

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT
Hope Charter Leadership Academy Board of Directors Discipline Policy

Safe and Orderly Environment

All students at Hope Charter Leadership Academy shall comply with the Student Code of Conduct (Code), state and federal laws, school board policies, and local school rules governing student behavior and conduct. This policy applies to any student who is on school property, including the school bus and school bus stops, who is in attendance at any school or any school sponsored activity, or whose conduct at any time or place, on or off campus, has a direct and immediate effect on maintaining order and discipline or protecting the safety and welfare of students and staff in the school. Students whose behavior does not meet reasonable and acceptable standards will not be permitted to disrupt the education and learning environment of others. The school administration reserves the right to expedite the disciplinary process pending the circumstances of the investigation to ensure a safe and orderly school environment.

Students shall comply with the directions of principal, teachers, substitute teachers, student teachers, instructional assistants, coaches, bus drivers, and all other school personnel who are authorized to give such directions, during any period of time when they are subject to the authority of such school personnel.

Administrators and teachers may utilize a variety of intervention strategies for violations to the Code, other Board policies, regulations issued by the school, or the **North Carolina General Statutes (GS)**. These interventions may include conferences, detentions, and removal from the classroom, in-school suspensions, behavior contracts, restrictions on activity, or any other intervention strategy that is available and is not contrary to Board policy or state or federal law. In addition, disciplinary action may also include suspensions for ten (10) school days or less (“short-term”); suspensions between ten (10) school days and the remainder of the school year (“long-term”); suspensions for 365 calendar days; and/or expulsion. .

The Principal and other school officials are authorized to involve law enforcement in serious violations in any category and are **required** to involve law enforcement in cases of certain alleged criminal acts as set forth in G.S. 115C-288(g). In such cases, school officials shall cooperate fully with the law enforcement agency. Internal disciplinary proceedings shall take place independently from the criminal investigation and prosecution.

Level One Violations

- 1.1 **Boycotts** - Participating in any boycott or walk-out of any lawful school function at which attendance is required.
- 1.2 **Conduct on the School Bus** - Failing to follow the directives of the school bus driver and/or adult monitor and the rules and regulations of school bus safety as well as the rules of this policy while at a school bus stop, or in the school bus parking lot, or while riding a school bus or other school vehicle. Violation of these rules may result in temporary or permanent suspension from the privilege of school transportation services as well as from school.
- 1.3 **Disruptive or Obscene Literature and Illustrations** - Possessing or distributing literature or illustrations that are obscene or that significantly disrupt the educational process.
- 1.4 **Damage to Property** - Intentionally damaging or attempting to damage or deface school or private property while under school jurisdiction. This level applies to damage or vandalism not exceeding \$1,000, including cost of replacement, repair or restoration of property.

- 1.5 **Disruption** - Using passive resistance, noise, threat, fear, intimidation, coercion, force, violence, or any other form of conduct that causes the disruption of any lawful function, activity, mission, or process of the school, or urging any other student to engage in such conduct.
- 1.6 **Fighting** - Hitting, shoving, pushing, scratching, biting, blocking the passage of, or throwing objects at another person. Taking any action or making comments or writing messages which might reasonably be expected to result in a fight.
- 1.7 **Gambling** - Participating in any unauthorized event, action, or statement which relies on chances for the monetary advantage of one participant at the expense of others.
- 1.8 **Hazing** - Subjecting a fellow student to physical injury as part of an initiation, or as a prerequisite to membership, into any organized school group, including any society, athletic team, or other similar group.
- 1.9 **Integrity** - Engaging in or attempting to engage in cheating, plagiarism, falsification, violation of software copyright laws, or violation of computer access. Students are subject to disciplinary action as outlined in this policy and/or academic penalty.
- 1.10 **Intimidation** - Extorting or attempting to extort money, personal property, or personal services.
- 1.11 **Laser Pointers** - Possessing or using a laser pointer device or a watch, key chain, pen, or other device equipped with a laser beam.
- 1.12 **Medication** - Knowingly possessing, using, distributing, selling, or sharing with another student any prescription or non-prescription medication except as authorized under Board policy Administering Medication to Students.
- 1.13 **Peer Relations** - Engaging in behavior which is immoral, indecent, overly affectionate, or of a sexual nature while in the school setting.
- 1.14 **Personal Property** - Possessing on school property any toy, game, electronic device, or any other similar object that has no educational purpose or has the potential of disrupting the normal order of school unless the student receives authorization from the principal or designee.
- (a) **Electronic Devices** - All portable devices are allowed on campus but must remain in student's bookbag during the school day. If found in the possession of (on the student's person) during the school day it will be confiscated and can be picked up by parents in the principal's office. If continued confiscations occur, it may be held until the end of the school year. HCLA assumes no responsibility for stolen electronic devices.
- 1.15 **Sales** - Selling to another student or purchasing from another student any item without the prior authorization of the principal.
- 1.16 **Skipping School** - Leaving school grounds or being in an unauthorized area of school during the instructional day without prior approval.
- 1.17 **Theft** - Stealing, attempting to steal, or knowingly being in possession of stolen property.
- (a) Unlawfully taking and/or carrying away property belonging to Hope Charter Leadership Academy, a staff member, or another student.
- (b) Removing any property from a bookbag hook and/or desk other than the one assigned.
- (c) Having in one's possession property obtained without permission of the owner.
- 1.18 **Threat/False Threat** - Making any threat through written or verbal language, sign or act which conveys a serious expression of intent to cause harm or violence. Furthermore, no student shall make a false threat of harm or violence, even in jest, which causes or is reasonably likely to cause fear or a disruption to school activities.
- (a) A student will not use electronic threatening such as posting information that can be disrupting, cause damage, or endanger students or staff.

