

POLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE	CODE: JK Page: 1
SUBJECT: Student Discipline	
DATE OF ORIGINAL POLICY: DATE OF NEXT REVIEW: April 2007 CANCELS POLICY CODE: REVISION DATE: April 2004	
JURISDICTION: Poland Community School Bruce M. Whittier Middle School	

PHILOSOPHY:

Orderly and safe schools are essential in the educational process. It is the policy of the Poland School Committee that this is a basic need and the Poland School Committee supports this policy implementation to that end.

POLICY: STUDENT DISCIPLINE

It is essential for schools to maintain a safe and orderly environment which supports student learning and achievement. Good discipline allows the schools to discharge their primary responsibilities to educate students and promote good citizenship. All students are expected to conduct themselves with respect for others and in accordance with Poland School Committee policies, school rules, and applicable state and federal laws. Disciplinary action may be taken against students who violate policies, rules, or laws, and /or whose conduct directly interferes with the operations, discipline or general welfare of the school.

AMPLIFYING INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDELINES:

The Poland School Committee expects the following principles to guide the development and implementation of school rules and disciplinary procedures:

- A. Discipline should emphasize positive reinforcement for appropriate behavior, as well as appropriate consequences for misbehavior. The focus should be on providing a school environment where students are engaged in constructive learning and interactions with others.
- B. Expectations for student behavior should be clear and communicated to school staff, students, and parents.
- C. Consequences for misbehavior should be in proportion to the offense, fair and consistently enforced.

SUBJECT: Student Discipline

- D. Parents should be actively involved in the process of preventing and resolving disciplinary problems at school.

Physical force and corporal punishment shall not be used as disciplinary methods. State law provides that “a teacher or other person entrusted with the care or supervision of a person for special or limited purposes may not be held civilly liable for the use of a reasonable degree of force against the person who creates a disturbance if the teacher or other person reasonably believes it is necessary to a) control the disturbing behavior; or b) remove the person from the scene of the disturbance”.

Teachers are authorized to make and enforce rules for effective classroom management and to foster appropriate student behavior, subject to the direction and approval by the principal/designee.

School-wide rules shall be developed by the building principal with appropriate input from school staff, students and parents, and subject to approval by the Superintendent. Principals shall provide for the suspension or other serious disciplinary action against students in accordance with Poland School Committee policies, administrative procedures and Maine law.

To reduce disciplinary problems and the potential for violence in the schools, the Superintendent will be responsible for developing procedures for conflict resolution which may be accomplished through peer mediation, counseling, parent involvement, services of community agencies or other activities suitable to the school unit.

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY:

The Poland School Committee delegates authority to implement this policy to the Superintendent of Schools.

EXCEPTIONS TO THE POLICY:

None

REPORTS:

Discipline records shall be kept in each school by the building principal and his/her staff.

DEFINITIONS:

None

ATTACHMENTS:

None

