



Book	Policy Manual
Section	Special Update Sept. 2023 REVISED
Title	STANDARDS OF ETHICAL CONDUCT
Code	*po0124 am 1-24, jdr 2-12-24
Status	
Adopted	June 13, 2017
Last Revised	February 23, 2021

0124 - **Standards of Ethical Conduct**

Members of the School Board recognize their individual duty to promote the best interests of the District. Public schools as a whole and each Board member shall adhere to the following educational and ethical standards.

Board members must have a sincere desire to serve the educational needs of the community. Decisions must be based on the best interests of students and not on political or personal interests.

Board members recognize their individual duty to promote the best interests of the District. In doing so, members of the Board shall be guided by the *Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession in Florida*, F.A.C. 6A-10.081, which outlines the following ethical principles:

- A. Board members value the worth and dignity of every person, the pursuit of truth, devotion to excellence, acquisition of knowledge, and the nurture of democratic citizenship. Essential to the achievement of these standards are the freedom to learn and to teach and the guarantee of equal opportunity for all.
- B. Board members share the primary professional concern for the student and for the development of the student's potential. Members of the Board will, therefore, strive for professional growth and will seek to exercise the best professional judgment and integrity.
- C. Board members strive to achieve and sustain the highest degree of ethical conduct because they are aware of the importance of maintaining the respect and confidence of their colleagues, of students, of parents, and of other members of the community.

Members of the Board shall strive to fulfill the following obligations:

- A. Obligation to the student requires that members of the Board do what is necessary and appropriate so that:
 - 1. students are protected from conditions harmful to learning and/or to the students' mental and/or physical health and/or safety is protected as well.
 - 2. students are not unreasonably restrained from independent action in pursuit of learning.
 - 3. students are not unreasonably denied access to diverse points of view.
 - 4. subject matter relevant to a student's academic program is not intentionally suppressed or distorted.
 - 5. students are not intentionally exposed to unnecessary embarrassment or disparagement.

6. students are not intentionally provided classroom instruction in prekindergarten through grade 8 on sexual orientation or gender identity, except when required by F.S. 1003.42(2)(n)3. and 1003.46.
7. students are not intentionally provided classroom instruction to students in grades 9 through 12 on sexual orientation or gender identity unless such instruction is required by State academic standards as adopted by F.A.C. 6A-1.09401, or is part of a reproductive health course or health lesson for which a student's parent has the option to have their student not attend.
8. student's legal rights are not intentionally violated.
9. parents are not discouraged or prohibited parental notification of and involvement in critical decisions affecting a student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being unless the individual reasonably believes that disclosure would result in abuse, abandonment, or neglect as defined in F.S. 39.01.
10. students are not harassed or discriminated against on the basis of race, color, nationality or ethnic origin, sex (including sexual orientation, transgender status, or gender identity), disability (including HIV, AIDS, or sickle cell trait), pregnancy, marital status, age (except as authorized by law), religion, political beliefs, social and family background, military status, ancestry, or genetic information and each student is protected from harassment or discrimination.
11. District staff members, administrators, or officials do not exploit a relationship with a student for personal gain or advantage.
12. personally identifiable information obtained in the course of professional service is kept in confidence unless disclosure serves professional purposes or is required by law.
13. the Board member shall not violate F.S. 553.865(9)(b), which relates to entering restrooms and changing facilities designated for the opposite sex on the premises of an educational institution.
14. the Board member shall not violate F.S. 1000.071, which relates to the use of personal titles and pronouns in educational institutions.

B. Obligation to the public requires that the members of the Board do what is necessary and appropriate so that:

1. District staff members, administrators, and officials distinguish between personal views and those of the District.
2. facts concerning an educational matter are not intentionally distorted or misrepresented in direct or indirect public expression.
3. institutional privileges are not used for personal gain or advantage. (see also Bylaw 0141.2, *Conflict of Interest*)
4. District staff members, administrators, and officials do not accept a gratuity, gift, or favor that might influence professional judgment. (see also Bylaw 0141.2, *Conflict of Interest*)
5. District staff members, administrators, and official do not offer a gratuity, gift, or favor to obtain special advantages. (see also Bylaw 0141.2, *Conflict of Interest*)

C. Obligation to the profession of education requires that members of the Board do what is necessary and appropriate so that:

1. all District staff members, administrators, and official maintain honesty in all professional dealings.
2. a District staff member, administrator, or official is not denied professional benefits or advantages or participation in any professional organization not on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex (including sexual orientation, transgender status, or gender identity), disability (including HIV, AIDS, or sickle cell trait), pregnancy, marital status, age (except as authorized by law), religion, political beliefs, social and family background, military status, ancestry, or genetic information.
3. District staff members, administrators, or officials do not interfere with a District staff member's, administrator's, or official's exercise of political or civil rights and responsibilities.

4. a District staff member, administrator, or official does not engage in harassment or discriminatory conduct which unreasonably interferes with an individual's performance of professional or work responsibilities or with the orderly processes of education or which creates a hostile, intimidating, abusive, offensive, or oppressive environment; and, further, so that each District staff member, administrator, or official is protected from such harassment or discrimination.
 5. a District staff member, administrator, or official does not make malicious or intentionally false statements about another District staff member, administrator, or official.
 6. a District staff member, administrator, or official does not use coercive means or promises of special treatment to influence professional judgments of a colleague.
 7. a District staff member, administrator, or official does not misrepresent one's own professional qualifications.
 8. District staff members, administrators, or officials do not submit fraudulent information on any document in connection with professional activities.
 9. District staff members, administrators, or officials do not make any fraudulent statement or fail to disclose a material fact in one's own or another's application for a professional position.
 10. District staff members, administrators, or officials do not withhold information regarding a position from an applicant or misrepresent an assignment or conditions of employment.
 11. a District staff member, administrator, or official does not assist with entry into or continuance in the profession of any person known to be unqualified in accordance with the *Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession in Florida*, other applicable Florida statutes, State Board of Education rules, and Board policies.
 12. a District staff member, administrator, or official self-reports within forty-eight (48) hours to appropriate authorities (as determined by the District) any arrests/charges. Such notice shall not be considered an admission of guilt nor shall such notice be admissible for any purpose in any proceeding, civil or criminal, administrative or judicial, investigatory or adjudicatory. In addition, Board members shall self-report any conviction, finding of guilt, withholding of adjudication, commitment to a pretrial diversion program, or entering of a plea of guilty or Nolo Contendere for any criminal offense other than a minor traffic violation within forty-eight (48) hours after the final judgment.
 13. a District staff member, administrator, or officials understand their duty to report to appropriate authorities any known allegation of a violation of the Florida School Code or State Board of Education rules as defined in F.S. 1012.795(1).
 14. a District staff member, administrator, or official does not seek reprisal against any individual who has reported any allegation of a violation of the Florida School Code or State Board of Education rules as defined in F.S. 1012.795(1).
- D. Members of the Board shall not have any interest, financial or otherwise, direct or indirect; engage in any business transaction or professional activity; or incur any obligation of any nature that is in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of his/her duties in the public interest. (see also Bylaw 0141.2, *Conflict of Interest*)
- E. Each Board member must recognize that decisions must be made by the Board as a whole and that when made, these decisions must be supported by the entire Board.
- F. All Board members shall adhere to the principles enumerated above.

Mandatory Training

Members of the Board shall complete four (4) hours of ethics training each calendar year that addresses, at a minimum, the constitutional "Sunshine Law" provisions (Article II, Section 8), the statutory *Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees* (F.S. Chapter 112, Part III), and the public records and public meetings laws. This requirement may be satisfied by completion of a continuing legal education class or other continuing professional education class, seminar, or presentation if the required subjects are covered.

Members of the Board are also required to complete training annually on the standards of ethical conduct established in this bylaw.

