

# Cocke County Board of Education

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|--|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Monitoring:<br><b>Review: Annually,<br/>in March</b> | Descriptor Term:<br><br><b>Code of Conduct</b> | Descriptor Code:<br><b>6.300</b> | Issued Date:<br><b>07/11/24</b> |
|  |  | Rescinds:<br><b>6.300</b>        | Issued:<br><b>09/14/23</b>      |

1 The Board delegates to the Director of Schools the responsibility of developing specific codes of  
2 conduct which are appropriate for each level of school.<sup>1</sup> Codes of conduct for students in pre-  
3 kindergarten or kindergarten shall utilize alternative disciplinary practices such as verbal reprimand.  
4 Exclusionary discipline shall only be used as a measure of last resort.<sup>2</sup> The development of each code  
5 shall involve principals and staff members of each level and shall be based on evidence-based  
6 behaviors supports and interventions.<sup>3</sup>

7 The following levels of misbehavior and disciplinary procedures and options are standards designed to  
8 protect all members of the educational community in the exercise of their rights and duties and to  
9 maintain a safe learning environment where orderly learning is possible and encouraged.<sup>4</sup> These  
10 misbehaviors apply to student conduct on school buses, on school property, and while students are on  
11 school-sponsored outings. Staff members have the authority to enforce the code of conduct<sup>3</sup> and shall  
12 ensure that disciplinary measures are implemented in a manner that:<sup>5</sup>

- 13 1. Balances accountability with an understanding of traumatic behavior;
- 14
- 15 2. Teaches school and classroom rules while reinforcing that violent or abusive behavior is not  
16 allowed at school;
- 17
- 18 3. Minimizes disruptions to education with an emphasis on positive behavioral supports and  
19 behavioral intervention plans;
- 20
- 21 4. Creates consistent rules and consequences; and
- 22
- 23 5. Models respectful, non-violent relationships.

24 In order to ensure that these goals are accomplished, the school district shall utilize the following  
25 trauma-informed discipline practices: restorative practices, RTI<sup>2</sup>B, multi-tiered system of supports,  
26 behavior intervention plans. Principals shall use appropriate discipline management techniques when  
27 enforcing the code of conduct.

## 28 MISBEHAVIORS: LEVEL I

29 This level includes minor misbehavior on the part of the student which impedes orderly classroom  
30 guidelines or interferes with the orderly operation of the school but which can usually be handled by an  
31 individual staff member.

32 *Examples (not an exclusive listing)*

- 1 • Classroom disturbances
- 2 • Classroom tardiness
- 3 • Cheating and lying
- 4 • Abusive language
- 5 • Failure to do assignments or carry out directions
- 6 • Wearing, while on the grounds of a public school during the regular school day,
- 7 clothing that exposes underwear or body parts in an indecent manner that disrupts the
- 8 learning environment<sup>6</sup>
- 9 • Victimization of any student (harassment (sexual, racial, ethnic, religious), bullying,
- 10 cyber-bullying, and/or hazing)

### 11 *Disciplinary Procedures*

- 12 • The staff member intervenes immediately.
- 13 • The staff member determines what offense was committed and its severity.
- 14 • The staff member determines who committed the offense and if the student understands
- 15 the nature of the offense.
- 16 • The staff member employs appropriate disciplinary options.
- 17 • The record of the offense and disciplinary action shall be maintained by the staff
- 18 member.

### 19 *Disciplinary Options*

- 20 • Verbal reprimand
- 21 • Special assignment
- 22 • Restricting activities
- 23 • Counseling
- 24 • Withdrawal of privileges
- 25 • Issuance of demerits
- 26 • Strict supervised study
- 27 • Detention
- 28 • Corporal punishment
- 29 • In-school suspension
- 30 • Restorative Learning

## 31 **MISBEHAVIORS: LEVEL II**

32 This level includes misbehavior whose frequency or seriousness tends to disrupt the learning climate of  
33 the school. These misbehaviors do not represent a direct threat to the health and safety of others but  
34 have educational consequences serious enough to require corrective action on the part of  
35 administrative personnel.

### 36 *Examples (not an exclusive listing)*

- 37 • Continuation of unmodified Level I misbehaviors
- 38 • Using forged notes or excuses

- 1           • Disruptive classroom behavior

2           *Disciplinary Procedures*

- 3           • The student is referred to the principal for appropriate disciplinary action.  
4           • The principal meets with the student and the staff member.  
5           • The principal hears the accusation made by the staff member and allows the student the  
6           opportunity to explain his/her conduct.  
7           • The principal takes appropriate disciplinary action and notifies the staff member of the  
8           action.  
9           • The record of offense and disciplinary action shall be maintained by the principal.

