

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

POLICY: **STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE**

DATE ADOPTED: November 16, 2010

POLICY

It is the policy of the Colchester School District to maintain schools which provide a safe, orderly, civil and positive learning environment, each with a system of classroom and school management practices with underlying, clear and fair disciplinary procedures and consequences, that will ensure that it is free from harassment, bullying, hazing, and other rule-breaking and/or disruptive misconduct. Rules regarding student behavior should be clearly stated, understood and accepted by students and staff; communicated clearly to parents of enrolled students; and implemented in compliance with due process requirements.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Each student has the responsibility of contributing to a civil, safe and productive learning environment, showing respect and consideration for other students and adults. This responsibility includes obeying all school rules and complying with all school policies.

As members of the school community, parents of students are asked to share the students' and school staff's responsibilities for maintaining this learning environment, by reinforcing and modeling for their children the importance of respectful behavior toward others and of compliance with school rules.

ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Principal of each school in the District shall, in consultation with the educational staff, develop a "comprehensive plan for responding to student misbehavior" in compliance with 16 V.S.A. §1161a. The Comprehensive Plan shall, to the extent appropriate, promote positive development of youth, and shall address each of the seven elements outlined in §1161a (a).

Each school shall post its Comprehensive Plan on the District's website as well as in the school office, in a place that is visible to students, parents and the public and shall publish the Plan in the school's Student Handbook or other similar publication, and the Plan shall be distributed to all students enrolled at the school, and their parents. The Plan may be provided to parents in the Student Handbook or by other means at the discretion of the Principal, and the Principal.

At the beginning of each school year, the school shall review with all students in attendance those portions of the Plan that address the school's rules describing what constitutes misconduct; disciplinary consequences for misconduct; and the school's due process procedures for

Last Adopted:	May 3, 2005
Date Warned:	September 3, 2010
First Reading:	September 7, 2010
Second Reading:	October 5, 2010
Third Reading:	November 16, 2010

imposition of discipline, including short and long term suspensions and expulsion. In addition to other types of misconduct, this review shall include a review of what constitutes harassment, hazing and bullying, and the consequences for engaging in such misconduct.

Coordination of Policies, Plans and Procedures. No school's Plan shall conflict with this policy, and this policy and each school Plan shall be read in conjunction with and shall not conflict with, the following additional related District Policies: Weapons; Hazing; Prevention of Harassment; Bullying Prevention; Restrictive Behavioral Intervention; Corporal Punishment; Threats and Disruptions of School Operations; Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Abuse; Smoking in School Buildings and/or on Grounds; and Student Suspension and Expulsion.

Applicable State Statute and Rules. Suspension and expulsion of students shall be imposed in accordance with State statutory requirements (16 V.S.A. §§1162-1163), and in compliance with suspension and expulsion Rule 4311. In addition, Section 504 students shall receive the additional protections of Rule 4312, and special education students shall receive the additional protections of Rule 4313. Copies of these three Rules shall be available for review in each school office upon request, and copies thereof shall be provided to a student or parent of a student in attendance, upon request.

Effective Date. Individual District schools shall bring their Comprehensive Plans, school rules and other relevant school publications (if any) into compliance with this revised Policy no later than August 31, 2011. Within that time period, until such steps are completed by a school, the 2003 version of this policy shall continue to apply. (Federal and State law must be complied with at all times.)

Legal Reference: V.S.A. Title 16-§ 1161a -1163