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**Student Conduct P 7-32**A. Generally

Good schools and good discipline go hand in hand. Good discipline is the positive direction of behavior toward established standards of conduct, fully understood and based upon reason, judgment and the rights of others.

Ideally, discipline is self-directed and self-controlled. Schools, community, and parents share the responsibility for helping students develop self-discipline. Discipline is necessary to assure an orderly environment in which each person may live and learn to his/her full capabilities in harmony with others.

When self-discipline fails, disciplinary forces outside the individual must be imposed to protect the rights of others. In the Lynchburg City Schools, as in the community at large, certain rules and guidelines are established to ensure that there is a clear understanding of the behavioral expectations of all students. Parents, school personnel, and others responsible and concerned about the welfare and education of young citizens must cooperate to interpret and enforce the rules.

The Lynchburg City School Board has high expectations of students and staff regarding personal behavior and good discipline in the schools. To this end the board assigns to the staff--teachers, principals, administrators, and other division personnel--the responsibility of assuring that good discipline is maintained in the schools and that rules are enforced consistently, fairly, and promptly with due regard for the civil rights of all individuals.

In order to establish a sound foundation upon which good discipline will be maintained, clearly understood responsibilities must be established and supported by students, parents, teachers and school administrators.

B. Student Responsibilities

1. To respect the authority of teachers, principals, and other school staff to enforce division policy and school rules regarding student discipline and conduct.
2. To abide by the standards of conduct and rules governing discipline established by the school.
3. To attend school regularly and punctually.
4. To be self-controlled, reasonably quiet and non-disruptive in classrooms, hallways, study areas, school buses, on school property, and at school activities.

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5. To be clean and dressed in compliance with school rules of sanitation and safety, and in fashion that will not disrupt classroom procedures.
6. To be reasonable, self-controlled, and considerate in your relationships with other students.
7. To strive for mutually respectful relationships with teachers.
8. To keep your language and gestures respectful and free of profanity or obscenities.
9. To respect private and public property.

C. Parent Responsibilities

1. To accept and respect the right of the Lynchburg City School Board to require good behavior of all students and non-students while at school during school activities.
2. To guide your child from the earliest years to develop socially acceptable standards of behavior, to exercise self-control and to be accountable for his/her actions.
3. To know and understand the rules your child is expected to observe at school; to be aware of the consequences for violations of these rules and accept legal responsibility for your child's actions.
4. To cooperate with school officials in carrying out appropriate disciplinary penalties when such action is necessary.
5. To seek out, when necessary, appropriate community agencies for assistance in correcting your children's behavior problems.
6. To send your child to school as required by Virginia School Law 22.1-254; to make certain your child's attendance at school is regular and punctual and all absences are properly excused.
7. To insist that your child is clean, dressed in compliance with school rules of sanitation and safety, and in a fashion that will not disrupt classroom procedures.
8. To teach your child, by word and example, respect for law, for the authority of the school, and for the rights and property of others.

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9. To instill in your child a desire to learn; to encourage a respect for honest work and an interest in exploring broader fields of knowledge.
10. To become acquainted with your child's school, its staff, curriculum and activities; to attend parent-teacher conferences and school functions.

D. Teacher Responsibilities

1. To reflect a personal enthusiasm for teaching and a genuine concern for the individual student.
2. To guide learning activities so students learn to think and reason, assume responsibility for their actions, and respect the rights of others.
3. To participate in the establishment of school rules and regulations regarding student behavior; to explain these rules to students and require observance of them.
4. To be fair, firm, and consistent in enforcing school rules in the school and at school-sponsored activities.
5. To give positive reinforcement for good or exemplary behavior.
6. To demonstrate, by word and personal example, respect for law and self-discipline.
7. To refer to a counselor, or administrator, any student whose behavior requires special attention.
8. To inform parents regarding student achievement and behavior; and to consult with parents whenever necessary.

E. Administrator Responsibilities

1. To establish school rules and regulations in conformance with division discipline policy that will ensure an education program free from disruption for all students.
2. To communicate to parents, staff, and students, established division policy and school rules regarding discipline.
3. To receive teacher or counselor referrals of students with behavior problems, confer with these students, communicate with parents and set up cooperative procedures for bringing about modification of the student's behavior.

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4. To demonstrate, by word and personal example, respect for law and self-discipline and to exhibit genuine concern for all persons coming under your authority.
5. To become familiar with your students and their concerns by visiting classrooms and attending school activities.

Legal Reference

Code of Va., § 22.1-253.13:7 Standard 7. Policy Manual.-- . . . D. Each local school board shall ensure that the policy manual include the following policies, which shall be developed giving consideration to the views of teachers, parents, and other concerned citizens. . .

3. The standards of student conduct and attendance and enforcement procedures designed to provide that public education be conducted in an atmosphere free of disruption and threat to persons or property and support of individual rights; . . ." (1992)

Code of Va., § 22.1-277.1. Disciplinary authority of school boards under certain circumstances.-- A school board may, in accordance with the procedures set forth in § 22.1-277, require any student who has been (i) charged with an offense relating to the Commonwealth's laws, or with a violation of school board policies, on weapons, alcohol or drugs, or intentional injury to another person; (ii) found guilty or not innocent of a crime which resulted in or could have resulted in injury to others, or of a crime for which the disposition ordered by a court is required to be disclosed to the superintendent of the school division pursuant to § 16.1-305.1; or (iii) expelled pursuant to §22.1-277.01, to attend an alternative education program, including, but not limited to, night school, adult education, or any other educational program designed to offer instruction to students for whom the regular program of instruction may be inappropriate. A school board may require such student to attend such programs regardless of where the crime occurred.

As used in this section, the term "charged" means that a petition or warrant has been filed or is pending against a pupil. (1995)

Code of Va., § 22.1-278 Guidelines for school board policies; school board regulations governing student conduct; Board standards for compliance with federal law requiring expulsion under certain circumstances by school board A. The Board of Education shall establish guidelines and develop model student conduct policies to aid local school boards in the implementation of such policies. The guidelines shall include, but not be limited to, (i) criteria for the removal of a student from a class, the use of suspension, expulsion, and exclusion as disciplinary measures, the grounds for suspension and expulsion and exclusion, and the procedures to be followed in such cases, including

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proceedings for such suspension, expulsion, and exclusion decisions and all applicable appeals processes; (ii) standards, consistent with state, federal and case laws, for school board policies on alcohol and drugs, vandalism, trespassing, threats, search and seizure, disciplining of students with disabilities, intentional injury of others and dissemination of such policies to students, their parents, and school personnel; and (iii) standards for in-service training of school personnel in and examples of the appropriate management of student conduct and student offenses in violation of school board policies. In the case of suspension and expulsion, the procedures set forth in §22.1-277 shall be the minimum procedures that the school board may prescribe.

School boards shall adopt and revise, in accordance with the requirements of this section, regulations governing student conduct which are consistent with, but may be more stringent than, the guidelines of the Board. School boards shall include, in the regulations governing student conduct, proceedings for suspension, expulsion, and exclusion decisions.

B. The Board of Education shall establish standards to ensure compliance with the federal Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (Part F-"Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994"), in accordance with §22.1-277.01, to be effective on July 1, 1995.

This subsection shall not be construed to diminish the authority of the Board of Education or the Governor concerning decisions on whether, or the extent to which, Virginia shall participate in the federal Improving America's Schools Act of 1994, or to diminish the Governor's authority to coordinate and provide policy direction on official communications between the Commonwealth and the United States government.  
(1997)

Virginia Department of Education, Student Conduct Policy Guidelines (June, 1994).

Adopted by School Board: January 6, 1981