

CO-CURRICULAR GOOD CONDUCT POLICY

The following Good Conduct Policy establishes the standards by which students shall conduct themselves if they choose to take advantage of the privileges afforded them by participation in co-curricular activities. Students participating in co-curricular activities shall commit themselves to meet the standards of this code and of the Student Code of Conduct at all times in all places 365 days a year.

I. STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

It is a privilege and an honor to participate in the full range of co-curricular activities at the Clinton Community Schools. These activities and participation in them adds a great deal to each student's education by promoting good citizenship and moral character, developing discipline and skills necessary to personal success and well being, and promoting the image and identity of the school and community. The district views Co-Curricular Activities as an extension of the school day. Students who choose to participate in co-curricular activities will conduct themselves appropriately at all times both on school grounds and away from the school. The responsibility of good conduct is an extension of the responsibility to represent the school and community in an appropriate manner.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to develop rules, regulations, and protocols for school activities and athletics. Students wanting to participate in school activities or athletics must meet the requirements set forth by the school district. These regulations are outlined in the Student/Parent Handbook. The Building Principal or Activities (Athletic) Director may declare a student ineligible to participate in an activity when the conduct of that student has been determined to be contrary to or in violation of the established rules and regulations set forth in this policy.

Legal Reference: Bunger v. Iowa High School Athletic Assn., 197 N.W.2d 555 (Iowa 1972).
In re Jason Clark, 1 D.P.I. App. Dec. 167 (1978).
Iowa Code §§ 280.13, .13A (2014).
281 I.A.C. 12.3(8); 36.15(1).

Cross Reference: 502 Student Rights and Responsibilities
503 Student Discipline
504 Student Activities

Approved 7/12/1999

Reviewed 08/10/2010

Revised 6-13-2016

II. STUDENT AGREEMENT

Before participation in any activity is permitted, all students who wish to participate in co-curricular activities shall receive a copy of the Good Conduct Policy and shall sign an agreement indicating that they will abide by the Good Conduct Policy.

III. APPLICABLE ACTIVITY PROGRAMS

The Good Conduct Policy applies to all co-curricular activities, including but not limited to:

1. All athletic;
2. All music, speech, drama (non-graded activities), and cheerleading activities;
3. School royalty;
4. Student council and other elective officers;
5. School honors; and or
6. School clubs.

**Students may be given an alternative assignment for any event which also occur a grade in a specific class. At the beginning of the activity, the student will be notified if this protocol will be followed in this activity and/or athletic team.*

IV. DEFINITIONS

1. **Competition/Performance** - means a specific event that is a component of a co-curricular program whether it is a contest, a social activity (such as a dance sponsored by a club or elected group), a performance, or a school sponsored trip that is part of the co-curricular activity, etc.
2. **Offense** - occurs when a student is determined by a school official to have violated the Good Conduct Policy. Such violations shall be counted cumulatively from year to year (either 6-8 or grades 9-12 (this is attendance center specific)), regardless of the specific portion of the Good Conduct Policy that is violated. Any offense(s) occurring under the district's previous policy shall count cumulatively toward any offense(s) under this Good Conduct Policy.

Middle School students must also abide by this Good Conduct Policy. However, any violations incurred prior to ninth grade will not be carried forward to ninth grade.

3. **Possession** - with regard to alcohol, drugs, simulated controlled substances, and tobacco, possession shall mean under the actual control of or on the student's person, contained in property under the student's personal control.
4. **School Days** - shall mean days when school is in session, (i.e., Monday through Friday, except state and/or national holidays).
5. **Student Code of Conduct** - is a body of school rules and regulations independent from this Good Conduct Policy. Any student behavior, which violates both the Student Code of Conduct and this Good Conduct Policy, may incur penalties under both sets of rules and regulations.

6. **Year** - as it is used in this policy means one calendar year.

V. APPLICATION OF THE GOOD CONDUCT POLICY

Appropriate student behavior is required by and impacts all co-curricular activities in which a student participates. If a student is participating in multiple co-curricular activities at the time the student loses privileges under this policy, the loss of privileges shall apply to all activities.

If at the time of the violation, the student is not currently participating in any activity, then the student's period of ineligibility shall apply to the first co-curricular contest or performance in which the student would normally be eligible to participate. A disciplinary action may carry over from one activity to another and may carry over from one school year to the next.

Disciplinary action for violations of the good conduct policy will be applied according to the penalties and protocols detailed in each school's student/parent handbook.

VI. CONDUCT REQUIREMENTS

Students shall:

1. Abide by the Good Conduct Policy at all times and in all places.
2. Abide by any additional, specific rules and regulations, which the coach/sponsor of the activity has established (such as training hours, attendance at practice, etc.) Such rules will be approved by the high school or middle school activities directors before distribution to students and students will be required to sign a copy of a document as acknowledgement of their receipt of and agreement to abide by them.

VII. VIOLATIONS

Level 1 Violation:

Level 1 violations of the Good Conduct Policy include but are not limited to the following prohibited conduct and actions.

Students shall not:

1. Possess, use, or be under the influence of alcoholic beverages.
2. Use, possess and/or distribute tobacco or imitation substances.
3. Possess, use, or be under the influence of illegal drugs, controlled substances, imitation controlled substances, or drug paraphernalia.
4. Fail to respond or carry out a reasonable request of a district employee or direct obscene gestures or comments toward a district employee.

5. Assault or physically abuse any person at school or during school activities or coming to and/or going from school or a school activity.
6. Possess or distribute obscene materials or images.

