

BARNSTEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT
Student Discipline: Out-of-School Actions

The Board recognizes that out-of-school and off-campus student conduct is not normally the concern of the Board. However, the Board also recognizes that some out-of-school and off-campus conduct may have an adverse effect upon the school, school property, or school staff.

Therefore, it shall be the policy of this Board that the Board or school administrators may impose disciplinary measures against students for some out-of-school or off-campus conduct.

Discipline may be imposed if, in Principal's opinion, such out-of-school conduct causes a significant disruption or substantial interference with the school's educational mission, purpose, or objectives. Additionally, any off-campus or out-of-school behavior that has a strong potential to disrupt normal school operations and may impact the safety and welfare of students and staff will be met with appropriate disciplinary actions by the Board or school administrators.

Out-of-school and off-campus student conduct that may subject a student to discipline includes, but is not limited to:

1. Damaging school property;
2. Violence at or near the school's bus stop, either before or after the school day;
3. Drinking alcohol, using tobacco products, or using illegal drugs at or near the school bus stop, either before or after the school day;
4. Damaging the private property of school staff or employees; or
5. Any other activity the Board or administration determines impedes the general welfare of scholastic activities as well as the safety of the student and staff population.

Cyber-Bullying and Internet Threats

The Board also recognizes that there are growing occurrences of "cyber-bullying" and threatening language being used by students on the internet when out-of-school and off-campus. Instances of cyber-bullying have a direct and substantial affect on students, staff and student performance. Cyber-bullying includes, but is not limited to, the following actions: harassing, teasing, intimidating, threatening, or terrorizing another person by sending or posting inappropriate and hurtful e-mail messages, instant messages, text messages, digital pictures or images, or Web site postings, including blogs.

The Board recognizes that this definition may not be all-inclusive. Therefore, the Board

reserves the right to impose discipline for actions that may fall outside this definition but are still within the general purposes of this policy.

Students or staff who believe they have been victims of cyber-bullying should report their concerns to a teacher or the building principal; and they are encouraged to print the relevant material and provide copies to a school district employee.

The administration shall fully investigate all reports of cyber-bullying.

The Board may impose disciplinary measures against person who is found to have engaged in such behavior, provided the cyber-bullying and/or internet threats:

1. Violate any school district rules or regulations;
2. Contains threats of violence against staff members or students;
3. Threatens vandalism to school property;
4. Suggests or advocates physical harm to staff members or students;
5. Creates a disruption to the school's educational mission, purpose and objectives; or
6. Interrupts or severely impedes the day to day operations of the school.

Any staff member who learns of an occurrence of cyber-bullying and/or internet threats shall report the same to the Principal, who shall then conduct an investigation into the alleged bullying and/or threat.

Any discipline imposed by virtue of this policy will be in accordance and consistent with the Board's policy regarding student discipline.

(First Reading: 05/26/09)

(Second Reading: 09/22/09)