

Grandfather Academy

Policy Adopted: 09/07/2012

STUDENT BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE POLICY

PURPOSE

All decisions related to student behavior are guided by Grandfather Academy's educational objectives to teach responsibility and respect for cultural and ideological differences and by the Grandfather Academy Board's commitment to create a safe, orderly and inviting school. Student behavior policies are provided in order to establish expected standards of student behavior; principles to be followed in managing student behavior; consequences for prohibited behavior and required procedures for addressing misbehavior.

PRINCIPLES

The reasons for managing student behavior are: to create an orderly environment where students can learn; to teach expected standards of behavior; to help students learn to accept the consequences of their behavior; and to provide students with the opportunity to develop self-control. The following principles apply in managing student behavior:

1. Student behavior management strategies should complement other efforts to create a safe, orderly and inviting environment.
2. Responsibility, integrity, civility and other standards of behavior should be integrated into the curriculum.
3. Disruptive behavior in the classroom will not be tolerated.
4. Consequences for unacceptable behavior should help a student learn to comply with rules, to be compliant at a minimum, and when able, to learn to accept responsibility and develop self-control.
5. Strategies and consequences will be age and developmentally appropriate.

APPLICABILITY

Students must follow all Grandfather Academy and school behavior policies in all of the following circumstances:

1. While in any school building or on any school premises before, during or after school hours;
2. When subject to the authority of school personnel; and
3. At any time or place when the student's behavior has a direct and immediate effect on maintaining order and discipline in the schools.

COMMUNICATION OF POLICIES

At the beginning of each school year, the principal is responsible for providing each student and his or her parent(s) or guardian with a copy of the student behavior policies and any other school rules and procedures. Students enrolling during the school year and their parent(s) or guardian(s) shall receive a copy of the information upon enrollment.

ENFORCEMENT

The principal, the lead academic coordinator, and the director of day treatment services are responsible for supervising the enforcement of student behavior policies to ensure that school disciplinary policies are uniformly and fairly applied throughout the school system.

PLAN FOR MANAGEMENT OF STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Grandfather Academy must have a plan for managing student behavior which incorporates effective strategies. All administrators and staff are encouraged to seek positive, innovative and constructive methods of correcting and managing student behavior in an effort to avoid repeated misbehavior and suspension.

COMPONENTS OF THE PLAN

The plan should address (1) the process by which student behavior will be addressed and the means by which students at risk of repeated disruptive or disorderly conduct are identified, assessed, and assisted; (2) positive behavioral interventions and possible consequences that will be used; and (3) parental/guardian involvement strategies when deemed necessary.

1. Possible Consequences

Consequences for Grandfather Academy policies or school standards or rules may include, but are not limited to the following:

- referrals to the principal, lead academic coordinator, or day treatment director
- parental/guardian involvement;
- behavior improvement agreements;
- individual or small group sessions with the day treatment staff or teachers
- detention after school;
- in-school suspension;
- out-of-school suspension or expulsion.

For Community Students:

The parent or guardian is responsible for transportation as may be required to carry out the consequence.

For All Students:

Removal from the classroom for a long period of time, including out-of-school suspension should be avoided unless necessary to ensure a safe, orderly environment that is conducive to learning.

The principal and lead academic coordinator is authorized to remove students in accordance with board policies for anti-social or criminal conduct or for other behavior that interferes with a safe, orderly environment.

2. Parental Involvement

Parents/Guardians will be notified or involved in issues related to their child's behavior through meetings with the lead academic coordinator or principal or through the day treatment staff at treatment team meetings.

PARENTAL/GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT IN STUDENT BEHAVIOR ISSUES

Grandfather Academy recognizes the need for parents and guardians to work with the schools in helping students learn and practice acceptable standards of behavior. Academy employees are to encourage parents to participate in discussions on effective strategies for correcting misbehavior and appropriate consequences for violations of school standards or rules.

Schools are expected, as a part of their student behavior management plan, to identify strategies that involve parents. At a minimum, the plan must provide for inviting parents (of community students) to conferences whenever there are repeated violations of school standards or rules or whenever there is a serious violation that may result in removing the student from his or her regular educational environment for any extended period of time. Parents/guardians also have the right to inspect or obtain copies of student records as requested.

If the principal or lead academic coordinator is considering imposing a short-term suspension or recommending long-term suspension or expulsion, the principal/lead academic coordinator is required to make the following efforts to notify and involve the parent: before or as soon as reasonably feasible after imposing any suspension, notify the parent of

- (1) the nature of the misbehavior,
- (2) the school standard or rule that was violated, and
- (3) the consequence that may be or has been imposed;
- (4) maintain documents and relevant information received about the misbehavior for review with the parent, taking into account the rights of other students or staff that may be involved;
- (5) make reasonable efforts to meet with the parent before or at the time the student returns to school after any suspension;
- (6) make available a copy of this policy and all other applicable policies, school standards and rules; and
- (7) advise the parent of the right to appeal the action of the principal/lead academic coordinator

All records of parental contact should be maintained in the student's records and will be retained at least through the school year.

DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR

An orderly environment is critical for teachers to be able to teach and students to be able to learn. Students are encouraged to participate in school efforts to create a safe, orderly and inviting environment. Students also are encouraged to exercise their constitutional rights to free speech as a part of a stimulating, inviting educational environment. A student's right to free speech will not be infringed upon; however, school officials may place reasonable, constitutional restrictions on time, place and manner in order to preserve a safe, orderly environment.

The principal, lead academic coordinator, teachers and staff have full authority as provided by law to establish and enforce standards and rules as are necessary to create orderly schools and classrooms.

PROHIBITED BEHAVIOR

Students are prohibited from disrupting teaching, the orderly conduct of school activities, or any other lawful function of Grandfather Academy. The following conduct is illustrative of disruptive behavior and is prohibited:

- Any intentional or unintentional verbal or physical acts which result or have the potential to result in harm to other students, teachers, or staff
- Failing to follow all rules and regulations set forth by the teachers and day treatment staff in the classrooms.
- Failing to observe established safety rules, standards and regulations of Grandfather Academy. This includes leaving the classroom or the building without permission therefore putting staff and the student themselves in harm's way.
- Skipping (Truancy) school all day or assigned classes during school day
- Cheating
- Use of insulting, disrespectful, abusive, profane, obscene words, signs, gestures, and other acts
- Fighting among students
- Theft, robbery, burglary, or damage to school or personal private property or possession of stolen property

CONSEQUENCES

Consequences for engaging in prohibited behavior will be the following. These can include but are not limited to:

- Referral to principal or lead academic coordinator
- Conference with parent/guardian
- Removal from the classroom
- Removal from Grandfather Academy (student is picked up by guardian)
- Short-term suspension (less than 10 days)
- Long-term suspension (more than 10 days)
- Law officials may be notified

CLASS III RULES

Class III rules refer to student behaviors which are disruptive to the educational process and may have the potential for physical injury to others. In cases in which these behaviors are violations of North Carolina General Statutes, involvement of law enforcement officers will be required.

North Carolina General Statute § 115C-288, requires certain acts to be immediately reported by the Principal or Lead Academic Coordinator to law enforcement. Those acts are: assault resulting in serious personal injury, sexual assault, sexual offense, rape, kidnapping, indecent liberties with a minor, assault involving the use of a weapon, possession of a firearm in violation of the law, possession of a weapon in violation of the law, or possession of a controlled substance in violation of the law. In addition to those that are specifically spelled out in North Carolina General Statutes all larcenies, extortion as well as extortion attempts, robbery (armed or common law), hate crimes, stalking, possession of any explosive or incendiary device or arson/attempted arson should be immediately reported to law enforcement officials.

DISCIPLINE SUSPENSIONS OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

When a student with disabilities violates the Code and warrants suspension from school for ten (10) school days or less in a given school year, the school may follow its normal disciplinary procedures. School personnel may consider any unique circumstances on a case-by-case basis when determining whether suspension is appropriate. Circumstances considered should include area of disability, functioning level of the student, intent of the behavior and other relevant factors.

After a student with a disability has been removed from his/her current placement for ten (10) school days in the same school year, during any subsequent days of removal, the school must provide services to the extent required by law. ISS and assignment does not count in the ten (10) day total as long as the student receives his/her special education and related services, as set forth in the child's individualized education plan ("IEP").

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Grandfather Academy is committed to discipline practices that encourage the development of self-control, personal responsibility and respect for the dignity of all individuals. The Academy is committed to maintaining effective discipline in order to establish positive learning environments within which students have the opportunity to receive an appropriate public education.

In order for effective discipline to be maintained in each school, the Academy acknowledges that cooperative relationships must be established among students, parents/guardians and school personnel. Each is expected to work positively toward this goal and to respect the individuality and the rights of all people. Parent(s)/guardian(s), students and school personnel are also expected to deal effectively with behavioral concerns.

School personnel shall make efforts to ensure early identification of students at risk for potential disciplinary problems. When it is recognized that a student is behaving in a manner which indicates potential disciplinary problems, school personnel shall make reasonable efforts to initiate preventive measures. Preventive interventions should attempt to identify and address the sources and cause of the potential discipline problems.

Possible preventive intervention procedures may include, but are not limited to:

- conferences with parents/guardians and school personnel;
- conferences with students;
- change of schedule or teacher;
- change of instructional methods;
- change of educational setting;
- use of daily or weekly progress reports
- visit by parents/guardians in the classroom;
- referral to appropriate support personnel (i.e., day treatment staff, exceptional children academic coordinator)

School personnel shall actively seek effective, positive methods and strategies to help each student learn behaviors that are conducive to effective learning and that respects the rights of others.

Acknowledgement/Disclaimer

This policy was developed to address the students of Grandfather Academy exclusively and their unique academic and behavioral needs. It combines policies from area school systems (Avery County Schools), North Carolina Department of Instruction regulations, North Carolina General Statutes, and general behavioral policies of Grandfather Home for Children. This policy can be changed or amended at any time in any way as deemed necessary by school officials.

Revised: 03/11/2016