Gifts

Members of the Board may not solicit any gift or knowingly accept, directly or indirectly, a gift or an honorarium from a person, vendor, potential vendor or other entity doing business with the Board, from a political committee, or from a lobbyist (and related individuals and entities) who lobbies the reporting individual's agency (see F.S. 1001.421). "Vendor" is defined by F.S. 112.3148 relating to gifts and F.S. 112.3149 relating to honoraria to mean a business entity doing business directly with an agency, such as renting, leasing, or selling realty, goods, or services. The term "gift" has the same meaning as in F.S. 112.312(12). This prohibition applies as well to relatives, as defined in F.S. 112.312(21).

In addition to the foregoing, members of the Board shall not solicit or accept anything of value including a gift, loan, reward, promise of future employment, favor, or service, based upon any understanding that the vote, official action, or judgment of the Board member would be influenced thereby.

Board members are further required to follow all Florida laws applicable to the solicitation or acceptance of gifts, including F.S. 112.313 and 112.3148. Board members must review these laws upon taking office and are encouraged to do so periodically during the course of their term in office.

Responsibilities Related to Allegations of Misconduct

Pursuant to F.S. 1001.42(7), a Board member may not knowingly sign and transmit to any State official a report of alleged misconduct by instructional personnel or school administrators which affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student which the Board member knows to be false or incorrect, or knowingly fail to adopt policies that require instructional personnel and school administrators to report alleged misconduct by other instructional personnel or school administrators, or that require the investigation of all reports of alleged misconduct by instructional personnel and school administrators, if the misconduct affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student. Violation of this provision will result in the forfeit of the Board member's salary for one (1) year.

Appointment or Employment of Relative

Pursuant to F.S. 1012.23(2), Board members may not appoint or employ a relative, as defined in F.S. 112.3135, to work under their direct supervision. This limitation does not apply to employees appointed or employed before the election or appointment of the Board member.

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Revised 2/23/21

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Legal	F.S. 112.312
	F.S. 112.313
	F.S. 112.3142
	F.S. 112.3148
	F.S. 112.3149
	F.S. 1001.42(6)
	F.S. 1001.421
	F.S. 1012.23
	F.A.C. 6A-10.081

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1210 - **STANDARDS OF ETHICAL CONDUCT**

Definitions

For purposes of this policy, the term "administrator" means those individuals identified in F.S. 1012.01(3). Administrative personnel typically perform management activities such as developing broad policies for the District and executing those policies through the direction of personnel at all levels within the District. Administrative personnel are generally high-level, responsible personnel who have been assigned the responsibilities of systemwide or schoolwide functions, including the following:

- A. the superintendent;
- B. District-based instructional administrators;
- C. District-based noninstructional administrators;
- D. school administrators;
- E. others who perform management activities, such as assistant Directors, Supervisors, Coordinators, Managers, and those with supervisory responsibilities.

Standards of Ethical Conduct

I. Administrators shall be guided by and adhere to the following ethical principles:

- A. The administrator values the worth and dignity of every person, the pursuit of truth, devotion to excellence, acquisition of knowledge, and the nurture of democratic citizenship. Essential to the achievement of these standards are the freedom to learn and to teach and the guarantee of equal opportunity for all.
- B. The administrator's primary professional concern will always be for the student and for the development of the student's potential. The administrator will, therefore, strive for professional growth and will seek to exercise the best professional judgment and integrity.
- C. The administrator strives to achieve and sustain the highest degree of ethical conduct because s/he is aware of the importance of maintaining the respect and confidence of one's colleagues, of students, of parents, and of other members of the community.

II. Administrators shall comply with the following disciplinary principles. Violation of any of these principles shall subject the individual to revocation or suspension of the individual administrator's certificate, or the other penalties as

deemed appropriate with the District's discipline policy up to and including termination.

A. Obligation to the student requires the administrator shall:

1. make a reasonable effort to protect the student from conditions harmful to learning and/or to the student's mental and/or physical health and/or safety;
2. not unreasonably restrain a student from independent action in pursuit of learning;
3. not unreasonably deny a student access to diverse points of view;
4. not intentionally suppress or distort subject matter relevant to a student's academic program;
5. not intentionally expose a student to unnecessary embarrassment or disparagement;
6. not intentionally provide classroom instruction to students in ~~kindergarten~~prekindergarten through grade 38 on sexual orientation or gender identity, except when required by F.S. 1003.42(2)(n)3. and 1003.46;
7. not intentionally provide classroom instruction to students in grades 9 through 12 on sexual orientation or gender identity unless such instruction is required by State academic standards as adopted in F.A.C. 6A-1.09401, as is part of a reproductive health course or health lesson for which a student's parent has the option to have their student not attend;
8. not harass or discriminate against any student on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national or ethnic origin, political beliefs, marital status, handicapping condition, sexual orientation, or social and family background and shall make reasonable efforts to assure that each student is protected from harassment or discrimination;
9. not discourage or prohibit parental notification of and involvement in critical decisions affecting a student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being unless the individual reasonably believes that disclosure would result in abuse, abandonment, or neglect as defined in F.S. 39.01;
10. not exploit a relationship with a student for personal gain or advantage;
11. keep in confidence personally identifiable information obtained in the course of professional service, unless disclosure serves professional purposes or is required by law;
12. not violate F.S. 553.865(9)(b), which relates to entering restrooms and changing facilities designated for the opposite sex on the premises of an educational institution; and,
13. not violate F.S. 1000.071, which relates to the use of personal titles and pronouns in educational institutions.

B. Obligation to the public requires that the administrator shall:

1. take reasonable precautions to distinguish between personal views and those of any educational institution or organization with which the individual is affiliated;
2. not intentionally distort or misrepresent facts concerning an educational matter in direct or indirect public expression;
3. not use institutional privileges for personal gain or advantage; (see also Policy 1129, Conflict of Interest)
4. accept no gratuity, gift, or favor that might influence professional judgment; (see also Policy 1129, Conflict of Interest)

(NOTE: Pursuant to F.S. 112.313, no administrator shall solicit or accept anything of value including a gift (see F.S. 112.312), loan, reward, promise of future employment, favor, or service based upon an understanding that the vote, official action, or judgment of the

administrator would be influenced thereby.)

5. offer no gratuity, gift, or favor to obtain special advantages; (see also Policy 1129, Conflict of Interest)

C. Obligation to the profession of education requires that the administrator shall:

1. maintain honesty in all professional dealings;
2. not on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national or ethnic origin, political beliefs, marital status, handicapping condition if otherwise qualified, or social and family background deny to a colleague professional benefits or advantages or participation in any professional organization;
3. not interfere with a colleague's exercise of political or civil rights and responsibilities;
4. not engage in harassment or discriminatory conduct which unreasonably interferes with an individual's performance of professional or work responsibilities or with the orderly processes of education or which creates a hostile, intimidating, abusive, offensive, or oppressive environment; and, further, shall make reasonable efforts to assure that each individual is protected from such harassment or discrimination;
5. not make malicious or intentionally false statements about a colleague;
6. not use coercive means or promise special treatment to influence professional judgments of colleagues;
7. not misrepresent one's own professional qualifications;
8. not submit fraudulent information on any document in connection with professional activities;
9. not make any fraudulent statement or fail to disclose a material fact in one's own or another's application for a professional position;
10. not withhold information regarding a position from an applicant or misrepresent an assignment or conditions of employment;
11. provide upon the request of a certificated individual a written statement of the specific reason for recommendations that lead to the denial of increments, significant changes in employment, or termination of employment;
12. not assist entry into or continuance in the profession of any person known to be unqualified in accordance with these *Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession in Florida* and other applicable Florida statutes and State Board of Education rules;
13. self-report within forty-eight (48) hours to their supervisor who will alert the Professional Standards Office any arrests/charges;

Such notice shall not be considered an admission of guilt nor shall such notice be admissible for any purpose in any proceeding, civil or criminal, administrative or judicial, investigatory or adjudicatory.