- (b) A student will not post personal, private, false, or defamatory information about self, another person, or an organization.
- 1.19 **Tobacco Products** - Using or possessing any tobacco product or paraphernalia, including matches and lighters, at any time on school premises, on a school bus or other school vehicle, or at a school bus stop.
- 1.20 **Trespassing** – A student present on school property after the close of the school day and outside of school hours without permission is trespassing and may be prosecuted. Any student who has been suspended or expelled from school is trespassing if he or she appears on the property of Hope Charter Leadership Academy or at any school sponsored activity during the suspension or expulsion period without the express permission of the Principal.
- 1.21 **Verbal Abuse or Disrespect** - Participation in serious or persistent verbal action that prevents an orderly and peaceful learning environment. Cursing; using vulgar, obscene, or abusive language, including slurs or insults intended to mock a person’s race, religion, sex, national origin, disability or intellectual ability; or using sexually offensive or degrading language are specifically prohibited.

Penalty for Level One Violations

Except as otherwise noted, the **first violation** of any of the **Level One** offenses may result in short-term suspension from Hope Charter Leadership Academy for up to ten (10) school days or a long-term suspension for up to the remainder of the school year for a serious violation.

A **second violation** of the same **Level One** offense during a school year may result in a long-term suspension from the Hope Charter Leadership Academy for the remainder of the school year.

Level Two Violations

- 2.1 **Arson** – Burning or attempting to burn any school building or property. Possessing incendiary material, (i.e., gasoline, kerosene, or other flammable liquid), for the purpose of burning or the attempted burning of school property.
- 2.2 **Assault on Another Student** - Assaulting or attacking, or causing or attempting to cause physical injury to another student or intentionally behaving in such a manner that could reasonably cause physical injury to any student.
- 2.3 **Attempted Assault on a School Employee** - Attempting to cause physical injury to a school employee or school volunteer, or behaving in such a manner that could reasonably cause physical injury to any school employee or school volunteer.
- 2.4 **Damage to Property and Vandalism** - Intentionally damaging or vandalizing or attempting to damage or vandalize, or deface school property or private property, while located on any properties owned or leased by Hope Charter Leadership Academy Board of Directors. This level applies to damages or vandalism exceeding \$1,000, including costs of replacement, repair, or restoration of property.
- 2.5 **Drugs or Alcohol** – Knowingly possessing, using, distributing, selling, possessing with intent to distribute or sell, or conspiring or attempting to distribute or sell, or being under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, anabolic steroid, other controlled substance, any alcoholic beverage, malt beverage, fortified wine, other intoxicating liquor, drug paraphernalia, counterfeit drugs, or possessing or using any other chemicals or products with the intention of bringing about a state of exhilaration, euphoria, or of otherwise altering the student’s mood or behavior.

- 2.6 **Failure to Comply with Lawful Directive** - Failing to follow a directive after being personally notified by any school employee.
- 2.7 **Fire Alarms** - Setting off, attempting to set off, or aiding and abetting anyone in giving a false fire alarm. It shall also be prohibited to interfere with or damage any part of a fire alarm, fire detection, smoke detection, or fire extinguishing system.
- 2.8 **Fireworks or Ammunition** - Possessing, distributing, igniting or using any fireworks or ammunition on school premises.
- 2.9 **Gangs and Gang-Related Activities** -
- (a) Wearing, possessing, using, distributing, displaying, or selling any clothing, jewelry, emblems, badges, symbols, signs, visible tattoos and body markings, or other items that show affiliation with a gang or is evidence of membership or affiliation in any gang or that promotes gang affiliation;
 - (b) Communicating either verbally or non-verbally (gestures, handshakes, slogans, drawings, etc.) to convey membership affiliation in any gang or that promotes gang affiliation;
 - (c) Tagging or otherwise defacing school or personal property with gang or gang-related symbols or slogans;
 - (d) Requiring payment of protection money or insurance or otherwise intimidating or threatening any person;
 - (e) Inciting other students to intimidate or to act with physical violence upon any other person;
 - (f) Soliciting others for gang membership;
 - (g) Conspiring to commit any violation of this policy or committing or conspiring to commit any other illegal act or other violation of school policies that relate to gang activity.
- 2.10 **Reckless Vehicle Use/Car Theft** - Operating any motorized or self-propelled vehicle on school grounds or at a school-sponsored activity in a manner that threatens the health and safety of any other person or risks disrupting the educational process or being in the possession of a stolen vehicle.
- 2.11 **Sexual Acts** - Engaging in any consensual sexual act while on school property or at a school-sponsored activity or event.
- 2.12 **Sexual Harassment or Harassment including Bullying** - Engaging, verbally or through other non-physical means, in sexual harassment or harassment including bullying as defined in the Sexual Harassment and Harassment policies. Engaging in physical sexual harassment or harassment including bullying as defined in the Sexual Harassment and Harassment Policies or offensively touching another person's private parts, including buttocks or breasts, or forcing or attempting to force another to engage in a sexual act against her or his will.
- 2.13 **Threats** - Threats of death or serious bodily injury communicated toward any student, school employee, or school volunteer by verbal, written or other communication.
- 2.14 **Weapons other than Firearms** - Possessing, handling, transferring, or bringing on to school property any items including, but not limited to, knife, razor, BB gun, stun gun, air rifle, air pistol, bowie knife, dagger, slingshot, leaded cane, switchblade knife, blackjack, metallic knuckles, razors and razor blades, and any sharp-pointed or edged instrument, brass knuckles, mace, pepper spray, or other anti-personnel spray, or facsimile or other item that could be considered a weapon or dangerous instrument. Using any weapon or other object that can reasonably be considered a weapon or a facsimile of a weapon in a threatening or dangerous manner.

