

**MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT #53  
Burnham – Detroit – Pittsfield**

**STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

**Philosophy**

The MSAD #53 Board of School Directors recognizes the importance of providing a quality education for its students. The Board firmly believes that our schools should provide an environment that permits each individual student to develop fully within his or her capacity in order that he/she may become a responsible and contributing member of the community, state and country.

**Expectations and Standards**

Every student should be free of behavior that may interfere with his or her academic opportunities, co-curricular opportunities and social interactions. Each student should be free of fear of physical, emotional, or psychological harm while at school or during school activities. The Board considers this to be the mutual responsibility of parents, staff and students.

The school staff is to emphasize and set before children high standards of personal courtesy, morality, honesty, and wholesome relationships with others along with pride in one's work and achievement within the limits of an individual's ability.

**A. Academic Honesty:**

In a learning organization such as the MSAD #53 School District, the integrity of each student's work must be cherished and be representative of the effort of that individual. Cheating and the plagiarism will not be tolerated.

**B. Individual Conduct:**

In the MSAD #53 School District the "Golden Rule" guides expectations for behavior. We believe that individuals should treat others as they want to be treated themselves. Mutual respect among students and adults in the learning environment is the standard.

**C. Protection of Individual Rights:**

Individual behavior may not violate the rights of others. This expectation means that physical, emotional and sexual harassment and hate crimes due to intolerance of others because of age, race, color, sex, religion, disability, ancestry, national origin, handicapping conditions, or sexual orientation will not be tolerated.

**D. Protection of the Learning Environment:**

Disruptive behavior in the classroom, on school buses, or on any school property is unacceptable and will result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. Subject to the approval by the principal, teachers shall have the authority to make and enforce, with suitable penalty, all rules necessary, both in

and out of their classrooms, to insure productive and appropriate behavior of students.

E. Maintaining a Safe Environment:

Any behavior which threatens the safety of students and/or staff will not be condoned. Individuals participating in practices which endanger others will be subject to consequences including suspension and expulsion.

F. Responsible Group Behavior and Good Sportsmanship.

Groups and teams of individuals represent the District at various festivals, athletic events, competitions, field trips, and other gatherings. Students, either as participants or spectators, are ambassadors for our communities and must demonstrate the highest standards for responsible and ethical behavior. School rules are in effect when students are participating in a school activity, even when they are not on school property.

G. Empowerment:

The administrators are empowered by the Board to take necessary, consistent, and appropriate actions to insure a positive learning environment and a safe school setting. Disciplinary action may include detention, suspension, and/or the initiation of expulsion proceedings.

These rules and policies apply to any student who is on school property, who is in attendance at school or at any school-sponsored activity, or whose conduct at any time or place directly interferes with the operations, disciplines, or general welfare of the school. In addition, student rules of conduct on school buses fall under the parameters of this policy. Specific rules of conduct for each grade span (PK-4 and 5-8) and for bus conduct are included in the parent/student handbook distributed to all students annually.

Legal References:    MRSA 17A, Sections 1.9; 2.12, A  
                          MRSA 20A, Sections 3271; 3272  
                          MRSA 20A, Section 1001.9; 6552; 6553.2

Policy References:   8.6. Co-curriculum Programs  
                          9.8 Student Dress Code  
                          9.11 Detention of Students  
                          9.12 Suspension/Expulsion of students  
                          9.17 Health  
                          9.20 Compulsory Attendance/Truancy  
                          9.21 Hazing  
                          9.24 Homework  
                          10.1 General Transportation  
                          11.13 Weapons Free Schools  
                          11.14 Smoking on School Premises  
                          11.16 Parent Involvement in Education

Adopted: May 10, 1999

Amended: March 3, 2008