

The Columbia County Board of Education believes there must be good student behavior in every classroom for optimum learning to take place. **The Board of Education has developed standards for student behavior during school hours and at school-related functions, on school buses, and at school bus stops designed to create the expectation that students will behave themselves in such a way so as to facilitate a safe learning environment for themselves and for other students. These standards include respect for each other and school system employees, compliance with student behavior policies adopted by the Board of Education, and compliance with student behavior rules established by individual schools.**

In order to maintain a **safe** educational environment conducive to learning, the Board of Education is legally empowered to develop regulations to control the behavior of students in the classroom and on system transportation. Any conduct which disrupts the learning opportunities of other students or threatens the health or safety of others will not be tolerated. The brochure "Code of Conduct" and Policy JCDA "Bus Conduct", outline non-acceptable behavior and the consequences of such behavior. **Examples of non-acceptable student behavior are:**

- Verbal assault, including threats of violence,
- Physical assault or battery,
- Disrespectful conduct, including use of vulgar or profane language,
- Sexual harassment,
- Bullying,
- Willful or malicious damage to real or personal property,
- Vandalism

The school administration is authorized to employ the disciplinary measures necessary to maintain an orderly environment. However, out-of-school suspension will be used as the last alternative and only when all other disciplinary measures have proven ineffective and/or when removal from school is necessary to protect the safety and welfare of students and/or staff. **In accordance with Georgia Code 20-2-735, it is the preferred policy of the Columbia County Board of Education that disruptive students are placed in alternative educational settings in lieu of being suspended or expelled.** In conjunction with punitive action taken, the school will attempt to address the underlying cause(s) of the student misconduct. Utilizing parent/**guardian** conferences, counseling personnel, and if

necessary, the Student support Team, students, parents, teachers and other educators may work cooperatively toward identifying and/or developing appropriate educational alternatives for students experiencing problems conducting themselves appropriately in school.

Any student that has been charged, indicted or convicted of a felony offense will have the status of his/her enrollment in the Columbia County School System reviewed by the Superintendent of Schools and the Associate and Assistant Superintendents of Student Support.

The Columbia County Board of Education fully recognizes that students possess certain Constitutional rights, and due process will be afforded to students. All rulings by the Hearing Officer involving long-term suspension or expulsion may be appealed to the Columbia County Board of Education in accordance with the policies and regulations of that Board.

CROSS REF.: EDCB/JCDAD - "Bus Conduct"
 IDDF - "Student Support Team"
 IEA-JDD - "Grouping for Instruction/In-School
 Suspension Program
 IG - "Guidance and Counseling"

LEGAL REF.: Georgia Code 20-2-751.5

PROCEDURE: YES

ADOPTED: 1/12/88

REVISED: 7/14/92,8/14/93,7/22/97,8/10/99,5/10/02

Columbia County Board of Education