

## **STUDENTS - Series 500**

### **500 Statement of Guiding Principles for Students**

#### **Student Rights and Responsibilities**

Each student has the opportunity and the right to use school as a means for self-improvement and individual growth. In so doing, he or she is expected to conduct his or her affairs in such a way as to assure other students the same opportunities without serving to restrict or otherwise inhibit their individual and collective rights.

Of equal importance is the right of school authorities to prescribe and control - consistent with fundamental and constitutional safeguards - student conduct in the schools.

In exercising this right, each building principal, working with his staff and with the students, will attempt to achieve the objectives and follow the procedures set forth by board policies and administrative regulations pertaining to the various aspects of student rights, student conduct and student discipline.

#### **Objectives to be Achieved**

The primary objective is the proper recognition and preservation of a student's constitutional rights and allowance for such rights;

- **Freedom of Expression** - Student expression, other than student expression in student produced official school publications, made on the school district premises or as part of a school-sponsored activity may be attributed to the school district; therefore student expression must be responsible. Student expression must be appropriate to assure that the students learn and meet the goals of the school activity and that the potential audience is not exposed to material that may be inappropriate for their level of maturity.

Students will be allowed to express their viewpoints and opinions as long as the expression is responsibly done. The expression shall not, in the judgment of the administration, encourage the breaking of laws, cause defamation of persons, or contain obscenity or indecency. The administration, when making this judgment, shall consider whether the activity in which the expression was made is school-sponsored and whether review or the prohibition of the student speech is related to an educational purpose.

Further, the expression must be done in a reasonable time, place and manner that is not disruptive to the orderly and efficient operation of the school district.

Students who violate this policy may be subject to disciplinary measures. School district personnel shall be responsible for insuring students' expression is in keeping with this policy. It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy.

- **Personal Appearance** - Restrictions on a student's hair style or his manner of dress will be determined where there is a "clear and present danger to the student's health and safety, causes interference with work, or creates classroom or school, disorder as a result of such hair style or manner of dress. Participation in voluntary activities may necessitate specific requirements for approved grooming and dress due to the nature of the activity.
- **Student Dress** - Students of the district are to adhere to reasonable standards of dress and appearance. At no time will students be allowed to dress in such a manner that their appearance detracts from the orderly learning atmosphere of the school. All aspects of health and safety will be considered in determining acceptable dress.

Students will not be allowed to wear clothing with obscene words, pictures or messages on it or which promotes discrimination on the basis of race, national origin, creed, color, sex, religion, gender identity, age or disability.

Clothing which advertises or promotes use or abuse of alcohol and drugs is prohibited.

The principal of each building is responsible for determining the acceptability of wearing apparel in individual situations.

- **The Right to Petition** - Students are allowed to present petitions to the administration at any time. Collecting of signatures on petitions is limited to before and after school hours. No student will be subjected to disciplinary measures of any nature for signing a petition addressed to the administration - assuming that the petition is free of obscenities, libelous statements, personal attack, and advocacy of disruption which poses a probable threat of disruption to the regular school program and is within the bounds of reasonable conduct.
- **Student Due Process Rights** - Students are to have clearly established means by which "administrative due process" is available to see that the Board Policy 500 individual's rights are protected. Students are to be involved, singly and

collectively, as citizens of the school with the attendant rights of such citizenship and corresponding responsibilities for the proper conduct of their own affairs and those of other students.

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Legal Reference: Constitution of Iowa, Art. I, Sec. 9

Cross References: 502 Behavior and Discipline (and sub codes)  
502.10 Search and Seizure  
505.5 Interviews with Students