In addition, administrators shall self-report any conviction, finding of guilt, withholding of adjudication, commitment to a pretrial diversion program, or entering of a plea of guilty or Nolo Contendere for any criminal offense other than a minor traffic violation within forty-eight (48) hours after the final judgment. When handling sealed and expunged records disclosed under this rule, school districts shall comply with the confidentiality provisions of F.S. 943.0585(4) (c) and F.S. 943.059(4)(c).

14. report to appropriate authorities any known allegation of a violation of the Florida School Code or State Board of Education rules as defined in F.S. 1012.795(1);
15. seek no reprisal against any individual who has reported any allegation of a violation of the Florida School Code or State Board of Education rules as defined in F.S. 1012.795(1);
16. comply with the conditions of an order of the Education Practices Commission imposing probation, imposing a fine, or restricting the authorized scope of practice; **and**

17. as the supervising administrator, cooperate with the Education Practices Commission in monitoring the probation of a subordinate.

D. No administrative staff member shall have any interest, financial or otherwise, direct or indirect; engage in any business transaction or professional activity; or incur any obligation of any nature that is in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of his/her duties in the public interest. (see also Policy 1129, Conflict of Interest)

E. No administrator shall solicit or accept anything of value including a gift (See F.S. 112.312), loan, reward, promise of future employment, favor, or service, based upon an understanding that the vote, official action, or judgment of the administrator would be influenced thereby.

F. All administrative staff members shall adhere to the ethical and disciplinary principles enumerated above.

Training

All administrators shall be required to complete training on the standards established herein upon employment and annually thereafter.

Responsibilities Related to Allegations of Misconduct

Pursuant to F.S. 1001.42(7), the superintendent may not knowingly sign and transmit to any State official a report of alleged misconduct by instructional personnel or school administrators which affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student which the superintendent knows to be false or incorrect, or knowingly fail to adopt policies that require instructional personnel and school administrators to report alleged misconduct by other instructional personnel and school administrators, or that require the investigation of all reports of alleged misconduct by instructional personnel and school administrators, if the misconduct affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student. Violation of these provisions will result in the forfeit of the superintendent's salary for one (1) year.

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Legal	F.S. 112.312
	F.S. 112.313
	F.S. 1001.42
	F.S. 1001.42(6)
	F.S. 1001.421
	F.S. 1006.32
	F.S. 1012.23
	F.A.C. 6A-10.081

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~~1217~~ **WEAPONS**

~~But for the exceptions specified below, pursuant to State law, the School Board prohibits District employees from openly carrying a handgun or carrying a concealed weapon or firearm, in a school safety zone, into any elementary or secondary school, administration building, as well as into any Board meeting, any setting that is under the control and supervision of the Board for the purpose of school activities approved and authorized by the Board including, but not limited to, property leased, owned, or contracted for by the Board, a school sponsored event, or in a Board owned vehicle.~~

~~Weapons and firearms as defined in F.S. 790.001 and include, but are not limited to, firearms, guns of any type, knives, razors, clubs, electric weapons, metallic knuckles, martial arts weapons, ammunition, and explosives.~~

~~For purposes of this policy, the term "weapon" also means any object which, in the manner in which it is used, is intended to be used, or is represented, is capable of inflicting serious bodily harm or property damage, as well as endangering the health and safety of persons.~~

~~Exceptions to the Board's prohibition from openly carrying a handgun or carrying a concealed weapon or firearm, in the school safety zone of any elementary or secondary school, into any administration building, as well as into any Board meeting, any setting that is under the control and supervision of the District for the purpose of school activities approved and authorized by the District including, but not limited to, property leased, owned, or contracted for by the District, any school sponsored event, or in a District vehicle include the following:~~

- ~~A. A person may carry an unloaded firearm in a case to a firearms program, class or function which has been approved in advance by the Principal or site administrator as a program or class to which firearms could be carried.~~
- ~~B. A person may carry an unloaded firearm in a case to a career center having a firearms training range.~~
- ~~C. Police or other licensed law enforcement officers, as well as other persons employed as School Guardians by the school or District on a case by case basis, may possess a firearm or weapon.~~
- ~~D. A person may have a firearm securely encased within the interior of a private motor vehicle if the firearm or weapon is carried for a lawful purpose and is not readily available for immediate use.~~
- ~~E. Staff members, contractors, vendors, or their employees may possess and use tools, instruments, and other devices on District property or at District sponsored events, including in vehicles in either situation, even though such items fall within the definition of weapons, provided that such possession and use is in accordance with the terms of a written contract with the Board, or is otherwise in furtherance of their duties under such a contract and is authorized in advance by the Superintendent.~~

All District employees shall immediately report knowledge of firearms, weapons, and/or threats of violence by students, staff members, or visitors to the Manager of Fire, Safety, and Security and/or local law enforcement. Failure to report such knowledge may subject administrators to discipline.

The Superintendent shall require that any District employee possessing a firearm, weapon, or other device designed to inflict serious bodily harm, including a concealed firearm or weapon, in violation of this policy and State law, is reported immediately to the appropriate law enforcement agency, regardless of whether such District employee possesses a valid concealed weapon license. As well, the staff member shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination, consistent with law, due process, and the terms of any negotiated agreement.

The Superintendent shall post notices at each entrance of a school and/or school building and in areas inside the building where visitors are required to report prohibiting an individual from openly carrying a handgun or carrying a concealed weapon or firearm in a school safety zone, including schools and school buildings, on school premises and school buses, and at school activities. Such notices shall also be posted at each entrance leading into a school activity (particularly those activities held outside of the school building) and school campuses. Further, notices shall be posted in each school bus and other Board owned vehicle, including a school van.

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Legal	F.S. 790.06
	F.S. 790.115
	F.S. 790.251
	F.S. 1001.43
	F.S. 1006.07
	F.S. 790.001
	18 U.S.C. 922

Last Modified by Brandon DeRespiris on February 22, 2024

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2423 - **SCHOOL-TO-WORK PROGRAM**

Federal School-to-Work Opportunities Act of 1994

The School Board strongly supports the School-to-Work Opportunities Act as a vehicle to help the District to prepare students more effectively for the world of work. Through this legislation, the District will be able to provide students with the following learning experiences needed to develop career-related knowledge, attitudes, and skills as well as life-long learning skills:

- A. School-based learning which includes career awareness, exploration, and counseling and the integration of academic and vocational learning.
- B. Work-based learning which provides students with a planned program of job training and/or various types of work experiences that are coordinated with school-based learning.
- C. Connecting activities which are designed to ensure that there is effective correlation and coordination between what students learn in school and what they learn at worksites.

The Superintendent is authorized to design and implement school-to-work activities and programs, both independently for this District and in cooperation with other districts, that create the three (3) types of learnings described above. In addition, s/he should take the steps necessary to implement Board Policy 9555 - Partnerships with Business and also ensure that the District is participating actively in alliances, consortia, and/or committees that are coordinating school-to-work initiatives in this area.

The Superintendent's procedures for the development and implementation of school-to-work activities/programs need to provide for the following concerns of the Board:

- A. Proposals are submitted to obtain planning and/or implementation funds from the State and other sources, when available and appropriate.
- B. Informed parental consent will be obtained for any out-of-district activities such as career-awareness trips, job shadowing, work experiences, and the like.
- C. Proper supervision is being provided to all students when they are participating in learning activities in off-school sites.
- D. All students are being provided with appropriate opportunities to participate in school-to-work activities when available.

