Orange School District Code of Student Conduct

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Vision

"The Orange Public School District commits to provide a safe and caring environment where each student is expected to grow and succeed. We pledge to prepare all students with equitable opportunities for college and career readiness, leading to lifelong learning and responsible citizenship in a competitive global community."

Orange Public Schools Mission Statement

- The Orange Public School District in collaboration with all stakeholders is responsible for promoting the academic, social, emotional and personal success of all students.
- With a commitment to academic excellence, the District provides teachers, families, and administrators the tools needed for all students to reach their full potential.
- The District serves all students in our school, acknowledging their unique backgrounds, cultural perspectives and learning styles.
- The District recognizes that curiosity, discipline, integrity, responsibility and respect are necessary for success.
 - The Orange School District cultivates a community of 21st century learners where students take ownership of the learning process, achieve high standards of excellence, and focus on academics.

No Alibis, No Exceptions, No Excuses!

TABLE OF CONTENT

Introduction	5
SECTION I – Student Rights	6
SECTION II – Responsibilities	7
Administrator	7
Staff	8
Parent	9
Student	10
SECTION III – Intervention & Referral Services	11
SECTION IV – Character Ed. Program	12
SECTION V – Discipline Procedures	13
SECTION VI – Attendance	15
SECTION VII - Memorandum of Agreement/ Due Process	18
SECTION VIII – Discipline Infractions with Consequences	19
SECTION VIII – Parent and Student Agreement Form	23

Introduction

The Orange School District is committed to providing every student with the opportunity to attend school in a safe environment that promotes learning for all children. The goal of the Code of Student Conduct is to provide clear and concise parameters for student conduct and discipline. The purpose is to establish an atmosphere for discipline which creates support for positive personal growth and achievement.

All students, staff, and parents of the district must fully understand the expectations for student behavior while in attendance in our schools, attending school-sponsored activities, or utilizing bus services provided by the district. We expect students to behave responsibly, to respect the properties of others, and to work cooperatively with all members of the school community. Thus, when a student commits an offense, they must be corrected to ensure that all students obtain maximum benefit from our educational offerings. The Orange School District has developed strategies that are fair and consistent, designed to correct undesired behavior while ensuring the rights of all.

School Administrators are to ensure that the Code of Student Conduct is distributed to each student and family at the beginning of the school year and to any and all incoming students and families throughout the year. The Student Code of Conduct must be reviewed by principals/administrators' during the month of September.

The Code of Student Conduct and expectations for student behavior should be reviewed with parents. All parents are encouraged to reinforce the Student Code of Conduct with their children.

The administration must take responsibility to create and maintain a safe school environment in collaboration with staff, student, parents, and the school community. All schools must have established practices and routines that teach and reinforce appropriate student behavior in school and classrooms. The Code of Student Conduct represents a proactive approach to establish a school environment that is safe and encourages student self-discipline, to minimize the use of exclusionary interventions for students who violate the Discipline Policy.

SECTION I - STUDENT RIGHTS

All students within the Orange School District have the following rights:

- Students have the right to receive an education which allows for maximum personal growth and prepares them to be productive members of our society.
- Students have the right to participate in all aspects of school–regardless of race, gender, color, creed, national origin, sexual orientation, or a handicapping condition.
- Students have the right to present information and written statement that has a bearing on disciplinary action in accordance with the procedures and timelines established for each specific infraction.
- Students have the right to due process in suspensions and expulsions.
- Students have the right to confidentiality regarding their student records as per federal and state laws.
- Students have the constitutional right to express themselves unless such expression interferes with the educational process, threatens immediate harm to the welfare of the school or community, encourages unlawful activity, or interferes with another individual's rights.
- Students have the right to a positive learning environment in which all members adhere to school rules. Students have the responsibility to respect all staff and comply with the Code of Student Conduct.
- Students have the right to participate in extra-curricular activities. Students have the responsibility to complete all assigned work, remain in good academic standing, and attend school prepared to learn.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES:

