

Students' Rights and Responsibilities

In keeping with the right to equal educational opportunity, students have a duty as citizens of the school community to abide by the rules and regulations established by the Board of Education, its designees, or other authorities charged with development, operation, and maintenance of the educational environment. Responsible student involvement in the continuing promotion of a desirable and productive learning environment shall include the following rights:

1. The Right to Free Inquiry and Expressions

Students shall be permitted to freely inquire about educational matters and/or to express opinions in regard to individual concerns. Such inquiry and/or expression, however, shall not infringe on the freedom of others nor shall it be disruptive to the learning environment of the school. Examples of such action would be an attack on the character of another person and the use of obscenities.

2. The Right to Due Process

In keeping with a decision of the Supreme Court of the United States which established that the Bill of Rights and the Fourteenth Amendment are not for adults alone, students accused of violating a Board policy or a school rule shall have the right to due process according to the following procedures:

- a. Students shall have the right to know the charges made against them.
- b. If requested by a parent or guardian, a student shall have the right to a full hearing before the principal or his designee(s) to controvert witnesses.

3. The Right to Freedom of Association

A student shall have the right to freely associate with his or her peers with no infringement except for reason of educational and/or social needs as determined by the school or requested by the parent or guardian.

4. The Right to Freedom of Assembly

Students shall have the right to assemble peacefully. Such assemblies or meetings which take place in a school building or on school grounds shall be with the approval of the principal of that school. Demonstrations which disrupt or call for the disruption of the normal operation of the school or a school-sponsored event, or are a violation of the law, or a violation of the rights of other students, shall not be permitted.

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5. The Right to Petition

Students shall have the right to present petitions to the school administration or Board of Education.

Legal References: Academic Freedom Policy, Connecticut State Board of Education, 9/9/81.

Amendment of U.S. Constitution - Article I.

Connecticut Constitution, Article First, Declaration of Rights, Sections 4 and 5.

Policy Approved: 4/8/85

Policy Revised: 2/24/97