- E. Emphasis is being placed throughout the program on the development/reinforcement of a high-quality work ethic by every student.
- F. Each learning activity/program will have defined objectives with a clear correlation to career preparation and a means for assessing how well each student is achieving the objectives.
- G. All activities/programs will comply with associated Board policies and District procedures as well as applicable Federal/State laws.

As appropriate to a particular program initiative, the Superintendent may request waivers from the State on certain statutory or regulatory provisions that are contained in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Act.

Unpaid students interning or getting workplace experience as part of an education program will be considered employees of the District for worker's compensation purposes.

The Superintendent shall keep the Board informed periodically on the progress of the District toward the goals of this important program.

Florida Work-Based Learning Opportunities

The Board shall provide that each student enrolled in grades 9 through 12 has access to at least one (1) work-based learning opportunity.

In accordance with Florida law, the term "work-based learning opportunity" means an interaction with industry or community professionals that occurs in a workplace setting, to the extent possible, or a simulated environment at an educational institution that allows firsthand experience with tasks required in a given career field, is aligned with curriculum and instruction, and is provided in partnership with an educational institution. A work-based learning opportunity must meet all of the following criteria:

- A. be developmentally appropriate.
- B. identify learning objectives for the term of experience.
- C. explore multiple aspects of an industry.
- D. develop workplace skills and competencies.
- E. assess performance.
- F. provide opportunities for work-based reflection.
- G. link to next steps in career planning and preparation in a student's chosen career pathway.
- H. be provided in an equal and fair manner.
- I. be documented and reported in compliance with state and federal labor laws.

A work-based learning opportunity should prioritize paid experiences, such as apprenticeships and preapprenticeship programs as those terms are defined in F.S. 446.021.

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Legal

[F.S. 446.54](#)

F.S. 446.021 (1)(2)

F.S. 446.0915

F.A.C. 6A-23.0042, Work-Based Learning Standards

The Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (as amended), 29 U.S.C. 201, et seq.

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3210 - **STANDARDS OF ETHICAL CONDUCT**

I. Instructional staff members shall be guided by and adhere to the following ethical principles:

- A. The instructional staff member values the worth and dignity of every person, the pursuit of truth, devotion to excellence, acquisition of knowledge, and the nurture of democratic citizenship. Essential to the achievement of these standards are the freedom to learn and to teach and the guarantee of equal opportunity for all.
- B. The instructional staff member's primary professional concern will always be for the student and for the development of the student's potential. The instructional staff member will, therefore, strive for professional growth and will seek to exercise the best professional judgment and integrity.
- C. The instructional staff member strives to achieve and sustain the highest degree of ethical conduct because s/he is aware of the importance of maintaining the respect and confidence of one's colleagues, of students, of parents, and of other members of the community.

II. District instructional staff members shall comply with the following disciplinary principles. Violation of any of these principles shall subject the individual to revocation or suspension of the individual instructional staff member's certificate, or the other penalties as deemed appropriate with the District discipline policy up to and including termination.

A. Obligation to the student requires that the instructional staff member shall:

1. make a reasonable effort to protect the student from conditions harmful to learning and/or to the student's mental and/or physical health and/or safety.
2. not unreasonably restrain a student from independent action in pursuit of learning.
3. not unreasonably deny a student access to diverse points of view.
4. not intentionally suppress or distort subject matter relevant to a student's academic program.
5. not intentionally expose a student to unnecessary embarrassment or disparagement.
6. not intentionally provide classroom instruction to students in ~~kindergarten~~prekindergarten through grade ~~38~~ on sexual orientation or gender identity, **except when required by F.S. 1003.42(2)(n)3. and 1003.46.**

7. not intentionally provide classroom instruction to students in grades 9 through 12 on sexual orientation or gender identity unless such instruction is required by state academic standards as adopted in F.A.C. 6A-1.09401, or is part of a reproductive health course or health lesson for which a student's parent has the option to have their student not attend.
 8. not discourage or prohibit parental notification of and involvement in critical decisions affecting a student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being unless the individual reasonably believes that disclosure would result in abuse, abandonment, or neglect as defined in F.S. 39.01.
 9. not intentionally violate or deny a student's legal rights.
 10. not discourage or prohibit parental notification of and involvement in critical decisions affecting a student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being unless the individual reasonably believes that disclosure would result in abuse, abandonment, or neglect as defined in F.S. 39.01.
 11. offer no gratuity, gift, or favor to obtain special advantages. (see also Policy 3129, Conflict of Interest)
 12. not violate F.S. 553.865(9)(b), which relates to entering restrooms and changing facilities designated for the opposite sex on the premises of an educational institution.
 13. not violate F.S. 1000.071, which relates to the use of personal titles and pronouns in educational institutions.
- B. Obligation to the profession of education requires that the instructional staff member shall:
1. maintain honesty in all professional dealings.
 2. not on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national or ethnic origin, political beliefs, marital status, handicapping condition if otherwise qualified, or social and family background deny to a colleague professional benefits or advantages or participation in any professional organization.
 3. not interfere with a colleague's exercise of political or civil rights and responsibilities.
 4. not engage in harassment or discriminatory conduct which unreasonably interferes with an individual's performance of professional or work responsibilities or with the orderly processes of education or which creates a hostile, intimidating, abusive, offensive, or oppressive environment; and, further, shall make reasonable efforts to assure that each individual is protected from such harassment or discrimination.
 5. not make malicious or intentionally false statements about a colleague.
 6. not use coercive means or promise special treatment to influence professional judgments of colleagues.
 7. not misrepresent one's own professional qualifications.
 8. not submit fraudulent information on any document in connection with professional activities.
 9. not make any fraudulent statement or fail to disclose a material fact in one's own or another's application for a professional position.
 10. not withhold information regarding a position from an applicant or misrepresent an assignment or conditions of employment.
 11. provide upon the request of a certificated individual a written statement of specific reason for recommendations that lead to the denial of increments, significant changes in employment, or termination of employment.
 12. not assist entry into or continuance in the profession of any person known to be unqualified in accordance with these *Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession in Florida* and other applicable Florida statutes and State Board of Education rules.
 13. self-report within forty-eight (48) hours to their supervisor who will alert the Professional Standards office any arrests/charges. Such notice shall not be considered an admission of guilt nor shall such

notice be admissible for any purpose in any proceeding, civil or criminal, administrative or judicial, investigatory or adjudicatory. In addition, instructional staff members shall self-report any conviction, finding of guilt, withholding of adjudication, commitment to a pretrial diversion program, or entering of a plea of guilty or Nolo Contendere for any criminal offense other than a minor traffic violation within forty-eight (48) hours after the final judgment. When handling sealed and expunged records disclosed under this rule, school districts shall comply with the confidentiality provisions of F.S. 943.0585(4) (c) and 943.059(4)(c).

14. report to appropriate authorities any known allegation of a violation of the Florida School Code or State Board of Education rules as defined in F.S. 1012.795(1).
 15. seek no reprisal against any individual who has reported any allegation of a violation of the Florida School Code or State Board of Education rules as defined in F.S. 1012.795(1).
 16. comply with the conditions of an order of the Education Practices Commission imposing probation, imposing a fine, or restricting the authorized scope of practice.
 17. as the supervising administrator, cooperate with the Education Practices Commission in monitoring the probation of a subordinate.
- C. No instructional staff member shall have any interest, financial or otherwise, direct or indirect; engage in any business transaction or professional activity; or incur any obligation of any nature that is in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of his/her/their duties in the public interest. (see also Policy 3129, Conflict of Interest)
- D. All instructional staff members shall adhere to the principles enumerated above.

All instructional staff members shall be required to complete training on the standards established herein upon employment and annually thereafter.