- To maintain a safe, secure, and orderly school environment.
- To explain the Code of Student Conduct and procedures to all staff so that they can help students understand and accept the rules. The principal or vice principal should discuss the Code of Student Conduct and procedures at a school assembly with the entire student body present.
- To monitor the return of the forms to be signed by parents stating that they have received and read the Code of Student Conduct and procedures.
- Ensure that parents and students are afforded the appropriate rights of due process prior to suspensions or expulsions.
- To ensure that all system-wide regulations, laws, and school rules regarding discipline, drugs, and alcohol are applied consistently.
- To submit accurate reports of school violence and vandalism/harassment intimidation and bullying incidents to the appropriate authorities.
- To give support to staff members including modeling successful and effective strategies at staff meetings.
- To establish and monitor procedures that ensure:
 - o immediate action for referred and documented violations of discipline regulations;
 - informing the involved staff member, in writing, of actions taken on referred violations; and
 - maintaining a file of all discipline actions and referrals on each student.
- To take immediate action for any student in need of assessment, intervention, re-entry assistance or disciplinary action necessary for violations of alcohol and drug regulations.
- To inform the parent/guardian and student when disciplinary action is needed.
- To give support to faculty in making referrals and to advise them of appropriate methods of referral.
- To communicate the expectation that all staff are responsible for responding to problems in a constructive and effective manner with administrative support.

STAFF:

Each member of the Orange Public School District must consistently communicate clearly the Code of Student Conduct and all school rules and regulations. In efforts to enforce district and school rules and regulations, all staff members must respect the rights of students and parents.

All staff members must:

- Be equal partners to achieve successful learning.
- Treat each student with respect.
- Assist in fostering a positive and safe school environment.
- Respond to parents' communication in a timely and appropriate manner.
- Review school and classroom rules and regulations on a daily basis.
- De-escalate inappropriate behavior through management strategies.
- Teach students to solve problems in a nonviolent, positive manner through modeling, role playing and practice.
- Develop and implement procedures and routines to ensure school and classroom environments are conducive to learning.
- Maintain professional composure when disciplining students and avoid verbal or physical confrontation.
- Dress in professional and appropriate attire for school environment.

PARENT:

The Orange School District desires to develop and maintain a partnership with parents to ensure all students achieve academic and social growth.

Every parent should:

- Ensure attendance and punctuality of their children.
- Send their children to school prepared and ready to learn.
- Provide adequate time for students to study and to complete homework on a daily basis.
- Encourage positive attitudes toward learning.
- Review the Code of Student Conduct and discuss its contents with their children.
- Ensure your child is adhering to school and district rules and policies.
- Ensure respect for school personnel and other students.
- Attend conferences related to their child's academic or behavioral performance.
- Familiarize themselves with the services available to students through the school, its partners and community agencies that work in collaboration with the schools.
- Encourage involvement in extracurricular activities.
- Send their children to school in the proper dress code.

STUDENT:

All students have the following responsibilities regarding their education:

- Attend school and classes daily and on time.
- Come to school with a positive attitude and develop self-respect and discipline.
- Come prepared and ready for daily work and complete all class and homework assignments.
- Help maintain a safe and healthy climate conducive to learning.
- Respect the rights of teachers, students, administrators, and all staff who are involved in the educational and operational process.
- Understand and comply with all rules and regulations to ensure positive student behavior.
- Ask teachers, parents, and peers for help when needed.
- Adhere to the district's dress code.
- Make up work when absent from school.
- Accept responsibility for learning, effort, and behavior.
- Refrain from language likely to offend others based on their race, ethnicity, gender, or membership in a legally-protected group.

Section III - Intervention & Referral Services Committee (I&RS)

As mandated by state code (N.J.A.C. 6A:16-8), each school must establish and implement a coordinated system in which general education students are served, for the planning and delivery of intervention and referral services that are designed to assist students who are experiencing learning, behavior or health difficulties and to assist staff who have difficulties in addressing students' learning, behavior or health needs.

