

BARNSTEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT Student Discipline Grades K - 12

A school district maintains student discipline to assure each student of the opportunity to learn. The Barnstead School District expects students, faculty, administrators, and all other personnel to demonstrate honesty, dependability, self-control, cooperation, and courtesy.

A written discipline policy allows everyone to know what is expected, and promotes consistency of application.

In the Barnstead School District, discipline policy is divided into three broad areas that correspond to three student groups: kindergarten through grade three; grades four through eight; and grades nine through twelve.

In grades K through 3, discipline is initially regarded as a learning process. Inappropriate behavior will generally be viewed as a need for further instruction.

In grades 4 through 8, students will be expected to accept more responsibility for their actions, with instruction as needed.

Above the eighth grade, it will be assumed that students know what is acceptable and will be held accountable for their actions.

At all grade levels, the Barnstead School District will impose a high standard of appropriate behavior and maintain an orderly environment while governing fairly and objectively. Accountability and consequences will be appropriate to the grade level of the student. Immediate and decisive action will be taken if necessary to protect the safety of any person in the Barnstead School District.

Discipline may include suspension and expulsion under appropriate circumstances. Procedures for these measures are described below.

Grade 1 - 3 Discipline:

The Faculty and Staff members working with students in Grade 1 – Grade 3 will provide a positive and challenging instructional environment that is conducive to student learning, and promotes social and emotional growth.

A safe, orderly environment is necessary if maximum learning is to take place. In order for the School to provide the kind of atmosphere which nurtures academic growth and confidence in one's abilities, the students of the Barnstead School District are expected to conduct themselves appropriately when they are on school grounds. Students are expected to follow instructions, show respect for others and their property, and take responsibility for fulfilling their academic obligations. Individual teachers may have additional classroom rules which students will be expected to follow.

The goal of our discipline program is to teach students behavior by explaining and modeling what is expected, rewarding correct behavior, and administering consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Grades 4 - 8 Discipline:

The purpose of the discipline policy is to provide and maintain a positive learning environment which allows teachers to teach and students to learn.

The goals of this policy include: facilitating appropriate behavior; providing consistency in expectations and consequences; and, fostering respect for self, others, and property. We hope to assist in moving students in the direction of self-discipline by teaching them how to make better choices concerning their behavior; to use better judgment regarding their education and learning, and to accept responsibility for their reactions and choices.

Education includes developing a sense of responsibility for one's actions. We are committed to a proactive educational approach that assists students in building and developing acceptable behavior patterns and responsible decision making skills. Our commitment is demonstrated through our continued efforts to develop positive interpersonal relationships among all members of the School community.

Grades 9 - 12 Discipline:

Because the Barnstead School District does not maintain its own high school, the District provides the opportunity for its high school students to attend one of a number of receiving high schools. Barnstead students who attend high school at one of our receiving high schools are citizens of both the Barnstead School community and the School community of the District where they attend high school.

Because of this unique situation, Barnstead students in high school are considered to be under the jurisdiction of both the Barnstead School District as well as the District in which they attend high school.

These students are subject to the disciplinary policies set forth by both School Districts when they are on the School grounds of either District, on School busses provided by either District, and when in attendance at, or participating in, any activity sponsored by either School District.

A copy of this policy will be given to the parents/guardians of all Barnstead eighth grade students at the beginning of the high school application process.

Rights, Privileges, and Responsibilities of all Barnstead School District Students Grades K - 12

Citizenship in a community confers fundamental rights, privileges, and responsibilities upon each member. A student is a citizen of the School community.

In the Barnstead School District, students will:

- ◆ Treat all members of the School community, including other pupils and staff, with courtesy and dignity;
- ◆ Be treated with courtesy and dignity by all members of the School community;
- ◆ Be personally safe;
- ◆ Be able to expect that personal property will be secure while on school grounds and busses;
- ◆ Do their school work in clean and pleasant surroundings;
- ◆ Be entitled to freedom of expression and opinion as long as they do not cause disruption or disorder within the School;
- ◆ Be entitled to representation by a duly-elected student government;
- ◆ Be guaranteed consistent enforcement of rules and regulations;
- ◆ Be informed of all written rules and regulations of the School District;
- ◆ Be an example to their peers and community of appropriate actions and behavior;
- ◆ Ensure proper care of all personal and School-issued property; and,
- ◆ Help keep the School clean.

As citizens of the School community, students have the opportunity to express to School officials their concerns regarding policies, practices and procedures, through the appropriate channels established for this purpose. These channels include Student Government organizations, student advisors, anti-discrimination/harassment coordinators, counselors, teachers, paraprofessionals and administrators.

