

## ***CODE OF CONDUCT (SUMMARY)***

### **Purpose**

The Lake Shore Central School District Code of Conduct is intended to: encourage appropriate behavior; provide a school environment free of harassment, bullying, and discrimination as per the Dignity For All Students Act; ensure the safety and security of all members of the school community, and promote a safe and effective learning environment.

The Code governs the conduct of students, school personnel, parents, and other visitors while on school property or attending school functions. It includes the range of penalties that may be imposed for code violations and defines the roles of essential partners (teachers, administrators, other school personnel, the board of education, and parents) in maintaining safe, orderly schools.

### **Student Dress Code**

All students are expected to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to dress appropriately for school and school functions. Students who violate the student dress code shall be required to modify their appearance by covering or removing the offending item and, if necessary or practical, replacing it with an acceptable item. Any student who refuses to do so, or who repeatedly violates the dress code, may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including out-of-school suspension.

### **Prohibited Student Conduct**

Behavior that is disorderly, insubordinate, disruptive, violent, or endangers others is prohibited. Academic misconduct, which is also prohibited, includes plagiarism, cheating, copying, altering records, accessing other users accounts, violating the District's Acceptable Use Policy, or assisting other students in such actions.

### **Reporting Violations**

All students are expected to report violations of the Code of Conduct to those in authority. District staff not authorized to impose disciplinary actions are expected to report violations to their supervisor. Any weapon, alcohol, or other illegal substance will be confiscated immediately. Code violations that constitute a crime will be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

### **Disciplinary Penalties and Procedures**

Disciplinary action, when necessary, will be firm, fair, and consistent. As a general rule, discipline will be progressive. That is, a student's first offense will usually merit a lesser penalty than subsequent violations of the same disciplinary rule. The Code of Conduct contains levels of discipline ranging from verbal warning

to permanent suspension from school. Regardless of the penalty imposed, the school personnel authorized to impose the penalty must inform the student of the alleged misconduct and must investigate, to the extent necessary, the facts surrounding the alleged misconduct. Students subject to more severe penalties have additional rights as set forth in the Code of Conduct.

### **Alternative Instruction**

When a student is removed from class or suspended from school (if the student is of compulsory attendance age), the District will take immediate steps to provide alternative instruction for the student as soon as practicable, typically within one or two days after the start of the suspension.

### **Discipline of Students with Disabilities**

While all students are subject to the same Code of Conduct, the Board of Education recognizes that students with disabilities are entitled to additional procedural protections. The Code of Conduct affords students with disabilities subject to disciplinary action no greater or lesser rights than those expressly afforded by applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

### **Corporal Punishment**

Corporal punishment is defined as an act of physical force upon a student for the purpose of punishing that student. Corporal punishment is strictly forbidden; however, reasonable force may be used in the limited situations described in the Code of Conduct when alternative procedures and methods cannot reasonably be used.

### **Student Searches and Interrogations**

School officials may question a student about an alleged violation of law or the District Code of Conduct. Students are not entitled to a "Miranda" type warning, nor are school officials obligated to contact a student's parents before questioning. School officials, however, will tell students why they are being questioned. In addition, the Board authorizes certain school officials to conduct searches of students and their belongings if there is reasonable suspicion that such a search will result in evidence that the student violated a law or the District Code of Conduct. Searches will be limited in scope based on the evidence sought and shall not be more intrusive than is warranted based on the nature and severity of the circumstances. The rules regarding searches of students and their belongings do not apply to student lockers, desks, and other school storage places. Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy with respect to areas considered school property. This means that student lockers, desks, and other school storage places may be subject to search at any time by school officials without prior notice to students and without their consent.

### **Visitors to the Schools**

All visitors to a school must report to the office of the principal upon arrival and register. Visitors attending school functions that are open to the public, such as PTG/PTA meetings or public gatherings, are not required to register. Any unauthorized person on school property will be reported to the principal or designee. Unauthorized persons will be asked to leave. All visitors are expected to abide by the rules of public conduct on school property as contained in the Code of Conduct.

### **Public Conduct on School Property**

All persons on school property or attending a school function, including athletic events, shall conduct themselves in a respectful and orderly manner. In addition, all persons on school property or attending a school function are expected to be properly attired for the purpose they are on school property. The District may prohibit any visitor who violates the rules of public conduct from being on school property or attending school functions. Use, distribution, or the possession of tobacco products, e-cigarettes/vaporizers, alcohol, or other illegal substances is prohibited on school property.

***Please refer to your child's student agenda (K-8) and the school website (9-12) for a complete version of the Code of Conduct.***

***You may also download the Code of Conduct from our District website ([www.lakeshorecsd.org](http://www.lakeshorecsd.org)).***

***Please report any concerns regarding harassment, bullying or discrimination to the Dignity Act Coordinator:***

<b><i>District Coordinator</i></b>	<b><i>Christine Starks</i></b>	<b><i>926-2210</i></b>
<b><i>High School Coordinator</i></b>	<b><i>Dr. Katy Berner-Wallen</i></b>	<b><i>926-2301</i></b>
<b><i>Middle School Coordinator</i></b>	<b><i>Stacy Conti</i></b>	<b><i>926-2402</i></b>
<b><i>A. J. Schmidt Coordinator</i></b>	<b><i>Julie Schwab</i></b>	<b><i>926-2351</i></b>
<b><i>Highland Coordinator</i></b>	<b><i>Colleen Politowski</i></b>	<b><i>926-2461</i></b>
<b><i>J. T. Waugh Coordinator</i></b>	<b><i>Andrea Cwynar</i></b>	<b><i>926-2341</i></b>