The Orange Public School District has selected a collaborative model for the operation of the school-based I&RS Team. The intervention and referral services shall be provided to aid students in the general education program by identifying the specific student problem and through collaboration develop and implement an action plan to address the student's specific needs.

The types of at-risk behavior students manifest while in school include: lack concentrating or focusing on learning, incomplete assignments, low achievement to demonstrated skill level or tested potential, declining or failing grades, cheating, absenteeism, tardiness, falling asleep, inability to stay in seat or work within structure, decreased participation, self-defeating responses to peer pressure, deteriorating personal appearance and hygiene, erratic behavior, loss of affect, acting out, fighting, defying authority, violating rules and dropping out of school. These and other problems place students at risk for school failure and other problems.

The purpose of an Intervention and Referral Services Program are:

- ✤ To identify learning, behavior, and health difficulties of students.
- To collect thorough information on the identified learning, behavior , and health difficulties .
- To develop and implement action plans which provide for appropriate school or community interventions and referrals to school and community resources.
- ✤ To work with teachers and to assist in achieving the desired outcomes.

Members of I &RS Committee:

- Principal or Designee
- ✤ General Education Teacher
- Guidance Counselor
- School Social Worker
- School Nurse
- Child Study Team Members

Section IV – Character Education Programs

Orange High School Orange Preparatory Academy Positive Behavior Support in Schools

Career Innovation Academy of Orange (CIAO) Big Picture

> Heywood Avenue School Positive Attitude Works

Forest Avenue School Character Counts

Rosa Parks Central Community School Amazing Kids of Character

> Oakwood Avenue School Cleveland Avenue School Park Avenue School "Bucket Fill"

Lincoln Avenue School Positive Behavior Support

Section V - Discipline Procedures

Discipline Procedures:

When there is sufficient evidence that a student's misconduct is disruptive or which threatens the safe and orderly environment of the school, the administrator reserves the right to take immediate disciplinary actions.

The following consequences may be recommended:

- **Teacher Conference:** Teacher will meet with student and parent to discuss strategies to improve behavior.
- Teacher Student Contract: A contract will be developed between student and teacher.
- **Teacher detention**: A teacher held detention where a student is detained, either before or after school to reflect their unbecoming behavior.
- Administrative Assigned Detention Held in a school-wide specified detention area. Only an administrator may assign a student to this detention. During this detention, students work quietly and are expected to complete school work. Parents will be notified of after school detentions.
- **Community Service** A student may be assigned a task within the school or on school grounds that serves the school community. This program provides students with meaning community service experience.
- Loss of Privileges: A student may not be allowed to attend field trips or participate in extra-curricular activities.
- Suspension Only an administrator can suspend a student. When a student is suspended, parents will be notified that a suspension has been assigned and the reason of the suspension. A parent conference will be requested prior to student re-entry. Any students receiving a suspension will also be excluded from any extracurricular activities and school sponsored events for the duration of the suspension. Students are not allowed on school grounds during suspension. The student will be expected to complete assignments made by his/her teachers.

Section V– Discipline Procedures (continued)

Discipline Procedures

- **In-school suspension**: Refers to the temporary exclusion from attending regular classes. A student reports to the office on the day(s) he/she is assigned (I.S.S.) and is detained in a room away from their normal school environment for disciplinary purposes.
- **Out-of-school suspension**: Refers to the temporary exclusion from attending school. The student is excluded from school for any serious/repeated inappropriate behaviors. Depending on the infraction, the suspension may be from one to ten days. In all cases, the student will not be re-admitted without a parent conference with an administrator. All suspensions more than three (3) days must be approved by the Superintendent.
- **Expulsion** Expulsion describes any suspension from school greater than ten (10) days. Special due process provisions are observed. Decisions in such circumstances are rendered by the BOE.
- **Police Notification** Serious infractions of the Student Code of Conduct may result in police notification as per the Memorandum of Agreement. Superintendent must be notified immediately upon serious infractions requiring police involvement.

