

## STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The Columbia Local Schools Board of Education has established the following categories of misconduct as those which may result in disciplinary action which are not limited to and may include: detention, Saturday School, parental contact, referral to legal authorities, emergency removal, disciplinary removal, suspension, expulsion, or permanent exclusion from the Columbia School District. Appropriate due process will be followed according to Ohio Revised Code 3313.66.

1. Academic Misconduct - A student shall not cheat or plagiarize.
2. Acceptable Use/Internet Safety - A student shall not violate any portion of Board Policy EDE, Acceptable Use Network/Internet Policy. This includes any action that may disrupt the educational process, be illegal or unsafe or not be related to the processes of education in the Columbia Local Schools.
3. Aggressive Behavior/Victimizing/Threatening/Bullying - A student shall not hurt another person either physically or psychologically. A student shall not threaten another person with physical violence, loss of property or coerce by any means.
4. Appearance and Dress - A student shall not be inappropriately dressed for school. Student dress shall not be disruptive to the educational process.
5. Arson/Unauthorized Fire - A student shall not set or attempt to set a fire or cause an explosion.
6. Assault - A student shall not attack any other person, or behave in such a manner that would cause, or threaten to cause, injury to any other person.
7. Bomb Threats, False Alarms - A student shall not cause a false alarm to be sounded, falsely communicate a bomb threat, or falsely contact 911.
8. Use of Pager, Cellular Phone or Similar Communication Device - A student shall not use, display, or handle any object that can be classified as a pager, cellular phone, or similar communication device without permission. A violation of this rule shall result in the confiscation of the device. Retrieval by the parent/guardian shall be arranged by the school principal. It will be the student's responsibility to notify the parent/guardian of any confiscation.
9. Continued and/or Repeated Violations of School Rules - A student shall not refuse to comply with school rules and reasonable directives of school personnel.
10. Disruption - A student shall not create a condition, indulge in any activity, or use any device that disrupts the educational process or is offensive to others. Likewise, a student shall not make any utterance, gesture, or act which offends the sensibilities or threatens the safety of others.

11. Disorderly Conduct - A student shall not, by use of violence, force, coercion, threat, harassment, or insubordination cause or threaten to cause the disruption or obstruction of any function or operation of the school or of the educational process.
12. Explosives - A student shall not possess, handle, construct, transmit, conceal, or use any firework, explosive device, or substance which can be used as an explosive.
13. Extortion - A student shall not force or attempt to force any person to give up anything of value by means of any expressed or implied threat, harassment, intimidation, or injury to person, property, or reputation.
14. Failure to Comply with Direction - A student shall not fail to accept discipline and/or comply with the direction of staff.
15. False Identification - A student shall not refuse to provide identification to school personnel. A student shall not give false identification.
16. False Reporting - A student shall not make a false report or false accusation which results in the mandatory reporting of an incident of physical, sexual, psychological, or any other form of child abuse pursuant to Section 2151.421 of the Ohio Revised Code, nor shall a student make a false accusation or a false statement that in any way defames or damages the reputation of a staff member.
17. Fighting - A student shall not fight, hit, punch, kick, push, physically confront, or in any way cause or attempt to cause physical injury to another person. A student shall not instigate or encourage fighting. If a student who is engaged in a fight, and, in the course of fighting, strikes, pushes, and/or physically restrains a staff member who is attempting to intervene, such actions may be regarded as a separate violation, specifically an assault and may result in a police report and appropriate disciplinary consequences. In such instances, the staff member retains the right to pursue legal remedies in the civil and criminal courts independent of the action(s) taken by the school district.
18. Firearms - A student shall not use, possess, exhibit, handle, transmit, or conceal any object classified or construed as a firearm, while on titled school property, in a vehicle parked on titled school property, or at any school-sponsored activity regardless of location.  
  
A firearm is any weapon, including a starter gun, which is designed to expel or may be readily converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive. This includes, but is not limited to: any firearm ammunition, muffler or silencer, any explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce and any other instrument or device similar to those already listed.
19. Forgery - A student shall not forge the name of another, falsify times, dates, grades, addresses, or other data the school may require whether orally or in writing.