Level 2 Violations:

Level 2 violations of the Good Conduct Policy include but are not limited to the following prohibited conduct and actions.

Students shall not:

1. Sell, manufacture or distribute illegal drugs, controlled substances, alcohol, imitation controlled substance, or drug paraphernalia.
2. Possess, use or threaten to use any instrument that is generally considered a weapon or an imitation weapon or an explosive or an instrument used as a weapon.
3. Damage, destroy, vandalize or steal school property and/or personal property of employees, students, and visitors to the school or district patrons.
4. Commit a serious crime including but not limited to arson, assault, robbery, theft, burglary, criminal mischief whether or not an arrest or conviction occurs.

VIII. DETERMINATION OF VIOLATION

When it comes to the attention of school officials that a student is suspected of violating the CCSD Good Conduct Policy or the rules of a specific co-curricular activity, the Activities Director or Building Principal will determine whether the allegation is true by conducting an investigation.

Prior to making the final determination of whether there has been a violation, the Activities Director or Building Principal shall: 1) be informed of the allegations and 2) perform an appropriate investigation; and the student shall 1) be notified, orally or in writing, of the allegations against the student and 2) be given an opportunity to respond to the allegations.

The Clinton Community School District may determine that there has been a violation of its Good Conduct Policy whether or not criminal charges have been filed, whether a student's trial is pending, or whether or not the student is found guilty by a court of law as long as there is reasonable evidence that is more likely than not to support that a violation of the Good Conduct Policy occurred.

Once the determination is made that a student has violated the Good Conduct Policy the Activities Director or Building Principal shall make a determination of the **applicable** penalty. The student and his/her parents(s) shall be informed in writing of this decision (the nature of the violation and the determination of the penalty) by mailing the same to the student's residence (or other address if the parents have a different address on file for mailing purposes with the school) within two working days of the determination. In addition, the parent(s) will be notified orally, if possible.

IX. PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION(S)

Penalties for violations of the Good Conduct Policy will be applied according to the procedures and penalties detailed in each school's student/parent Handbook. The coach/sponsor may also impose additional penalties pursuant to their supplementary activity-specific rules. The penalty shall be imposed immediately when the Activities' Director or the Principal's determination of a violation is complete.

Penalties – The penalty for a violation is ineligibility for a definite number of contests or appearances for the activity the penalty is to be applied to. The student must participate in practice during the period of ineligibility; however, the student shall not be permitted to dress for or participate in the contest. Level (one, two or three) penalties are based **on the percentage amount of contests or events** that are detailed for each athletic sport or activity. The percentages of penalties are listed in each school's student/parent handbook. There is a provision for reduction of a penalty for students who self-report.

Nothing in this policy is intended to diminish the ability of the district to take other disciplinary action against the student in accordance with other policies governing student discipline and behavior. Discipline action is independent and individual to the offense that was committed.

X. SUSPENSION/EXPULSION UNDER THE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

If a student receives a disciplinary out-of-school suspension or expulsion because of a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, the student will not be allowed to participate for the comparable period of time in any co-curricular activity, including practices, meetings and competitions/performances and will be denied all school transportation to or from such practices, meetings and/or competitions/performances for the duration of the suspension or expulsion. In the event a student receives a disciplinary in-school suspension, the student will be allowed to practice, but will not perform or compete during the length of the in-school suspension.

XI. STUDENT APPEAL

A student may contest the Activities Director or Building Principal's determination of a violation and/or the penalty imposed for a violation of the Good Conduct Policy. In addition, the student may appeal any violation found and/or discipline imposed by a coach/sponsor pursuant to an activity's supplementary rules. All appeal hearings shall be informal and a student may be accompanied by his/her parent or guardian. A student may be represented by legal counsel in any hearing before the District's Board of Directors.

Appeals – Any student who is found by the administration to have violated the Good Conduct Policy may appeal this determination to the superintendent by contacting the superintendent within three (3) days of being advised of the violation. The penalty will be in effect pending the superintendent's decision. The decision of the superintendent shall be given to the parent/guardian at a meeting with them or in writing. This decision is the final appeal for any suspension that is five (5) days or less.

If the student is dissatisfied with the superintendent's decision regarding a suspension of more than five (5) days, he or she may appeal to the School Board by filing a written appeal with the Board secretary at least 48 hours prior to the next Board meeting. The review by the Board will be in closed session unless the student's parent (or if the student is 18) requests an open session. The grounds for appeal to the School Board are limited to the following:

1. The student did not violate the Good Conduct Policy
2. The student was given inadequate due process in the investigation and determination
3. Or the penalty is in violation of the Handbook Rule or Board Policy

The penalty will remain in effect pending the outcome of the meeting with the Board.

If the School Board reverses the decision of the administration, the student shall be immediately eligible and shall have any record of the ineligibility period and violation deleted from the student's record.

XII. SCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY

High School – A student shall be passing in at least four (4) academic credits during their time of participation. To participate, the student shall also have earned 4.0 semester hours of academic credit toward graduation in the preceding trimester (not applicable to 1st trimester freshmen). Special education and/or students under a 504 plan will be required to make appropriate progress on the I.E.P. or individual plan.

Middle School – To participate in co-curricular activities at the middle school level, a student's grade point average at the preceding trimester shall reflect an academic grade point average of 1.5 or higher and an attitude grade point average of 2.0 or higher. Special education and/or students under a 504 plan will be required to make appropriate progress on the I.E.P. or individual plan.