VI- Attendance

The Board of Education requires the students enrolled in the schools of this district attend school regularly in accordance with New Jersey State Law. The educational program offered by the Orange School District is predicated on the presence of the student and requires continuity of instruction and classroom participation. The regular contact of students with one another in the classroom and their participation in a well-planned instructional activity under the tutelage of a competent teacher are vital to this purpose.

NJ State Law requires that we document all days when a student is absent from school. As such, the school will monitor student attendance and timely arrival throughout the year. Students who have missed 18 or more days of school, excused or unexcused, will be labeled as "chronically absent" by the State of New Jersey.

Attendance at school may be excused for certain absences as defined by the Board. All absences for reasons other than excused shall be unexcused.

Recommended Excused Absences for Orange Public Schools:

- A. Student illness (over 3 days physicians note)
- B. Family illness or death
- C. Educational opportunities
- D. Excused religious observances, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18 A:36-14 through 16
- E. Where appropriate, when consistent with IEP (accommodation plans)
- F. Suspension from school
- G. Students required attendance in court. (Court papers must be presented)
- H. Necessary and unavoidable medical and dental appointments that cannot be scheduled at any other time.
- I. Take Your Child to Work Day

J. A reason not listed above, but deemed excused by the Principal upon written request by students parent or legal guardian

Schools shall monitor these excused absences closely for excessive utilization, when necessary documents must be required.

VI- Attendance – (continued)

Unexcused Absence:

On a day when an absence/lateness is for reasons other than those noted above as "excused," the day of absence/lateness is recorded as "unexcused" and will go into your child's permanent record marked as such. Please note that family vacations and other non-educational activities are not included in the list of "excused" absences above. They are considered "unexcused" absences, and should be planned so they do not interfere with school attendance. Parents/guardians must assume full responsibility for all missed academic assignments. Teachers will not provide work in advance of such absences but may provide work upon a student's return.

In addition, in accordance with *NJ Statutes Annotated (NJSA)* 18:A and *NJ Administrative Code (NJAC)* 6A, the following guidelines will be followed when absences are "unexcused."

- For up to 3 cumulative unexcused absences, the school will conduct an investigation including contact with the student's parents to determine cause of absences; will develop an action plan as necessary.
- Parent notifications will be sent out after the 3rd, 6th, and 9th absence.
- For between 5 and 9 cumulative unexcused absences, the school will conduct a follow-up investigation including contact with the parents, will evaluate and revise the action plan above to include referrals, consultations or assessments, and will cooperate with law enforcement and other authorities and agencies;
- For cumulative unexcused absences of 10 or more, the student is considered truant. For students between the compulsory school ages, the school district will make referral to the court program as required by the *NJ Administrative Office of the Courts*. The school will make home visit, consult with the parents, cooperate with law enforcement and other authorities and agencies, and will proceed in accordance with *NJSA 18A, Compelling Attendance at School*, and other applicable State and Federal statutes, as required.

Unexplained Absence: Parents/guardians must provide the school with a reason for a child's absence. If the child is not in school and the school office has not received parental/guardian notification as to reason, this absence will be considered "unexplained" and will be marked as "unexcused" in the child's permanent record and the guidelines above will be applied. In the event of "un-notified" absence, the school will make a reasonable attempt to contact the child's parents to determine the reason for the absence prior to the start of the following day.

Absences during Testing Periods: If a student has an absence during the District or State standardized testing periods as advertised on the District calendar, he/she will only be able to make-up the test during the scheduled retake period that follows the testing period. This includes end-of-year final exams and math tests at all levels including those that determine placement and acceleration.

Reporting Absence: It is a parent's/guardian's responsibility to call the school when a child is going to be absent.

VI- Attendance – (continued)

Reporting Lateness: If a student must report to school late, the parent must escort the student to the office and provide the office staff with the reason for the tardiness. The parent must sign the student in at the main office or the receptionist desk.

