

## **Southwest Local School District Code of Conduct Guidelines**

SLSD recognizes its responsibility to provide all students with an environment conducive to the development of their maximum learning potential. The Code of Conduct supports this endeavor for both in-person or remote environments. The Code of Conduct is adopted by the Board pursuant to state law.

Any student engaging in the following types of conduct either specifically or generally, in-person or through a remote environment (virtually) like the type of conduct listed below is subject to suspension, expulsion, emergency removal or permanent exclusion from curricular or extracurricular activities pursuant to State law. This Code of Regulations applies while a student is in the custody or control of the school, on school grounds or closely proximate thereto, while at a school-sponsored function or activity or on school-owned or provided transportation vehicles. In addition, the Code of Regulations governs a student's conduct at all times, on or off school property and in the virtual environment, unless specifically limited to school property as stated in a regulation, when such student conduct is reasonably related to the health and safety of other students and/or school employees, or such conduct would unreasonably interrupt the educational processes of the District.

The SLSD Progressive Discipline Code is divided into four levels. Each level represents progressively more serious misbehavior and consequences. The level of discipline shall be based on the severity of the misbehavior and the number of infractions involved with each referral. **The Administration reserves the right to skip levels of discipline depending upon the violation.** Although it may be necessary, school removal is used as a last resort.

The law requires that students are provided with a written notice of intent to suspend prior to being suspended. State law also requires that students and parents are provided with a written notice of intent to expel.

The written notice of intent to suspend shall be given to the student at an informal hearing. The notice of intent to expel shall be sent to the student and the parents and the students and parents will be provided an opportunity for an informal hearing prior to a decision to expel.

A student or the parents may appeal any decision of the District administration to suspend a student from school to the Assistant Superintendent. A student or parent must request a **suspension appeal** in writing within **10 days** after the discipline measure takes effect. A student or the parents may appeal an expulsion from school to the Board/designee. A student or parent must request an **expulsion appeal** in writing within 14 days after the discipline measure takes effect. Appeal requests must be made in writing to the district Treasurer. The appeal process includes an additional informal meeting with a hearing officer. The student and parents may be represented in all appeal hearings but notice to the SLSD District Office is requested if bringing legal representation to reduce the chances of a possible rescheduling of the hearing. Pursuant to State law, a student or parents may further appeal an expulsion or suspension to the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas.

It is the policy of the Board that students shall not be permitted to return to school pending any appeal process with the administration or the court. The District will make every effort to promptly hear all appeals to minimize a student's absence from school. Should the Board, the Superintendent, or their designees reverse or modify a discipline decision and permit a student to return to school, such student shall be permitted ample time to make up all assignments and work missed as a result of his/her absence.

**Southwest Local School District  
Code Of Conduct  
2023 / 2024**

**Expectation: Students are expected to be an active part of a safe and respectful environment at all times and to not interfere with the learning of others or the orderly process of the school building.**

**The types of conduct prohibited by the Southwest Local School District Code of Conduct are as follows:**

**Level I Discipline:**

Level I discipline is used for minor acts of misconduct which interfere with orderly school procedures, school functions, extracurricular programs, approved transportation, or a student’s own learning process. Most Level I infractions are expected to be taken care of through student compliance with staff responses. If a student fails to follow basic staff directives in the classroom, they will be referred to the office for further intervention.

**Staff Interventions:**

- Verbal Warning
- Parent/Guardian Contact
- PBIS Classroom Consequence
- Teacher Assigned AM or PM Detention
- Use of Temporary Alternative Setting
- Recess Detention
- Lunch Detention
- Office Referral for Repeated

**Violations Administrative Interventions:**

- Conference With Student
- Administrative Warning
- Parent/Guardian Contact
- Recess Detention
- Lunch Detention
- Administrative Detention
- Use of Temporary Alternative Setting

Code	Description
100	Failure to abide by mask policy as established by administration and the Board of Education
101	Misbehavior which disrupts or interferes with any school activity.
102	Disrespect to a student.
103	Disregard of reasonable directions or commands by school authorities.
104	Tardy to Class.
105	Failure to abide by reasonable dress and appearance codes as established by administration and the Board of Education.
106	Non-Approved Use of District-Owned Technology.
107	Non-Approved Use of Personal Technology, Including Cell Phones.
108	Sales or soliciting on school property without permission of school authorities.
109	Use of nuisance Items during the instructional day, while participating in school-sponsored activities, or while utilizing school district transportation.

