interview, depending on the age of the student being interviewed and the nature of the allegations. If the nature of the allegations is such that it may be necessary for the student to remove any of his or her clothing in order for the child protective services worker to verify the allegations, the school nurse or other district medical personnel must be present during that portion of the interview. No student may be required to remove his or her clothing in front of a child protective services worker or school district official of the opposite sex.

A child protective services worker may not remove a student from school property without a court order, unless the worker reasonably believes that the student would be subject to immediate danger of abuse if not he or she were not removed from school before a court order can reasonably be obtained. If the worker believes the student would be subject to immediate danger of abuse, the worker may remove the student without a court order and without the parent's consent upon providing the District with a signed written statement to that effect.

#### **XIV. Visitors to the Schools**

The building principal or his or her designee is responsible for all persons in the building and on the grounds. For these reasons, the following rules apply to visitors to the schools:

1. Anyone who is not a regular staff member or student of the school will be considered a visitor.
2. All visitors to the school must be cleared through the security vestibule upon arrival. There they will be required to present photo ID and will be issued a visitor's identification badge, which must be worn at all times while in the school or on school grounds. The visitor must return the identification badge to the security desk before leaving the building.
3. Any unauthorized person on school property will be reported to the principal or his or her designee. Unauthorized persons will be asked to leave. The police may be called if the situation warrants.
4. All visitors are expected to follow the directions of district staff members during safety drills (fire, lockdown, etc.)
5. All visitors are expected to abide by the rules for public conduct on school property contained in this code of conduct.

## **XV. Public Conduct on School Property**

The district is committed to providing an orderly, respectful environment that is conducive to learning. To create and maintain this kind of an environment, it is necessary to regulate public conduct on school property and at school functions. For purposes of this section of the code, "public" shall mean all persons when on school property or attending a school function including students, teachers and district personnel.

The restrictions on public conduct on school property and at school functions contained in this code are not intended to limit freedom of speech or peaceful assembly. The district recognizes that free inquiry and free expression are indispensable to the objectives of the district. The purpose of this code is to maintain public order and prevent abuse of the rights of others.

All persons on school property or attending a school function shall conduct themselves in a respectful and orderly manner. In addition, all persons on school property or attending a school function are expected to be properly attired for the purpose they are on school property.

### **A. Prohibited Conduct**

No person, either alone or with others, shall:

1. Intentionally injure any person or threaten to do so.
2. Intentionally damage or destroy school district property or the personal property of a teacher, administrator, other district employee or any person lawfully on school property, including graffiti or arson.
3. Disrupt the orderly conduct of classes, school programs or other school activities.
4. Distribute or wear materials on school grounds or at school functions that are obscene, advocate illegal action, appear libelous, obstruct the rights of others, or are disruptive to the school program.
5. Intimidate, harass or discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation or disability.
6. Enter any portion of the school premises without authorization or remain in any building or facility after it is normally closed.
7. Obstruct the free movement of any person in any place to which this code applies.
8. Violate the traffic laws, parking regulations or other restrictions on vehicles;
9. Possess, consume, sell, distribute or exchange tobacco products, electronic vaping devices, alcoholic beverages, controlled substances, or be under the influence of either on school property or at a school function.
10. Possess or use weapons in or on school property or at a school function, except in the case of law enforcement officers or except as specifically authorized by the school district.
11. Loiter on or about school property.
12. Gamble on school property or at school functions.
13. Refuse to comply with any reasonable order of identifiable school district officials performing their duties.
14. Willfully incite others to commit any of the acts prohibited by this code.

15. Violate any federal or state statute, local ordinance or Board policy while on school property or while at a school function.

## **B. Penalties**

Persons who violate this code shall be subject to the following penalties:

1. Visitors - Their authorization, if any, to remain on school grounds or at the school function shall be withdrawn and they shall be directed to leave the premises. If they refuse to leave, they shall be subject to ejection and possible criminal prosecution.
2. Students - They shall be subject to disciplinary action as the facts may warrant, in accordance with the due process requirements.
3. Tenured faculty members - They shall be subject to disciplinary action as the facts may warrant in accordance with Education Law §3020-a or any other legal rights that they may have.
4. Staff members in the classified service of the civil service entitled to the protection of Civil Service Law §75 - They shall be subject to immediate ejection and to disciplinary action as the facts may warrant in accordance with Civil Service Law §75 or any other legal rights that they may have.
5. Staff members other than those described in subdivisions 4 and 5 - They shall be subject to warning, reprimand, suspension or dismissal as the facts may warrant in accordance with any legal rights they may have.

## **C. Enforcement**

The building principal or his or her designee shall be responsible for enforcing the conduct required by this code.

When the building principal or his or her designee sees an individual engaged in prohibited conduct, which in his or her judgment does not pose any immediate threat of injury to persons or property, the principal or his or her designee shall tell the individual that the conduct is prohibited and attempt to persuade the individual to stop. The principal or his or her designee shall also warn the individual of the consequences for failing to stop. If the person refuses to stop engaging in the prohibited conduct, or if the person's conduct poses an immediate threat of injury to persons or property, the principal or his or her designee shall have the individual removed immediately from school property or the school function. If necessary, local law enforcement authorities will be contacted to assist in removing the person.