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Legal	F.S. 112.312
	F.S. 112.313
	F.S. 1001.42(6)
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	F.S. 1006.32
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~~3217~~ **WEAPONS**

~~But for the exceptions specified below, pursuant to State law, the School Board prohibits District employees from openly carrying a handgun or carrying a concealed weapon or firearm, in a school safety zone, into any elementary or secondary school, administration building, as well as into any Board meeting, any setting that is under the control and supervision of the Board for the purpose of school activities approved and authorized by the Board including, but not limited to, property leased, owned, or contracted for by the Board, a school sponsored event, or in a Board owned vehicle.~~

~~Weapons and firearms as defined in F.S. 790.001 and include, but are not limited to, firearms, guns of any type, knives, razors, clubs, electric weapons, metallic knuckles, martial arts weapons, ammunition, and explosives.~~

~~For purposes of this policy, the term "weapon" also means any object which, in the manner in which it is used, is intended to be used, or is represented, is capable of inflicting serious bodily harm or property damage, as well as endangering the health and safety of persons.~~

~~Exceptions to the Board's prohibition from openly carrying a handgun or carrying a concealed weapon or firearm, in the school safety zone of any elementary or secondary school, into any administration building, as well as into any Board meeting, any setting that is under the control and supervision of the District for the purpose of school activities approved and authorized by the District including, but not limited to, property leased, owned, or contracted for by the District, any school sponsored event, or in a District vehicle include the following:~~

- ~~A. A person may carry an unloaded firearm in a case to a firearms program, class or function which has been approved in advance by the Principal or site administrator as a program or class to which firearms could be carried.~~
- ~~B. A person may carry an unloaded firearm in a case to a career center having a firearms training range.~~
- ~~C. Police or other licensed law enforcement officers, as well as other persons approved by the school or District on a case by case basis, may possess a firearm or weapon.~~
- ~~D. A person may have a firearm securely encased within the interior of a private motor vehicle if the firearm or weapon is carried for a lawful purpose and is not readily available for immediate use.~~
- ~~E. Staff members, contractors, vendors, or their employees may possess and use tools, instruments, and other devices on District property or at District sponsored events, including in vehicles in either situation, even though such items fall within the definition of weapons, provided that such possession and use is in accordance with the terms of a written contract with the Board, or is otherwise in furtherance of their duties under such a contract and is authorized in advance by the Superintendent.~~

All District employees shall immediately report knowledge of firearms, weapons, and/or threats of violence by students, staff members, or visitors to the Principal, Director of Safe Schools, and/or local law enforcement. Failure to report such knowledge may subject District employees to discipline.

The Superintendent shall require that any District employee possessing a firearm, weapon, or other device designed to inflict serious bodily harm, including a concealed firearm or weapon, in violation of this policy and State law, is reported immediately to the appropriate law enforcement agency, regardless of whether such District employee possesses a valid concealed weapon license. As well, the staff member shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination, consistent with law, due process, and the terms of any negotiated agreement.

The Superintendent shall post notices at each entrance of a school and/or school building and in areas inside the building where visitors are required to report prohibiting an individual from openly carrying a handgun or carrying a concealed weapon or firearm in a school safety zone, including schools and school buildings, on school premises and school buses, and at school activities. Such notices shall also be posted at each entrance leading into a school activity (particularly those activities held outside of the school building) and school campuses. Further, notices shall be posted in each school bus and other Board owned vehicle, including a school van.

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	18 U.S.C. 922

Last Modified by Brandon DeRespiris on February 22, 2024

Book	Policy Manual
Section	Special Update Sept. 2023 REVISED
Title	STANDARDS OF ETHICAL CONDUCT
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Last Revised	December 11, 2019

4210 - **STANDARDS OF ETHICAL CONDUCT**

I. Support staff members shall be guided by and adhere to the following ethical principles:

- A. The support staff member values the worth and dignity of every person, the pursuit of truth, devotion to excellence, acquisition of knowledge, and the nurture of democratic citizenship. Essential to the achievement of these standards are the freedom to learn and to teach and the guarantee of equal opportunity for all.
- B. The support staff member's primary professional concern will always be for the student and for the development of the student's potential. The support staff member will, therefore, strive for professional growth and will seek to exercise the best professional judgment and integrity.
- C. The support staff member strives to achieve and sustain the highest degree of ethical conduct because s/he is aware of the importance of maintaining the respect and confidence of one's colleagues, of students, of parents, and of other members of the community.

II. All support staff members shall comply with the following disciplinary principles.

Individuals who violate any of these principles shall be subject to disciplinary action, as well as other penalties as may be provided by law.

A. Obligation to the student requires that the support staff member shall:

1. make a reasonable effort to protect the student from conditions harmful to learning and/or to the student's mental and/or physical health and/or safety;
2. not unreasonably restrain a student from independent action in pursuit of learning;
3. not unreasonably deny a student access to diverse points of view;
4. not intentionally suppress or distort subject matter relevant to a student's academic program;
5. not intentionally expose a student to unnecessary embarrassment or disparagement;
6. not intentionally provide classroom instruction to students in kindergarten through grade 38 on sexual orientation or gender identity, except when required by F.S. 1003.42(2)(n)3. and 1003.46;

7. not intentionally provide classroom instruction to students in grades 9 through 12 on sexual orientation or gender identity unless such instruction is required by state academic standards as adopted in F.A.C. Rule 6A-1.09401, or is part of a reproductive health course or health lesson for which a student's parent has the option to have their student not attend;
 8. not intentionally violate or deny a student's legal rights;
 9. not discourage or prohibit parental notification of and involvement in critical decisions affecting a student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being unless the individual reasonably believes that disclosure would result in abuse, abandonment, or neglect as defined in F.S. 39.01;
 10. not harass or discriminate against any student on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national or ethnic origin, political beliefs, marital status, handicapping condition, sexual orientation, or social and family background and shall make reasonable efforts to assure that each student is protected from harassment or discrimination;
 11. not exploit a relationship with a student for personal gain or advantage.
 12. keep in confidence personally identifiable information obtained in the course of professional service, unless disclosure serves professional purposes or is required by law;
 13. not violate F.S. 553.865(9)(b), which relates to entering restrooms and changing facilities designated for the opposite sex on the premises of an educational institution; and,
 14. not violate F.S. 1000.071, which relates to the use of personal titles and pronouns in educational institutions.
- B. Obligation to the public requires that the support staff member shall:

1. take reasonable precautions to distinguish between personal views and those of any educational institution or organization with which the individual is affiliated;
2. not intentionally distort or misrepresent facts concerning an educational matter in direct or indirect public expression;
3. not use institutional privileges for personal gain or advantage; (see also Policy 4129, Conflict of Interest)
4. not use coercive means or promise special treatment to influence professional judgments of colleagues;
5. not misrepresent one's own professional qualifications;
6. not submit fraudulent information on any document in connection with professional activities;
7. not make any fraudulent statement or fail to disclose a material fact in one's own or another's application for a position;
8. not withhold information regarding a position from an applicant or misrepresent an assignment or conditions of employment;
9. provide upon the request of a certificated individual a written statement of specific reason for recommendations that lead to the denial of increments, significant changes in employment, or termination of employment;
10. not assist entry into or continuance in the profession of any person known to be unqualified in accordance with these *Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession in Florida* and other applicable Florida statutes and State Board of Education rules;
11. self-report within forty-eight (48) hours to their supervisor who will inform the Professional Standards any arrests/charges. Such notice shall not be considered an admission of guilt nor shall such notice be admissible for any purpose in any proceeding, civil or criminal, administrative or judicial, investigatory or adjudicatory. In addition, support staff members shall self-report any conviction, finding of guilt, withholding of adjudication, commitment to a pretrial diversion program, or entering of a plea of guilty or Nolo Contendere for any criminal offense other than a minor traffic violation

within forty-eight (48) hours after the final judgment. When handling sealed and expunged records disclosed under this rule, school districts shall comply with the confidentiality provisions of F.S. 943.0585(4) (c) and 943.059(4)(c).