**Level II Discipline:**

Level II discipline offenses are intermediate acts of misconduct that typically require administrative intervention. These acts include, but are not limited to, repeated, but unrelated, acts of minor misconduct and misbehavior directed against persons or property but which do not seriously endanger the health, safety or well-being of others. Consideration of necessary behavior support services should be given, if not already provided, as school removal is used as a last resort. Due process procedures required by federal and state law will be followed. These may include such procedures as the procedural safeguards provided by the 2004 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

**Staff Interventions:**

- Verbal Warning
- Parent/Guardian Contact
- PBIS Classroom Consequence
- Teacher Assigned AM or PM Detention
- Use of Temporary Alternative Setting
- Office Referral for Repeated

**Violations Administrative Interventions:**

- Conference With Student
- Administrative Warning
- Parent/Guardian Contact
- Detention
- ALP - Alternative Learning Placement
- ASA– Alternate School Assignment (in-school suspension)
- Use of Temporary Alternative Setting
- Emergency Removal
- Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)
- Removal of privilege to attend or participate in extracurricular activities and events

Code	Description
201	Repeated or escalated misbehavior which disrupts or interferes with any school activity
202	Repeated or escalated disrespect to a student.
203	Repeated or escalated disregard of reasonable directions or commands by school authorities.
204	Disrespect to a teacher or other school authority.
205	Use of Cursing/Obscene Gestures: The use of indecent language in oral or written form or the use of obscene gestures.
206	Repeated non-approved use of technology or disruption of the educational process through the non-approved use of technology.
207	Forgery of school or school-related documents.
208	Cheating or plagiarizing.
209	Distribution of pamphlets, leaflets, buttons, insignia, etc, without the permission of proper school authorities or the placing of signs and slogans on school property or at school events without the permission of the proper authorities.
210	Minor petty theft.

211	Skipping class.
212	Disobedience of driving regulations.
213	Presence in areas during school hours or outside school hours where a student has no legitimate business without permission of a school administrator or a teacher.
214	Leaving the classroom without permission.
215	Engaging in activities that may cause fear or panic in an individual or group.
216	Refusing to receive or serve properly administered discipline (Detention, ASA, ALP).
217	Repeated violations of the 100 Codes.

### Level III Discipline:

Level III discipline offenses are serious acts of misconduct including, but not limited to, repeated misbehavior that is similar in nature, serious disruptions of the school environment, threats to health, safety, or property, and other acts of serious misconduct. These offenses must be reported to the principal. Such acts may also result in criminal penalties being imposed. Due process procedures required by federal and state law will be followed. These may include such procedures as the procedural safeguards provided by the 2004 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

#### Staff Interventions:

- Office Referral
- Notify Administration

#### Immediately Administrative

#### Interventions:

- Use of Behavior Intervention Process
- Long-Term Loss of Technology Privileges
- ALP - Alternative Learning Placement
- ASA–Alternate School Assignment (in-school suspension)
- Emergency Removal
- Removal of privilege to attend or participate in extracurricular activities and events
- Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)

Code	Description
301	Failure to report the actions or plans of another person to a teacher or administrator where these actions or plans of another person, if carried out, could or did result in harm to another person or persons or damage property, when the student has information about such actions or plans.
302	Disrespect to student by using derogatory and/or discriminatory language in verbal or written form
303	On- going or highly escalated disregard of reasonable directions or commands by school authorities resulting in disruption of the learning environment.
304	Engaging in activities that may cause fear or panic in an individual or group.
305	Disrespect to student or inappropriate behavior that involves physical contact with another student on the part of the individual.