Disciplinary Procedures for Suspension and/or Expulsion:

- A. There shall be the following levels of discipline available to school officials enforcing RSA 193:13 relative to the suspension and expulsion of pupils;
1. A suspension for gross misconduct or for neglect or refusal to conform to the reasonable rules of the school under RSA 193:13, I may be considered a short-term suspension which shall be administered by a superintendent or designee for a period not to exceed 10 school days. In some circumstances, long-term suspension and/or expulsion may also be considered.
 2. A suspension for an act of theft, destruction, or violence as defined in RSA 193-D, or for possession of a pellet or BB gun or rifle under RSA 193:13, II shall be considered a long-term suspension and shall be administered by the school board or designee in order to continue the short-term suspension for a period in excess of 10 school days, provided the designee is not the person who suspended the pupil for 10 school days under (1) above, and that designee provides a due process hearing under (d) (2) below;

3. An expulsion by the local school board for a period determined in writing by the board under RSA 193:13,II; and
 4. An expulsion by the local school board for a period of not less than 12 months under RSA 193:13,III.
- B. This policy shall be included in the Barnstead School's Parent/Student Handbook, posted in the office, and made available as any written policy adopted by the Board.
- C. A pupil appealing a local decision to the state board may not be allowed to claim lack of knowledge of the state law requiring expulsion for bringing or possession a firearm or other dangerous weapon as defined in these rules.
- D. Due process in disciplinary proceedings shall include the following:
1. In a short-term suspension:
 - a. The superintendent or designee shall inform the pupil of the purpose of the meeting;
 - b. Oral or written notice of the charges and an explanation of the evidence against the pupil;
 - c. An opportunity for the pupil to present his/her side of the story;
 - d. A written statement to the pupil and at least one of the pupil's parents or guardian explaining any disciplinary action taken against the student;
 2. In a long-term suspension of a pupil:
 - a. Written communication to the pupil and at least one of the pupil's parents or guardian, delivered in person or by mail to the pupil's last known address, of the charges and an explanation of the evidence against the pupil;
 - b. The superintendent's written recommendation for student action to correct the discipline problem;
 - c. A hearing, following Paragraph (3)g below;
 - d. A written decision which includes the legal and factual basis for the conclusion that the pupil should be suspended;
 - e. If the hearing was conducted by the school board's designee, the decision may be appealed to the school board under RSA 193:13,I; and
 - f. If the hearing was conducted by the school board, the decision may be appealed to the state board;

3. In an expulsion by the local school board:
 - a. A formal hearing shall be held before any expulsion;
 - b. Such hearing may be held either before or after the short-term suspension has expired and pending the expulsion hearing;
 - c. If the hearing is held after the expiration of a short-term suspension, the pupil shall be entitled to return to school after the short-term suspension has expired and pending the expulsion hearing;
 - d. The school board shall provide written notice to the pupil and at least one of the pupil's parents or guardian, delivered in person or by mail to the pupil's last known address, of the date, time and place for a hearing before the local board;
 - e. The written notice required by d. above shall include:
 1. A written statement of the charges and nature of the evidence against the pupil; and
 2. A superintendent's written recommendation for school board action and a description of the process used by the superintendent to reach his/her recommendation.
 - f. This notice shall be delivered to the pupil and at least one of the pupil's parents or guardian, at least 5 days prior to the hearing;
 - g. The following hearing procedures shall apply:
 1. The pupil, together with a parent or guardian may waive the right to a hearing and admit to the charges made by the superintendent;
 2. If the pupil is 18 years of age or older, the concurrence of a parent or guardian shall be unnecessary unless the pupil is subject to a guardianship which would prevent the pupil from waiving the right to a hearing;
 3. Formal rules of evidence shall not be applicable, however, school officials shall present evidence in support of the charge(s) and the accused pupil or his/her guardian shall have an opportunity to present any defense or reply;
 4. The hearing shall be either public or private and the choice shall be that of the pupil or his/her parent or guardian; and
 5. During the hearing, the pupil, parent, guardian or counsel representing the pupil, shall have the right to examine any and all witnesses;

- h. The decision of the school board shall be based on a dispassionate and fair consideration of substantial evidence that the accused pupil committed the act for which expulsion is to be imposed and that such acts are, in fact, a proper reason for expulsion;
 - i. The decision shall state whether the student is expelled and the length of the expulsion. If the decision is to expel the pupil, the decision shall include the legal and factual basis for the decision;
 - j. A statement of the time period for which the student is expelled and any action the student may take to be restored by the board; and
- E. A decision shall include a statement that the pupil has the right to appeal the decision to the state board of education.
- F. All appeals to the state board allowed under RSA 193:13,II or III shall be filed within 20 calendar days of receipt of the written decision of the local school board and shall be in accordance with RSA 541-A and Ed 200.

(1st Reading: 03/16/99)
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