12. report to appropriate authorities any known allegation of a violation of the Florida School Code or State Board of Education rules as defined in F.S. 1012.795(1);

13. seek no reprisal against any individual who has reported any allegation of a violation of the Florida School Code or State Board of Education rules as defined in F.S. 1012.795(1)

C. No support staff member shall have any interest, financial or otherwise, direct or indirect; engage in any business transaction or professional activity; or incur any obligation of any nature that is in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of his/her duties in the public interest. (see also Policy 4129, Conflict of Interest)

D. All support staff members shall adhere to the principles enumerated above.

All support staff members shall be required to complete training on the standards established herein upon employment and annually thereafter.

Revised 2/5/19

Technical Change 12/11/19

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~~4217~~ **WEAPONS**

~~But for the exceptions specified below, pursuant to State law, the School Board prohibits District employees from openly carrying a handgun or carrying a concealed weapon or firearm, in a school safety zone, into any elementary or secondary school, administration building, as well as into any Board meeting, any setting that is under the control and supervision of the Board for the purpose of school activities approved and authorized by the Board including, but not limited to, property leased, owned, or contracted for by the Board, a school sponsored event, or in a Board owned vehicle.~~

~~Weapons and firearms as defined in F.S. 790.001 and include, but are not limited to, firearms, guns of any type, knives, razors, clubs, electric weapons, metallic knuckles, martial arts weapons, ammunition, and explosives.~~

~~For purposes of this policy, the term "weapon" also means any object which, in the manner in which it is used, is intended to be used, or is represented, is capable of inflicting serious bodily harm or property damage, as well as endangering the health and safety of persons.~~

~~Exceptions to the Board's prohibition from openly carrying a handgun or carrying concealed weapon or firearm, in the school safety zone of any elementary or secondary school, into any administration building, as well as into any Board meeting, any setting that is under the control and supervision of the District for the purpose of school activities approved and authorized by the District including, but not limited to, property leased, owned, or contracted for by the District, any school sponsored event, or in a District vehicle include the following:~~

- ~~A. A person may carry an unloaded firearm in a case to a firearms program, class or function which has been approved in advance by the Principal or site administrator as a program or class to which firearms could be carried.~~
- ~~B. A person may carry an unloaded firearm in a case to a career center having a firearms training range.~~
- ~~C. Police or other licensed law enforcement officers, as well as other persons employed as School Guardians by the school or District on a case by case basis may possess a firearm or weapon.~~
- ~~D. A person may have a firearm securely encased within the interior of a private motor vehicle if the firearm or weapon is carried for a lawful purpose and is not readily available for immediate use.~~
- ~~E. Staff members, contractors, vendors, or their employees may possess and use tools, instruments, and other devices on District property or at District sponsored events, including in vehicles in either situation, even though such items fall within the definition of weapons, provided that such possession and use is in accordance with the terms of a written contract with the Board, or is otherwise in furtherance of their duties under such a contract and is authorized in advance by the Superintendent.~~

All District employees shall immediately report knowledge of firearms, weapons, and/or threats of violence by students, staff members, or visitors to the principal, Director of Safe Schools and/or local law enforcement. Failure to report such knowledge may subject District employees to discipline.

The Superintendent shall require that any District employee possessing a firearm, weapon, or other device designed to inflict serious bodily harm, including a concealed firearm or weapon, in violation of this policy and State law, is reported immediately to the appropriate law enforcement agency, regardless of whether such District employee possesses a valid concealed weapon license. As well, the staff member shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination, consistent with law, due process, and the terms of any negotiated agreement.

The Superintendent shall post notices at each entrance of a school and/or school building and in areas inside the building where visitors are required to report prohibiting an individual from openly carrying a handgun or carrying a concealed weapon or firearm in a school safety zone, including schools and school buildings, on school premises and school buses, and at school activities. Such notices shall also be posted at each entrance leading into a school activity (particularly those activities held outside of the school building) and school campuses. Further, notices shall be posted in each school bus and other Board owned vehicle, including a school van.

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Legal	F.S. 790.001
	F.S. 790.06
	F.S. 790.115
	F.S. 790.251
	F.S. 1001.43
	F.S. 1006.07
	18 U.S.C. 922

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5772 - **WEAPONS**

Pursuant to State law, the School Board prohibits students from openly carrying a handgun or carrying a concealed weapon or **concealed** firearm, in a school safety zone, **into** any elementary or secondary school **facility**, **into** any administration building, as well as into any Board meeting, any setting that is under the control and supervision of the District for the purpose of school activities approved and authorized by the District including, but not limited to, property leased, owned, or contracted for by the District, a school-sponsored event, **a school bus, a school bus stop,** or in a District vehicle.

Definitions

For purposes of this policy, the following definitions shall apply:

- A. **"Administration building" is any Board-owned or leased facility where one (1) or more administrative employees are assigned.**
- B. **"School property" means the property of any preschool, elementary school, middle school, junior high school, secondary school, career center, or postsecondary school, whether public or nonpublic.**
- C. **"Weapons and firearms" as defined in F.S. 790.001 and include, but are not limited to, any weapon which will, is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, knives, metallic knuckles, or other deadly weapon. "Weapon" also means any object which, in the manner in which it is used, is intended to be used, or is represented, is capable of inflicting serious bodily harm or property damage, as well as endangering the health and safety of persons.**

~~Weapons and firearms as defined in F.S. 790.001 and include, but are not limited to, firearms, guns of any type, knives, razors, clubs, electric weapons, metallic knuckles, martial arts weapons, ammunition, and explosives.~~

~~For purposes of this policy, the term "weapon" also means any object which, in the manner in which it is used, is intended to be used, or is represented, is capable of inflicting serious bodily harm or property damage, as well as endangering the health and safety of persons.~~

This policy shall also encompass such actions as look-alike items, false fire alarms, bomb threats, or intentional calls to falsely report a dangerous condition.

The Superintendent is authorized to establish administrative procedures on weapons which require students to immediately report knowledge of weapons and threats of violence by students and staff to the building principal. Failure to report such knowledge may subject the student to immediate suspension and potential expulsion from school.

Exceptions

~~The only exceptions to the Board's prohibition prohibitions set forth hereinabove from openly carrying a handgun or carrying a concealed weapon or firearm in the school safety zone of any elementary or secondary school, into any administration building, as well as into any Board meeting, any setting that is under the control and supervision of the District for the purpose of school activities approved and authorized by the District including, but not limited to, property leased, owned, or contracted for by the District, any school sponsored event, or in a District vehicle include the following:~~

- A. A student may carry ~~an unloaded~~ firearm in a case to a firearms program, class, or function which has been approved in advance by the Principal or site administrator as a program or class to which firearms could be carried.
- A. A student eighteen (18) years of age or older may carry an unloaded firearm in a case to a career center having a firearms training range.
- B. Police or other licensed law enforcement officers, employees serving as School Guardians as well as students enrolled in the District's Junior ROTC Program while under the direct supervision of District staff members, may possess a firearm or weapon.
- C. Items pre-approved by the building principal as part of a class or individual presentation or a theatrical prop used under adult supervision, if used for the purpose and in the manner approved, would be an exception to this policy. (Working firearms and any ammunition will never be approved as part of a presentation.)
- D. **In a vehicle pursuant to F.S. 790.25(4).**

[NOTE: If the Board chooses to exercise its authority pursuant to F.S. 790.115 to waive this exception for purposes of student and campus parking privileges the following should be added at the end of this exception.]

() This exception does not apply for purposes of student and campus parking privileges.