306	Fighting.
307	Engaging in activities to promote conflict between students.
308	Falsifying of information given to school authorities in the legitimate pursuit of their jobs or interfering with the administrative investigation.

309	Willfully aiding another person to violate school regulations and/or interfering with school investigation.
310	Theft or Possession of stolen student property.
311	Leaving school building/property without permission of proper school authority.
312	Damage or destruction of school property on or off of school premises.
313	Damage or destruction of private property.
314	On school property or participation in school activities (on campus or off campus) while suspended or expelled without permission.
315	Displaying excessive affection, inappropriate touching or other inappropriate behavior.
316	Possession of obscene, pornographic or libelous material.
317	Removal from assigned alternative learning placement (ALP, ASA)
318	Misuse of chemical substances.
319	Smoking, using, or possessing any substance containing nicotine, including, but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, a pipe, rolling papers, a clove cigarette, e-cigarettes, vapes, and chewing tobacco, or paraphernalia such as matches or lighters or use of tobacco in any other form. As provided in 3313.751, Ohio Revised Code, it shall be a violation of this rule to use or possess tobacco in any form while on school premises or at any school activity regardless of time or location.
320	Distributing any substance containing nicotine, including, but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, a pipe, rolling papers, a clove cigarette, e-cigarettes, vapes, and chewing tobacco, or paraphernalia such as matches or lighters or use of tobacco in any other form. As provided in 3313.751, Ohio Revised Code, it shall be a violation of this rule to use or possess tobacco in any form while on school premises or at any school activity regardless of time or location.
321	Inappropriate use of computers and other technologies. Inappropriate use includes: vandalism, theft, or misuse of the hardware, unauthorized access to files not belonging to the student, tampering with security software or network privileges; logging onto the network with a fraudulent ID or password; using the facilities without proper supervision, installation of software on a computer or network, or unauthorized use, copying, or downloading of programs, files and/or pictures.
322	Audio recording, video recording, or photographing of any student or staff member without the explicit knowledge and permission of the student, staff member, and the school administration.
323	Demonstrations by individuals or groups causing disruption to the school program.
324	Gambling.

325	Any other activity by a student which the student knows or should know will disrupt the academic process or a curricular or extracurricular activity while on school premises or while in the control or custody of the school district regardless of whether on or off of school premises, or at a school-related activity regardless of location.
326	Repeated violations of 200 infractions.

**Level IV Discipline:**

Level IV discipline offenses are the most serious acts of misconduct. These offenses must be immediately reported to the administration. These violations are so serious that they may require use of outside agencies and/or law enforcement. Such acts may also result in criminal penalties being imposed. Due process procedures required by federal and state law will be followed. These may include such procedures as the procedural safeguards provided by the 2004 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

**Staff Interventions:**

- Office Referral
- Notify Administration

**Immediately Administrative****Interventions:**

- Use of Behavior Intervention Process
- Multiple Day Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)
- Recommendation for Expulsion
- Removal of privilege to attend or participate in extra curricular activities and events

Principals may suspend a student for up to ten days. If a student is recommended for expulsion, the SLSD District Office will arrange for a hearing with the Superintendent or an established designee to determine if the situation requires further discipline beyond the ten days of suspension.

Code	Description
401	Hazing, threatening, harassment, intimidation or bullying of students based upon personal attributes or beliefs on/off school grounds.  For purposes of this policy, the term “harassment, intimidation or bullying” means any intentional written, verbal, electronic or physical act toward a student has exhibited toward another particular student more than once and the behavior: (1) causes mental or physical harm to the other student; and (2) is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for the other student.
402	Hazing, threatening or harassment of school personnel. Threats may be based upon personal attributes or beliefs, on or off school grounds, or the engaging in activities that may cause fear or panic in an individual or group.
403	Engaging in escalated activities that may cause fear or panic in an individual or group.
404	Oral, written or social media threats to harm individuals, groups, or school community.
405	Disrespect to staff or an inappropriate behavior that involves physical contact with staff on the part of the individual.
406	Disregard of staff direction attempting to de-escalate confrontation or attempting to continue conflict despite staff intervention.
407	Assault on school employee or other person.
408	Assault on student.
409	Extortion of a student or school personnel.