Reporting an Early Sign-out: Early sign-out from school is discouraged; however, we realize there are times when this will occur. Please send a note in advance to alert us of the need to sign your child out early from school. The parent must come in to the main office to sign the student out. In the event that an adult other than the parent reports to pick up a student; he/she must be on the emergency card and must present a valid ID or driver's license.

Readmission after Absence: A physician's statement explaining a non-communicable absence of *more than three days* is required. The school nurse must receive a written physician explanation if the student has been absent with a communicable disease for *any length* of time. This will serve as evidence of the student being free of the communicable disease.

Section VII – Memorandum of Agreement/Due Process

Memorandum of Agreement:

In New Jersey, this is a uniform Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between school districts and law enforcement officials. The MOA, which is approved by the NJ Department of Law and Public Safety and the NJ and Public Safety and the NJ Department of Education, documents the commitment for schools and law enforcement agencies to work together as equal partners to enforce the law on school grounds. The MOA also details how schools are to report suspected incidents involving alcohol or drugs, weapons, child abuse, hazing, harassment, intimidation and bullying, or problems that compromise school security or safety. School administrators use the MOA to determine their course of action when faced with matters that rise to this level.

Due Process:

Parents and students have procedural due process rights under the Fourteenth Amendment with respect to discipline that involves the possibility of serious sanction and consequences such as suspension or expulsion.

SECTION VIII - DISCIPLINE INFRACTIONS WITH CONSEQUENCES (GRADES K-4)

Teaching appropriate social behavior is an integral component of the Districts work. It may however be essential to address consistent misbehavior.

Corrective Measures:

When unacceptable behavior is displayed; then it is necessary to provide corrective measures through a series of procedures which are clearly understood by all.

Punishments which are humiliating or degrading will not be used.

Punishment will be in proportion to the offense and unacceptable behavior will be investigated before action is determined.

Consequences:

Consequences take a variety of forms. If possible the aim is that the child should make some form of reparation for the misbehavior. It is essential that the child apologizes. Teachers should keep a log in which inappropriate behavior is recorded.

Consequences include:

- 1. A verbal reprimand
- 2. Moving a student's position in class.
- 3. Consultation with parent
- 4. Principal or Assistant Principal will implement strategies to improve and monitor the student's behavior and keep the parents informed. Strategies may include:
 - The removal of privileges such as participation in non-educational field trips or sports events
 - Placing a student on a daily behavioral plan, where teachers will comment during the day on behavior.
 - Development of 'student contract' between the student, parent and school aligning to the 'Code of Student Conduct'.
 - If the behavior does not improve, the 'student contract' is broken or a serious misdemeanor occurs and the student will be referred to the Intervention and Referral Committee.

Additional Corrective Measures Include:

Detention:

A student will be automatically detained at playtime or afterschool for:

- Constant disobedience
- Hurting others/physical violence
- Disruptive behavior
- Bad language, including references to race, gender, size or disability
- Answering adults back in an inappropriate manner

In-School-Suspension Out-of-School Suspension Police Notification/Expulsion

SECTION VIII - DISCIPLINE INFRACTIONS WITH CONSEQUENCES (GRADES 5-12)

