

It is the policy of the Columbia County Board of Education that **a system-wide Code of Conduct be developed, annually reviewed and implemented that is age appropriate and designed to improve** the student learning environment and which will comply with state law and State Board of Education Rule 160-4-8-.15. Each code of conduct shall include the following:

1. Standards for student behavior designed to create the expectation that students will behave themselves in such a way so as to facilitate a learning environment for themselves and other students. The standards should be designed also to encourage students to respect each other and school district employees, to motivate students to obey student behavior policies adopted by this board and to obey student behavior rules established at each school within this school district;
2. Student support processes designed to consider, as appropriate in light of the severity of the behavioral problem, support services available at each school, the school system and other public entities or community organizations which may assist students to address behavioral problems;
3. Progressive discipline processes designed to create the expectation that the degree of discipline imposed by each school will be in proportion to the severity of the behavior of a particular student, the previous discipline history of the student and other relevant factors, while ensuring that each student receives the due process mandated by federal and state law;
4. Parental involvement processes designed to enable parents, guardians, teachers and school administrators to work together to improve and enhance student behavior and academic performance. The process should enable parents, guardians and school employees to communicate freely their concerns about student behaviors, which detract from the learning environment.

Each school shall involve parents in developing and updating student codes of conduct. Each code shall require disciplinary action for each infraction of the code. All student codes of conduct shall be submitted to the board for approval.

The student code of conduct shall be distributed to each student and the student's parents or guardians during the first week of school and upon enrollment of each new student. The parents shall be requested to sign an acknowledgement of the

receipt of the code of conduct and return promptly the acknowledgement to the school. The student code of conduct shall be available in the school office and each classroom.

#### TEACHER REPORTING REQUIREMENT

A teacher shall have the authority, consistent with the board policy, to manage his or her classroom, discipline students, and refer a student to the principal or his designee to maintain discipline in the classroom. Any teacher who has knowledge that a student has exhibited behavior which violates the student code of conduct and repeatedly or substantially interferes with the teacher's ability to communicate effectively with the students in his/her class or with the ability of such student's classmates to learn shall file a report of such behavior with the principal or his designee. The principal and teacher shall thereafter follow the procedures set forth in Georgia law, specifically O.P.C.G.A. 20-2-737-738.

The superintendent shall fully support the authority of every school principal and teacher to remove a student from the classroom pursuant to Code Section 20-2-738. Each school principal shall implement the policies and procedures of the Superintendent and Columbia County Board of Education relating to the authority of every teacher to remove a student from the classroom and shall disseminate such policies and procedures to faculty, staff, and parents or guardians of students.

The Superintendent and/or his designee shall develop procedures as necessary for implementation of this policy and this state law

#### PHYSICAL ACTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST TEACHERS OR OTHER SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

The Columbia County Board of Education policies and Student Codes of Conduct shall provide for penalties for a student who commits any act of violence against a teacher or other school official or employee. A student who was not enrolled in an alternative education program at the time of the act of physical violence may be suspended or expelled and may be enrolled in an alternative education program during the term of suspension or expulsion. A student who was enrolled in an alternative education program at the time of the act of physical violence against a teacher or other school official or employee because of a previous act of physical violence may be expelled and may be referred to the appropriate law enforcement agency. If a student's enrollment in an alternative education program was unrelated to an act of physical violence and such student commits an act of physical violence against a teacher or other school official or employee, such a student may be suspended or expelled and may be enrolled in an alternative education program during the term of suspension or expulsion.

The Columbia County Board of Education shall appoint a disciplinary tribunal of school officials, to include the Columbia County Board of Education appointed Hearing Officer, to hold a disciplinary hearing pursuant to Georgia Code section 20-2-754 and 20-2-751.6 regarding the alleged act of physical violence and penalty. The Columbia County Board of Education shall not enroll any student who has been suspended or expelled by another Board of Education or any other education entity pursuant to this subsection during the term of the suspension or expulsion.

Nothing in this policy section shall be construed to infringe on any right provided to students with individualized education programs pursuant to the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, or the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Legal Reference: O.C.G.A. 20-2-735 through 20-2-738; 20-2-751.6

**PROCEDURE: YES**

**ADOPTED: 06/27/00 (Replaces JCDA, 10/1/97 & JD)**

**REVISED: 6/27/00,8/13/02,7/27/04**

**Columbia County Board of Education**