[DRAFTING NOTE: Districts must be aware of the specific provisions of F.S. 790.25(4) related to legally possessing a firearm, handgun, or weapon in a vehicle. For ease of reference, F.S. 790.25(4) provides as follows:

(4) POSSESSION IN PRIVATE CONVEYANCE. --

(a) Notwithstanding s. 790.01, a person 18 years of age or older who is in lawful possession of a handgun or other weapon may possess such a handgun or weapon within the interior of a private conveyance if the handgun or weapon is securely encased or otherwise not readily accessible for immediate use. A person who possesses a handgun or other weapon as authorized under this paragraph may not carry the handgun or weapon on his or her person.

(b) This subsection does not prohibit a person from carrying a:

1. **Legal firearm other than a handgun anywhere in a private conveyance when such firearm is being carried for a lawful use; or**
2. **Concealed weapon or concealed firearm on his or her person while in a private conveyance if he or she is authorized to carry a concealed weapon or concealed firearm under s. 790.01(1).**

(c) This subsection shall be liberally construed in favor of the lawful use, ownership, and possession of firearms and other weapons, including lawful self-defense as provided in s. 776.012.

3.

E.

The Superintendent will refer any student who violates this policy to the student's parents or guardians and to the criminal justice or juvenile delinquency system. The student may also be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion.

The Superintendent shall post notices at each entrance of a school and/or school building and in areas inside the building where visitors are required to report ~~prohibiting an individual from~~ **regarding the prohibitions of** openly carrying a handgun or carrying a concealed weapon or **concealed** firearm ~~in a school safety zone, including schools and school buildings, on school premises and school buses, and at school activities~~. Such notices shall also be posted at each entrance leading into a school activity (particularly those activities held outside of the school building) and school campuses. Further, notices shall be posted in each school bus and other Board-owned vehicle, including a school van.

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7217 - **WEAPONS**

But for the exceptions specified below, pursuant to State law, the School Board prohibits visitors and District employees from openly carrying a handgun or carrying a concealed weapon or concealed firearm, in the school safety zone, or for any elementary or secondary school facility, into any administration building, as well as into any Board meeting, any setting that is under the control and supervision of the District for the purpose of school activities approved and authorized by the District including, but not limited to, property leased, owned, or contracted for by the District, any school-sponsored event, a school bus, a school bus stop, or in a District vehicle.

Definitions

For purposes of this policy, the following definitions shall apply:

- A. "Administration building" is any Board-owned or leased facility where one (1) or more administrative employees are assigned.
- B. "School property" means the property of any preschool, elementary school, middle school, junior high school, secondary school, career center, or postsecondary school, whether public or nonpublic.
- C. "Weapons and firearms" as defined in F.S. 790.001 and include, but are not limited to, any weapon which will, is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, knives, metallic knuckles, or other deadly weapon. "Weapon" also means any object which, in the manner in which it is used, is intended to be used, or is represented, is capable of inflicting serious bodily harm or property damage, as well as endangering the health and safety of persons.

~~The term "weapon" means any object which, in the manner in which it is used, is intended to be used, or is represented, is capable of inflicting serious bodily harm or property damage, as well as endangering the health and safety of persons. Weapons include, but are not limited to, firearms, guns of any type, including air and gas powered guns (whether loaded or unloaded), knives, razors, clubs, electric weapons, metallic knuckles, martial arts weapons, ammunition, and explosives. (F.S. 790.001)~~

~~The Superintendent shall refer a visitor who violates this policy to law enforcement officials and may take any necessary steps to exclude the visitor from District property and District sponsored events, regardless of whether such visitor possesses a valid concealed weapon license.~~

Exceptions

~~The only exceptions to the Board's prohibition from openly carrying a handgun or carrying a concealed weapon or firearm, in the school safety zone of any elementary or secondary school, into any administration building, as well as into any Board meeting, any setting that is under the control and supervision of the District for the purpose of school activities approved and authorized by the District including, but not limited to, property leased, owned, or contracted for by the District, any school sponsored event, or in a District vehicle~~prohibitions set forth hereinabove include the following:

- A. Police or other licensed law enforcement officers, as well as other persons employed as School Guardians by the school or District on a case-by-case basis, may possess a firearm or weapon.
- B. ~~A person may have an unloaded firearm securely encased within the interior of a private motor vehicle if the firearm or weapon is carried for a lawful purpose and is not readily available for immediate use.~~In a vehicle pursuant to F.S. 790.25(4).
- C. A person may carry an unloaded firearm in a case to a firearms program, class or function which has been approved in advance by the Principal or site administrator as a program or class to which firearms could be carried.
- D. A person may carry an unloaded firearm in a case to a career center having a firearms training range.
- E. Staff members, contractors, vendors, or their employees may possess and use tools, instruments, and other devices on District property or at District-sponsored events, including in vehicles in either situation, even though such items fall within the definition of weapons, provided that such possession and use is in accordance with the terms of a written contract with the Board, or is otherwise in furtherance of their duties under such a contract and is authorized in advance by the Superintendent.

All District employees shall immediately report knowledge of firearms, weapons, and/or threats of violence by students, staff members, or visitors to the Director of Safe Schools and Hernando County Sheriff's Office . Failure to report such knowledge may subject District employees to discipline.

The Superintendent shall require that any District employee possessing a firearm, weapon, or other device designed to inflict serious bodily harm, including a concealed firearm or weapon, in violation of this policy and State law, is reported immediately to the appropriate law enforcement agency, regardless of whether such District employee possesses a valid concealed weapon license. As well, the staff member shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination, consistent with law, due process, and the terms of any negotiated agreement.

The Superintendent shall refer a visitor who violates this policy to law enforcement officials and may take any necessary steps to exclude the visitor from District property and District-sponsored events, regardless of whether such visitor possesses a valid concealed weapon license.

Concealed Weapon or Firearm

A person may be in lawful possession of a concealed weapon or firearm on School Board property with certain exceptions; a concealed weapon or firearm may not be carried:

- A. into any District elementary or secondary school facility or career center;
- B. into an administration building as defined below;
- C. into an athletic event that is not related to firearms; or
- D. into a Board meeting.

~~Concealed Weapon or Firearm~~

~~A person may be in lawful possession of a concealed weapon or firearm on School Board property with certain exceptions; a concealed weapon or firearm may not be carried:~~

- ~~A. into any District elementary or secondary school facility or career center;~~
- ~~B. into an administration building as defined below;~~
- ~~C. into an athletic event that is not related to firearms; or~~
- ~~D. into a Board meeting.~~

~~For purposes of this policy the term "administration building" is any Board owned or leased facility where one or more administrative employees are assigned.~~

~~For the purposes of this policy, "school property" means the property of any preschool, elementary school, middle school, junior high school, secondary school, career center, or postsecondary school, whether public or nonpublic.~~

~~X-~~ The Superintendent shall post notices at each entrance of a school and/or school building and in areas inside the building where visitors are required to report ~~prohibiting an individual from~~ **regarding the prohibitions of** openly carrying a handgun or carrying a concealed weapon or **concealed** firearm ~~in a school safety zone, including schools and school buildings, on school premises and school buses, and at school activities~~. Such notices shall also be posted at each entrance leading into a school activity (particularly those activities held outside of the school building) and school campuses. Further, notices shall be posted in each school bus and other Board-owned vehicle, including a school van.

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Legal	F.S. 790.001
	F.S. 790.06
	F.S. 790.115
	F.S. 790.251
	F.S. 1001.43 (1)(a)
	F.S. 1006.07
	18 U.S.C. 922

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Book	Policy Manual
Section	Special Update Sept. 2023 REVISED
Title	STUDENT TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE AND SAFETY
Code	*po7540.03 am 1-24, JGA 2/16/2024
Status	
Adopted	June 13, 2017
Last Revised	December 12, 2023

7540.03 - **STUDENT ~~TECHNOLOGY~~ INTERNET SAFETY AND ACCEPTABLE USE ~~AND SAFETY~~**

Technology has fundamentally altered the ways in which information is accessed, communicated, and transferred in society. As a result, educators are continually adapting their means and methods of instruction, and the way they approach student learning to incorporate the vast, diverse, and unique resources available through the Internet. The School Board provides technology resources (as defined in Bylaw 0100) to support the educational and professional needs of its students and staff. With respect to students, District technology resources afford them the opportunity to acquire the skills and knowledge to learn effectively and live productively in a digital world. The Board provides students with access to the Internet for limited educational purposes only and utilizes online educational services/apps to enhance the instruction delivered to its students. The District's computer network and Internet system do not serve as a public access service or a public forum and the Board imposes reasonable restrictions on its use consistent with its limited educational purpose.