410	Theft or possession of school property or school employee property.
411	Engaging in any sexual acts.
412	Indecent exposure.
413	Using or being under the influence of any controlled substance (drugs, narcotics, intoxicant, THC, marijuana, etc.) or inhalant or any counterfeit controlled substance (any substance that is made to look like a controlled substance, or is represented to be a controlled substance, or that the student believes is a controlled substance).
414	Possessing or buying any controlled substance or paraphernalia (drugs, narcotics, intoxicant, THC, marijuana, etc.) or any counterfeit controlled substance (any substance that is made to look like a controlled substance, or is represented to be a controlled substance, or that the student believes is a controlled substance).
415	Selling or distributing any controlled substance or paraphernalia (drugs, narcotics, intoxicant, THC, marijuana, etc.) or any counterfeit controlled substance (any substance that is made to look like a controlled substance, or is represented to be a controlled substance, or that the student believes is a controlled substance).
416	Buying, selling, transferring, using, or in possession of any substance prohibited by school administration including but not limited to over the counter medications.
417	Possessing, using, or being under the influence of an intoxicant of any kind including but not limited to alcoholic beverages.
418	Sale or distribution of an intoxicant or intoxicant paraphernalia of any kind including but not limited to alcoholic beverages or alcohol paraphernalia.
419	The taking, disseminating, transferring or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or otherwise. The activity may also constitute a crime under state and/or federal law which may result in arrest, criminal prosecution, and lifetime inclusion on sexual offender registries.
420	Violation of the district's sexual harassment policy. See policy ACAA.
421	Turning in false fire, tornado, bomb, or disaster alarms. (As provided in Ohio Revised Code 3313.66 (A) (5), a student may be expelled for a period of up to one year for making a bomb threat to a school building or to any premises at which a school activity is occurring at the same time of the threat. The period of expulsion shall extend as necessary into the next school year.)
422	Arson or any other improper use of fire.
423	Possession and/or discharge of any explosive substance or incendiary device.
424	Possession, conveyance or use of a firearm. Firearms are identified in Section 921 of Title 18, United States Code. (As provided in Ohio Revised Code 3313.66 and 3313.661 violations of the Code of Conduct involving firearms are subject to expulsion from school for one year).
425	Convey, attempt to convey, possess or use any instrument, device or object which is designed to look like a firearm.

426	Sale/distribution of any instrument, device or object which is designed to look like a firearm.
427	Convey, attempt to convey, possess or use any instrument, device or object which is designed to look like any other type of weapon.
428	Sale/distribution of weapons, or any instrument, device or object which is designed to look like any type of weapon.

429	Sale/distribution of any instrument, device or object which is designed to look like any other type of weapon.
430	Possession and/or discharge of any explosive substance or incendiary device.
431	Commission by a student of any crime or infraction in violation of the Criminal Code, Traffic Code or Juvenile Code of the State of Ohio or, when applicable, of the State in which the crime or infraction was committed. This provision shall apply to any student while in the control or custody of the school district regardless of whether the act occurred on or off of school premises, or at a school-related activity regardless of location.
432	Any type of prohibited activity listed herein engaged in by a student on school premises, on a school bus, or while in the control or custody of the school district regardless of whether on or off of school premises, or at a school-related activity regardless of location, shall be reason for expulsion, suspension or removal from school.
433	Repeated 300 code infractions.
434	Repeated 400 code infractions.

**The administration reserves the right to skip levels of discipline depending on the number of infractions for each referral and the severity of the violation.**