20. Gambling - A student shall not engage in or promote games of chance or place bets when money or anything of value is at risk.
21. Gangs - Gangs are prohibited. A gang is defined as any non-school sponsored group possibly of secret and/or exclusive membership, whose purpose or practice includes the commission of illegal acts, violations of rules and regulations, establishment of territory or "turf", or any actions that threaten the safety or welfare of others. Gang activity such as initiation, recruitment, wearing of colors, fighting, assault, hazing, or establishing "turf" on titled school property, at school functions, or school-related activities will not be tolerated.
  - a. A student shall not participate in gang-related activities.
  - b. A student shall not appear with, or wear gang identification such as attire, colors, or clothing.
  - c. A student shall not designate boundaries or "turf" or belong to any group that has designated boundaries or "turf."
  - d. A student shall not participate in hazing, initiation, or recruiting activities.
  - e. A student shall not deface property with gang graffiti. A student who violates this action will not only be subject to the notification of his/her parent/guardian by school authorities, but also, when deemed appropriate, the student's prohibited gang activity will be reported to the local authorities.
22. Hazing - A student shall not cause or participate in any act of initiation that causes or creates a risk of causing physical, mental, or emotional harm to any person.
23. Horseplay - A student shall not exhibit noisy/unrestrained behavior which is inappropriate.
24. Interference or Intimidation of School Authorities - A student shall not interfere with the discharge of the official duties of district personnel by the use and/or threat of force or violence.
25. Intrusion/Unauthorized Area - A student shall not be on school grounds or in areas to which the student is not assigned before, during, or after school hours except with the permission of the principal/designee.
26. Malicious Harassment - A student shall not maliciously and intentionally intimidate or harass another person because of that person's race, color, ancestry, religion, national origin, gender, age, disability or personal characteristics.
27. Columbia Schools Policies and Ohio Laws - A student shall not violate any Board Policy or Ohio Law while in the custody and control of the school or a "school safety zone."
28. Profanity or Obscenity - A student shall not use profanity or obscene gestures. This includes the possession of materials that is considered to be obscene or pornographic.

29. Narcotics, Alcoholic Beverages, and Drugs - A student shall not possess, use, sell, distribute, transmit, or be under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or controlled substances. A student shall not possess, use, transmit, sell or conceal any instrument of drug abuse or related paraphernalia.
30. Other Dangerous Weapons and Instruments - A student shall not use, possess, exhibit, handle, transmit, or conceal any object classified or construed as a dangerous weapon or instrument while on titled school property, in a vehicle parked on titled school property, or at any school-sponsored activity regardless of location.
  1. A knife includes, but is not limited to, any cutting instrument consisting of a sharp blade or pointed object which may or may not be fastened to a handle and having a blade length of two and one half inches or longer.
  2. Other dangerous instruments include, but are not limited to, metal knuckles, razors of all descriptions, and propellants that may be used to or are intended to harm, threaten or harass students, staff, parents/guardians, or community members. This includes any object that may be used as a weapon to injure or intimidate.
31. Possession of Stolen Property - A student shall not knowingly receive, obtain, possess, conceal, or dispose of stolen property.
32. Robbery - A student shall not take another person's property by force or threat of force.
33. School Bus Violations - A student shall not interfere with or disrupt the operation of a school bus by activities which pose or tend to pose a danger to the safe operation of a school bus, including, but not limited to: failing to remain seated, throwing objects out the window or at a passenger or the driver, shouting, disorderly conduct which could cause physical harm, emotional stress or diversion of the driver's attention.
34. School Safety Zone Violation - Any misconduct that occurs off of district property but is connected to activities, events, or incidents that have occurred on district property. This includes misconduct that regardless of where it occurs is directed at a district official or employee of the property of a district official or employee.
35. Sexting - The talking, disseminating, transferring or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or otherwise (commonly called texting, emailing or sexting, etc.) may constitute a crime under State and/or Federal law. Any person taking, disseminating or sharing obscene, pornographic, lewd or otherwise illegal images or photographs may be punished under this code of conduct and will be reported to law enforcement and/or other appropriate state or federal agencies,
36. Sexual Activity - A student shall not engage in sexual activity on school premises or at school-related activities.

37. Sexual Assault - A student shall not sexually assault or threaten to sexually assault another person.
38. Sexual Harassment - A student shall not sexually harass another person with any materials, acts or words that are unwanted or unwelcome.
39. Theft - A student shall not take, or attempt to take, property which does not belong to the student.
40. Tobacco - A student shall not smoke, use, or possess any tobacco products on titled school property, within school buildings, or at any function or activity supervised or promoted by the school.
41. Trespassing - A student under suspension, expulsion, or emergency removal shall not enter upon any titled school property of the Board of Education without the express permission of the Principal. Such presence is considered trespassing and may be cause for arrest.
42. Truancy - A student shall not be truant, tardy or absent without an excuse. A student shall not cut class and/or school.
43. Vandalism - A student shall not damage, deface, or destroy property.
44. Violation of School Rules and Regulations - A student shall not refuse to comply with school rules and regulations.
45. Violation of School Discipline Procedures - A student shall not violate conditions of disciplinary procedures. Such violation will be considered a separate disciplinary violation and shall be subject to additional consequence.
46. Withholding Information - Students are not permitted to withhold information regarding an act or violation of school rules or regulations that could endanger students, school personnel, property, or the educational process. Reasonable knowledge of disruptive actions or dangerous situations must be reported immediately to school authorities to avoid disciplinary action.

Adopted: May 17, 2006  
Revised: March 17, 2010

Columbia Schools, Columbia Station, Ohio