Penalty for Level Two Violations

Except as otherwise noted, the **first violation** of any of the **Level Two** provisions shall result in at minimum a short-term suspension and may result in long-term suspension from Hope Charter Leadership Academy for the remainder of the school year.

A **second violation** of the same **Level Two** offense during a school year shall result in long-term suspension from Hope Charter Leadership Academy for the remainder of the school year.

Level Three Violations

3.1 **Assault and Serious Injuries on any Teacher or Other School Personnel**

- (a) Assaulting and causing serious injury to a teacher or school personnel or volunteer or other adult who is not a student;
- (b) Physically assaulting a teacher or other adult who is not a student

3.2 **Assault on Another Student (serious injury or witnessed by school personnel)**

- (a) Physically assaulting another student if the assault is witnessed by school personnel;
- (b) Physically assaulting and seriously injuring another student

3.3 **Bomb Threat or Hoax**

3.4 **Explosives** - Possessing or placing on educational premises any explosive device, including, but not limited to, dynamite or dynamite cartridge, bomb, grenade, mine, nitroglycerine, or any other powerful explosives capable of causing injury or damages.

3.5 **Firearm - Possession or Use of** - Possessing, handling, using, transferring or bringing onto school property, or to a school-sponsored curricular or extracurricular activity off of school property, a gun, rifle, pistol or other firearm.

3.6 **Terrorist Threat or Hoax -**

- (a) Communicating by any means to any person or group of persons, a report, knowing or having reason to know the report is false, that there is located on school property or at a school-sponsored curricular or extracurricular activity off school property any device, substance or material designed to cause harmful or life-threatening illness or injury to another person;
- (b) With intent to perpetrate a hoax, concealing, placing, or displaying a device, machine, instrument, artifact, letter, package, material or substance on school property or at a school-sponsored curricular or extracurricular activity off school property, so as to cause any person reasonably to believe the same to be a substance or material capable of causing harmful or life-threatening illness or injury to another person.
- (c) Threatening to commit on school property or at a school-sponsored curricular or extracurricular activity off school property an act of terror that is likely to cause serious injury or death, when that threat is intended to cause a significant disruption to the instructional day or a school-sponsored activity, or causes such a disruption.
- (d) Making a report, knowing or having reason to know the report is false, that there is about to occur or is occurring on school property or at a school-sponsored curricular or extracurricular activity off school property, an act of terror that is likely to cause serious injury or death, when that report is intended to cause a significant disruption to the instructional day or a school-sponsored activity, or causes such a disruption.
- (e) Conspiring to make a terrorist threat or hoax within the meaning of this policy.

Penalty for Level Three Violations

For a violation of **3.1 or 3.2**, any student who is **under 13 years of age** shall be long-term suspended from Hope Charter Leadership Academy for the remainder of the school year.

For a violation of **3.3, 3.4, or 3.5** shall result in suspension for **365 calendar days** from Hope Charter Leadership Academy in accordance with **G.S. 115C-391**. The Board of Directors may modify this suspension requirement on a case-by-case basis that includes, but is not limited to, the procedures established for the discipline of students with disabilities and may also provide, or contract, for the provision of educational services in an alternative school setting or in another setting that provides educational services.

A violation of **3.6** shall result in a long-term suspension and may result in expulsion for up to **365 calendar days** from Hope Charter Leadership Academy in accordance with **G.S. 115C-391**.

Any student who brings a weapon or firearm to school or on school property shall be referred to the criminal justice or juvenile delinquency system by the Board of Directors or their designee.

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