Acceptable Use Policy Violation – uncthical use of school district technology.Conference with principal Detention Loss of technology privileges ISS/OSSAlcohol/Substance Abuse – possession, use, sale or distribution of any substance on school property, transportation, school sponsored activityAs per policyAttendance: • Truancy • Cutting class • Late to school in/on school grounds placing others in danger or damaging/destroying property.Detention Parent ConferenceBomb Threat/Offense – Creating or assisting in creating a bomb or a bomb threat to the school (via telephone, email, or other means).OSS Police/Fire Department notification Board Hearing Arson ProgramDisorderly Conduct – Any act or behavior that disrupts the orderly conduct of the school function, learning environment, loses a threat to the health, safety and/or welfare of students, staff or othersParent notification Detention Parent notification Detention ISS/OSSDress Code Violation – In order to promote a serious learning environment, loses a threat property or money from another individual by force or intimidationParent notification Detention Parent notification Detention Parent notification Detention Parent notification Parent Notific	OFFENSE	CONSEQUENCE
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Gambling – wagering of money or something	ISS/OSS Delice metification
of material value with the primary intent of	Police notification
winning additional money or material goods.	Board Hearing
OFFENSE	CONSEQUENCE
Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying (HIB)– any gesture or written, verbal or physical act perceived as motivated by race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or	A HIB incident will be investigated promptly within the defined timeline and in adherence with the procedures set forth in the District HIB Policy. Consequences shall vary according to the nature of the behavior, the
a mental, physical or sensory handicap or by any other distinguishing characteristic that takes place on school grounds, at any school sponsored function or while traveling on school transportation.	 developmental age of the student and the student's history of problem behaviors. Consequences may include: Review of District Policies Parent notification Counselor referral Admonishment
	 Temporary removal from class Deprivation of privileges Referral to anti bullying specialist Detention ISS or OSS Ban from program participation Restriction on being on school grounds Police notification
	• Expulsion A HIB incident may also require remedial actions to be taken to correct the problem behavior or to prevent reoccurrence. Among the measures that may be taken are personal restitution, a behavioral plan, counseling, school or community service, or corrective instruction.
Insubordination/Open Defiant Behavior –	Parent notification
negative or inappropriate responses to	Detention
reasonable request from staff member.	ISS/OSS
Leaving School Grounds – leaving school	Parent notification
grounds without permission.	Detention ISS/OSS
Physical Assault on Staff – Physical contact	OSS/ISS
against school personnel that does or has the	Superintendent notice
potential to cause bodily injury.	Police notification
	Board/Expulsion Hearing
Profanity/Inappropriate Language – use of	Parent notification
obscene language, gesturing, profanity,	Detention
suggestive comments, either written or verbal.	ISS/OSS

Sexual Harassment – any unwelcome sexual	ISS/OSS
advances or suggestions, request for sexual favors,	Superintendent notice
and verbal or physical contacts of a sexual nature.	Police notification
una vereur er prijsteur contacts er a sertaur nature.	Board/Expulsion Hearing
OFFENSE	CONSEQUENCE
Theft-Removal, concealment, or possession of	Parent Notification
property, other than one's own.	OSS/ISS
	Referral to counselor
	Superintendent notification
	Police notification
	Board Hearing
Threat to Staff- Actions that cause staff to	Parent Notification
have concern for the safety of themselves, their	OSS/ISS
property or families.	Referral to counselor
	Superintendent notification
	Police notification
	Board Hearing
Threats to Students- Actions, which cause	Parent Notification
others to have concern for the safety of	OSS/ISS
themselves, their property or families.	Referral to counselor
	Superintendent notification
	Police notification
	Board Hearing
Vandalism/Damage to School Property -	Parent Notification
deliberately damaging or defacing of school	Detention
property or any Individual's property.	Community service
	Restitution
	ISS/OSS
	Police notification
Weapons and Dangerous	Parent Notification
Instruments – criminal possession or	ISS/OSS
transmitting of any kind of weapon on school	Superintendent notification
grounds.	Police notification
	Board Hearing

Note:

- All student suspensions over three days must be approved by the Superintendent or Deputy Superintendent of Schools.
- Duration
 - Short Term Suspensions 1-3 days, Out of School Suspension
 - Long Term Suspensions up to 10 days, Out of School Suspension
- Students with Disabilities
 - Up to 10 days of Out of School Suspension annually will result in manifestation of determination meeting conducted by the Child Study Team.

PARENT AND STUDENT AGREEMENT FORM DISTRICT CODE OF CONDUCT

We have read and fully understand the Code of Conduct and are aware that this signed form must be returned to the homeroom teacher immediately so that it may be placed in the student's cumulative folder.

	Date:
Parent/guardian	Print Name
Parent/guardian	Signature
Student	Print Name
Student	Signature
	Grade:
	Homeroom: