

Students

Discipline

The policy of the New Milford Board of Education is to maintain an orderly environment in which teaching and learning can take place, to encourage students to respect the need for authority reasonably exercised and accept responsibility for their own actions, and to help them develop self-discipline consistent with the needs and expectations of the educational system and the society at large.

Student Behavior

Appropriate behavior is expected from all students at all times. The Board realizes that appropriate behavior is not always automatic or easy. Often mistakes are made as students learn to be responsible for their own actions. Therefore, it is expected that each Principal and each teacher will have guidelines that will maintain discipline without inhibiting growth. The guidelines should be consistent with this policy while allowing for individual application reflecting the differences among administrators, teachers, students, grade levels, and circumstances.

Self Discipline

The ultimate goal of school discipline should be to help students develop self-discipline, a capacity for personal restraint in view of the needs and rights of themselves and others that will guide them throughout life. Students should learn the meaning and value of deferred rewards.

Preventive Discipline

The Board of Education believes that when certain conditions exist in a school many discipline problems will be prevented. These conditions, which each school should attempt to establish as part of a preventive discipline program, include:

1. A consistent application of reasonable rules and procedures beginning in the primary grades.
2. Adequate instruction at appropriate levels by competent teachers who are well-prepared in their subject matter areas.
3. Varied instructional and activity programs.
4. Sincere attempts to communicate with the home.
5. Genuine concern by the staff for individual student problems and growth.
6. Student involvement as appropriate in formulating rules and behavior standards.

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Preventive Discipline (continued)

Discipline should be a cooperative effort between home and school. It must begin at home and be reinforced in the schools. School discipline must be supported by parents. To secure maximum cooperation and support, the schools should inform parents about school discipline policies and about their child's behavior, and consult them promptly in the event of serious and/or persistent disciplinary problems.

Corrective Discipline

When student behavior disrupts the learning environment, infringes on the rights of others, or endangers the student or other individuals, the educational system cannot achieve its purpose. Teachers and administrators may employ appropriate disciplinary measures as needed to control and correct inappropriate behavior. The measures should be consistent with this policy and appropriate to the student's age and the nature and seriousness of the behavior.

The Board of Education does not consider mass punishment or corporal punishment acceptable disciplinary measures. The Board does recognize that it may occasionally be necessary for a staff member to restrain a student or to use force to break up physical conflicts.

When persistent disciplinary problems occur, every effort should be made to resolve them through conferences with the student and the parents with the assistance of administrators and student personnel services. Although it may sometimes be necessary to temporarily remove a student from regular classes to help resolve personal problems that are causing misbehavior, the objective should be to help the learner to function constructively and responsibly in the normal school environment.

(cf. 51141 - Suspension/Expulsion/Due Process)

(cf. 5131.21 - Violent and Aggressive Behavior)

(cf. 5131.6 - Drugs and Alcohol/Tobacco)

(cf. 5131.61 - Inhalant Abuse)

(cf. 5131.7 - Weapons and Dangerous Instruments)

(cf. 5131.8 - Out of School Misconduct)

(cf. 5131.92 - Corporal Punishment)

(cf. 5133 - Behavior of Participants in Athletic Events)

(cf. 5144.3 - Discipline of Students with Disabilities)

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Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

4-177 through 4-180. Contested Cases. Notice. Record.

10-233a through 10-233i Suspension, removal and expulsion of students.

21a-240(9) Definitions.

53a-3 Definitions.

18 U.S.C. 921. Definitions.

20 U.S.C. §1415

20 U.S.C. 8921

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NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
New Milford, Connecticut