

The South Country Central School District Board of Education 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, 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.

The Board of Education 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.

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

The code outlines both rights and responsibilities of students. All district students have the right to:

1. A safe, healthy, orderly and civil school environment.
2. Take part in all district activities on an equal basis regardless of age, race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or disability.
3. Be protected from intimidation, abuse, threats, harassment or 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.
4. Present their version of the relevant events to school personnel authorized to impose a disciplinary penalty as in connection with the imposition of the penalty.
5. Access school rules and, when necessary, receive an explanation of those rules from school personnel.
6. Address the Board of Education on the same terms as any citizen.

All district students have the responsibility to:

1. Contribute to maintaining a safe and orderly school environment that is conducive to learning.
2. Respect one another and treat others fairly in accordance with the District Code of Conduct and the provisions of the Dignity Act, regardless of actual or perceived race,

color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, or sexual orientation, gender, including gender expression and identity or actual or perceived sex. To conduct themselves in a manner that fosters an environment that is free from intimidation, harassment, bullying or discrimination. To report and encourage others to report any incidents of intimidation, harassment, bullying or discrimination.

3. Refrain from engaging in discrimination, bullying and/or harassment against any student or engaging any other conduct that would unreasonably and substantially

The following standards of dress, grooming and appearance, including hair style/color, jewelry, make-up and nails, will be observed in all South Country Central School District schools:

1. All dress grooming and appearance must be safe, appropriate and not disruptive and must not interfere with the educational process.
2. Recognize that extremely brief garments are inappropriate and unacceptable. This may include but is not limited to the following: Tank tops, backless tops, single shoulder tops, tube tops, net tops, halter tops, spaghetti straps, exposed midriffs, plunging necklines (front or back) skirt/skorts above mid-thigh length, shorts that are excessively tight, garments that are revealing or see-through, net/mesh garments and pajamas.
3. Underwear must be completely covered with outer clothing at all times.
4. Pants must be worn at the waist.
5. Shirts must be no longer than fingertip length.
6. If worn, belts or overalls straps must be buckled.
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The student's prior disciplinary record.
The effectiveness of other forms of discipline.
Information from parents, teachers and/or others, as appropriate.
Other extenuating circumstances.

As a general rule, discipline will be progressive. This means that a student's first violation will usually warrant a lighter penalty than subsequent violations. This also means that the severity of a penalty will vary depending on whether the student's behavior is minimally disruptive, moderately disruptive, substantially disruptive, or violent.

Please see the District "Progressive Discipline Policy" in its full content on the District's website.

When a student of any age is removed from class by a teacher 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 of instruction for the student.

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 law and regulations.

Restraining/removing a disruptive student, if that student has refused to comply with a request to refrain from further disruptive acts.

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

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.

Whenever practicable, searches will be conducted in the privacy of administrative offices and

"School Property" is defined as 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 Function" is defined as any school-sponsored extra-curricular event or activity,