The Board regulates the use of District technology resources by principles consistent with applicable local, State, and Federal laws, the District's educational mission and articulated expectations of student conduct as delineated in the Code of Student Conduct. This policy and its related administrative procedures and the Code of Student Conduct govern students' use of District technology resources and students' personal communication devices when they are connected to the District computer network, Internet connection, and/or online educational services/apps or when used while the student is on Board-owned property or at a Board- sponsored activity (see Policy 5136).

Users are required to refrain from actions that are illegal (such as libel, slander, vandalism, harassment, theft, plagiarism, inappropriate access, and the like) or unkind (such as personal attacks, invasion of privacy, injurious comment, and the like). Because its technology resources are not unlimited, the Board has also instituted restrictions aimed at preserving these resources, such as placing limits on use of bandwidth, storage space, and printers.

Users have no right or expectation to privacy when using District technology resources (including, but not limited to, privacy in the content of their personal files, e-mails, and records of their online activity when using the District's computer network and/or Internet connection).

First, the Board may not be able to technologically limit access, through its technology resources, to only those services and resources that have been authorized for the purpose of instruction, study, and research related to the curriculum. Unlike in the past when educators and community members had the opportunity to review and screen materials to assess their appropriateness for supporting and enriching the curriculum according to adopted procedures and reasonable selection criteria (taking into account the varied instructional needs, learning styles, abilities, and developmental levels of the students who would be exposed to them), access to the Internet, because it serves as a gateway to any publicly available file server in the world, opens classrooms and students to electronic information resources that may not have been screened by educators for use by students of various ages.

Pursuant to Federal law, the Board has implemented technology protection measures that protect against (e.g., filter or block) access to visual displays/depictions/materials that are **not appropriate for students (taking into consideration the subject matter and the age of students served at each school)**, obscene, constitute child pornography, and/or are harmful to minors, as defined by the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). ~~At the discretion of the Board or the Superintendent, the technology protection measures may be configured to protect against access to other material considered inappropriate for students to access.~~ The Board also utilizes software and/or hardware to monitor online activity of students to restrict access to child pornography and other material that is obscene, objectionable, inappropriate, and/or harmful to minors. The technology protection measures may not be disabled at any time that students may be using District technology resources if such disabling will cease to protect against access to materials that are prohibited under the CIPA. Any student who attempts to disable the technology protection measures will be subject to discipline.

The Superintendent may temporarily or permanently unblock access to websites or online educational services/apps containing appropriate material, if access to such sites has been inappropriately blocked by the technology protection measures. The determination of whether material is appropriate or inappropriate shall be based on the content of the material and the intended use of the material, not on the protection actions of the technology protection measures.

Prior to requiring students to use online content, school personnel must confirm the content is not blocked by any student internet filter. The Principal at a school may submit a request to the District's Information Technology Department to have blocked content or social media platforms reviewed and unblocked for educational purposes.

Parents are advised that a determined user may be able to gain access to services and/or resources on the Internet that the Board has not authorized for educational purposes. In fact, it is impossible to guarantee students will not gain access through the Internet to information and communications that they and/or their parents may find inappropriate, offensive, objectionable, or controversial. Parents of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using the Internet.

The District shall provide an Internet Safety Program in accordance with State Board of Education Rule. Among other things, the Program:

- A. limits access by students to only age-appropriate subject matter and materials on the Internet;
- B. protects the safety and security of students when using e-mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications;
- C. prohibits access by students to data or information, including so-called "hacking," and other unlawful online activities by students; and
- D. prevents access to websites, web applications, or software that does not protect against the disclosure, use, or dissemination of students' personal information **in accordance with F.A.C. 6A-1.0955.**

In addition, pursuant to Federal law, students shall receive education about the following:

- A. safety and security while using e-mail, chat rooms, social media, and other forms of direct electronic communications;
- B. the dangers inherent with the online disclosure of personally identifiable information;
- C. the consequences of unauthorized access (e.g., "hacking", "harvesting", "digital piracy", "data mining", etc.), cyberbullying, and other unlawful or inappropriate activities by students online; and,
- D. unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personally identifiable information regarding minors.

Staff members shall provide instruction for their students regarding the appropriate use of technology and online safety and security as specified above. Furthermore, staff members will monitor the online activities of students while at school.

Monitoring may include, but is not necessarily limited to, visual observations of online activities during class sessions; or use of specific monitoring tools to review browser history and network, server, and computer logs.

Building principals are responsible for providing training so that Internet users under their supervision are knowledgeable about this policy and its accompanying procedures. The Board expects that staff members will provide guidance and instruction to students in the appropriate use of District technology resources. Such training shall include, but not be limited to, education concerning appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social media, including in chat rooms, and cyberbullying awareness and response. All users of District technology resources (and their parents if they are minors) are required to sign a written agreement to abide by the terms and conditions of this policy and its accompanying procedures.

Students are responsible for good behavior when using District technology resources - i.e., behavior comparable to that expected of students when they are in classrooms, school hallways, and other school premises and school-sponsored events. Communications on the Internet are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communication apply. The Board does not approve any use of its technology resources that is not authorized by or conducted strictly in compliance with this policy and its accompanying procedures.

Students will be assigned a school e-mail account that they are required to utilize for all school-related electronic communications, including those to staff members, peers, and individuals and/or organizations outside the District, with whom they are communicating for school-related projects and assignments. Further, as directed and authorized by their teachers, they shall use their school-assigned e-mail account when signing-up/registering for access to various online educational services, including mobile applications/apps that will be utilized by the student for educational purposes.

Students are prohibited from accessing social media platforms through the use of Internet access provided by the District unless expressly directed by a teacher solely for educational purposes. The use of the TikTok platform or any successor platform is prohibited on District-owned devices, through Internet access provided by the District, or as a platform to communicate or promote any District school, school-sponsored club, extracurricular organization, or athletic team.

Users who disregard this policy and its accompanying procedures may have their use privileges suspended or revoked, and disciplinary action taken against them. Users are personally responsible and liable, both civilly and criminally, for uses of District technology resources that are not authorized by this policy and its accompanying procedures.

The Board designates the Superintendent as the administrators responsible for initiating, implementing, and enforcing this policy and its accompanying procedures as they apply to students' use of District technology resources.

Annual Approval of Policy

By September 1st of each year, the Board shall review and, if necessary, approve any changes to this policy.

Revised 12/12/23

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Legal	F.A.C. 6A-1.0955
	F.S. 1001.43
	F.S. 1001.51
	F.S. 1003.02
	P.L. 106-554, Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000
	47 U.S.C. 254(h),(1), Communications Act of 1934, as amended (2003)
	20 U.S.C. 6801 et seq., Part F, Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (2003)
	20 U.S.C. 6777 (2003)
	20 U.S.C. 9134 (2003)
	18 U.S.C. 2256
	18 U.S.C. 1460
	18 U.S.C. 2246
	47 C.F.R. 54.500
	47 C.F.R. 54.501
	47 C.F.R. 54.502
	47 C.F.R. 54.503
	47 C.F.R. 54.504

47 C.F.R. 54.505

47 C.F.R. 54.506

47 C.F.R. 54.507

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