The district shall initiate disciplinary action against any student or staff member, as appropriate, with the "Penalties" section above. In addition, the district reserves its right to pursue a civil or criminal legal action against any person violating the code.

## **XVI. Dissemination and Review**

### **A. Dissemination of Code of Conduct**

The Board will work to ensure that the community is aware of this code of conduct by:

1. The code of conduct will be reviewed with students at the beginning of each school year.
2. The code of conduct will be made available to all parents at the beginning of the school year.
3. A summary of the code of conduct written in plain language will be mailed to all parents of district students before the beginning of the school year and making this summary available later upon request.
4. The code of conduct will be made available to all current teachers and other staff members..
5. Providing all new employees with a copy of the current code of conduct when they are first hired.
6. Copies of the code will be available for review by students, parents and other community members.

The Board of Education will review this code of conduct every year and update it as necessary. In conducting the review, the Board will consider how effective the code's provisions have been and whether the code has been applied fairly and consistently.

The Board may appoint an advisory committee to assist in reviewing the code and the district's response to code of conduct violations. The committee will be made up of representatives of student, teacher, administrator, and parent organizations, school safety personnel and other school personnel.

Before adopting any revisions to the code, the Board will hold at least one public hearing at which school personnel, parents, students and any other interested party may participate.

The District shall post the complete Code of Conduct (with all amendments and annual updates) on the District's website. The District shall file a copy of its Code of Conduct and any amendments with the Commissioner, in a manner prescribed by the Commissioner, no later than thirty (30) days after their respective adoption.

The code of conduct and any amendments to it will be filed with the Commissioner no later than 30 days of adoption.

## Levittown School District Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct

Student/Parent/School Contract

**PARENT AND STUDENT MUST SIGN BELOW**

I have read and understand the Levittown School District Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct and this form. I accept my responsibilities to them.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I have read and understand the Levittown School District Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct and this form. I accept my responsibilities to them. I request and give my permission for \_\_\_\_\_ to participate in any and all Extra-Curricular activities.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**A student/athlete may not participate in try-outs, practice or contests until this signed permission form is on file with the school. Please sign above, detach from the Code of Conduct, and return this form to the coach/club advisor.**

**LEVITTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
***Code of Conduct Summary - September 2024***

This summary of the school district Code of Conduct has been developed as required by the New York State SAVE Act and will be distributed to students and parents at the beginning of the school year. The entire code is available at the Levittown District Website ([www.Levittownschoools.com](http://www.Levittownschoools.com)). This Code has been adopted by the Board of Education and submitted to the New York State Education Department as required by law. The Code applies to all students, school personnel, parents, and other visitors when on school property (including school buses and vehicles) or attending school functions and extracurricular activities. The Code contains the following provisions:

- Appropriate conduct, dress and language when on school property, including school functions and extracurricular activities as well as appropriate range of disciplinary procedures that may be imposed for violations of the Code.
- Acceptable civil and respectful treatment of teachers, administrators, other school personnel, students, and visitors on school property or at school functions and extracurricular activities as well as roles of teachers, coaches, administrators, other school personnel, the Board of Education and parents.
- Standards and procedures to assure the security and safety of students and school personnel.
- Standards for remote learning.
- Provisions for the removal from the classroom, school property (including school functions and extracurricular activities) detention, suspension of students or other persons who violate the Code or who possess or use illegal substances or weapons, use of physical force, vandalize school property, or violate another student's civil rights, or threaten violence.
- Provisions for the removal of students from the classroom, including plans to ensure continued educational programming and activities for such students.
- Procedures by which violations are reported, determined, discipline measures imposed, and such measures carried out.
- Procedures by which students may be suspended or removed from participation in extracurricular activities, including sports.
- Procedures by which students may be disciplined in school for events that take place out of school when a connection to school exists.
- Provisions that ensure that enforcement of the Code is in compliance with state and federal laws relating to students with disabilities.
- Procedures for notifying local law enforcement agencies of Code violations which constitute a crime.
- Provisions for notifying persons in parental relation to the student of Code violations by the student.
- Provisions and procedures by which a complaint in criminal court, a juvenile delinquency petition or person in need of supervision petition as defined in Article Three and Seven of the Family Court Act will be filed.
- Circumstances under and procedures by which referral to appropriate human services agencies will be made.
- A minimum suspension period, for students who repeatedly are substantially disruptive of the educational process or substantially interfere with the teacher's authority over the classroom will be suspended from school for at least five days. The suspending authority may reduce such period on a case-by-case basis to be consistent with any other state or federal laws.
- Provisions by which students may be searched.

**Please review the Code of Conduct on the district website and then sign and return the portion below:**

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**I have read and understand the complete version of the Levittown School District Code of Conduct from the district website :**

Student Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature    Date

**Please return this tear-off to your child's classroom teacher (elementary) or 1<sup>st</sup> period teacher (secondary) no later than September 6, 2024. Thank you.**