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Maine Academy of Natural Sciences
SCHOOL COMMITMENT TO STANDARDS FOR ETHICAL AND RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR

The School Board believes that promoting ethical and responsible behavior is an essential part of the school's educational mission. The Board recognizes that ethics, constructive attitudes, responsible behavior, and "character" are important if a student is to leave school as a "responsible and involved citizen," as described in the Guiding Principles of the Maine Learning Results. The Board also recognizes that Maine law requires the adoption of a school-wide student code of conduct consistent with statewide standards for student behavior developed by the Commissioner of the Department of Education in compliance with 20-A MRSA § 254(11).

The Board seeks to create and maintain a school climate in which ethical and responsible behavior can flourish. The Board believes that instilling a sense of ethics and responsibility in students requires setting positive expectations for student behavior as well as establishing disciplinary consequences for behavior that violates Board policy or school rules. Further, the Board believes that in order to teach ethical and responsible behavior, adults who interact with students must strive to model and reinforce ethical and responsible behavior. To that end, the Board supports an active partnership between the school and parents.

Recognizing that collaboratively identified core values are the foundation for a school culture that encourages and reinforces ethical and responsible student behavior, the Board has identified eight basic qualities of good citizenship: trustworthiness, responsibility, honesty, respectfulness, compassion, hardworking, and fairness. The Board is committed to maintaining and enforcing standards for behavior, including prescription of consequences for unacceptable behavior.

The Board assures that the school will maintain a Student Code of Conduct consistent with statewide standards for student behavior that shall, as required by law:

- Establish standards of student responsibility for behavior;
- Define unacceptable student behavior;
- Prescribe consequences for violation of the Student Code of Conduct, including first-time violations, when appropriate;
- Describe appropriate procedures for referring students in need of special services to those services;
- Establish criteria to determine when further assessment of a current Individual Education Plan (IEP) is necessary, based on removal of the student from class;
- Establish policies and procedures concerning the removal of disruptive or violent students from a classroom school bus, or other school property, as well as student disciplinary and placement decisions, when appropriate; and
- Establish guidelines and criteria concerning the appropriate circumstances when the Head of School/designee may provide information to the local police or other appropriate law enforcement authorities regarding an offense that involves violence committed by any person on school grounds or other school property.

The Student Code of Conduct will be reviewed periodically by the School Board, with input from administrators, staff, parents, students, and members of the community.

Students, parents, staff, and the community will be informed of the Student Code of Conduct through handbooks and/or other means selected by the Head of School /designee.

Ethics and Curriculum

The Board encourages examination and discussion of ethical issues within content areas of the curriculum, as appropriate. The Board encourages integration of ethics into content areas of the curriculum, as appropriate. The Board also encourages the school to provide students with meaningful opportunities to apply values and ethical and responsible behavior

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA §§ 254, 1001(15)

Originally adopted by the Maine Academy of Natural Sciences Board of Directors: September 13, 2012