10          *Disciplinary Options*

- 11          • Teacher/schedule change  
12          • Peer counseling  
13          • Referral to outside agency  
14          • In-school suspension  
15          • Transfer  
16          • Detention  
17          • Suspension from school-sponsored activities or from riding school bus  
18          • Out-of-school suspension  
19          • Restorative Learning

20          **MISBEHAVIORS: LEVEL III**

21          This level includes acts directly against persons or property but whose consequences do not seriously  
22          endanger the health or safety of others in the school.

23          *Examples (not an exclusive listing)*

- 24          • Continuation of unmodified Level I and II misbehaviors  
25          • Fighting  
26          • Vandalism (minor)  
27          • Use, possession, sale, distribution, and/or being under the influence of tobacco or  
28          alcohol  
29          • Use, possession, sale, or distribution of drug paraphernalia  
30          • Use, sale, distribution, and/or being under the influence of drugs  
31          • Stealing  
32          • Threats to others  
33          • Victimization of any student (harassment (sexual, racial, ethnic, religious), bullying,  
34          cyber-bullying, and/or hazing)

35          *Disciplinary Procedures*

- 36          • The student is referred to the principal for appropriate disciplinary action.

- 1 • The principal meets with the student and the staff member.
- 2 • The principal hears the accusation and allows the student the opportunity to explain
- 3 his/her conduct.
- 4 • The principal takes appropriate disciplinary action and notifies the staff member of the
- 5 action.
- 6 • The principal may refer the incident to the Director of Schools and make
- 7 recommendations for consequences.
- 8 • The record of offense and disciplinary action shall be maintained by the principal.

#### 9 *Disciplinary Options*

- 10 • In-school suspension
- 11 • Detention
- 12 • Restitution from loss, damage, or stolen property
- 13 • Out-of-school suspension
- 14 • Social adjustment classes
- 15 • Transfer
- 16 • Restorative Learning

#### 17 **MISBEHAVIORS: LEVEL IV**

18 This level of misbehavior includes acts which result in violence to another's person or property or  
 19 which pose a threat to the safety of others in the school. These acts are so serious that they usually  
 20 require administrative actions which result in the immediate removal of the student from the school,  
 21 the intervention of law enforcement authorities, and/or action by the Board.

22 If a student's action poses a threat to the safety of others in the school, a teacher, principal, school  
 23 employee, or school bus driver may use reasonable force when necessary to prevent bodily harm or  
 24 death to another person.<sup>7</sup>

#### 25 *Examples (not an exclusive listing)<sup>8</sup>*

- 26 • Continuation of unmodified Level I, II, and III misbehaviors
- 27 • Death threat
- 28 • Threat of mass violence on school property or at a school-related activity\*
- 29 • Extortion
- 30 • Bomb threat\*
- 31 • Possession, use, and/or transfer of dangerous weapons
- 32 • Assault
- 33 • Assault that results in bodily injury upon any teacher, principal, administrator, any other
- 34 employee of the school, or a school resource officer\*
- 35 • Aggravated assault\*
- 36 • Vandalism
- 37 • Theft, possession, and/or sale of stolen property
- 38 • Arson

- 1 • Possession of unauthorized substances (e.g., any controlled substance, controlled
- 2 substance analogue, or legend drug)\*
- 3 • Use or transfer of unauthorized substances
- 4 • Victimization of any student (harassment (sexual, racial, ethnic, religious), bullying,
- 5 cyber-bullying, and/or hazing)
- 6 • Electronic threat to cause bodily injury or death to another student or school employee

### 7 *Disciplinary Procedures*

- 8 • Law enforcement officials and the Director of Schools are immediately contacted, if
- 9 applicable.<sup>9</sup>
- 10 • The principal confers with appropriate staff members and with the student.
- 11 • The principal hears the accusations and allows the student the opportunity to explain
- 12 his/her conduct.
- 13 • The parent(s)/guardian(s) are notified.
- 14 • Recommendations are made to the Director of Schools.
- 15 • The principal notifies the staff members of the resolution.
- 16 • If the student's placement is to be changed, adequate notice of the charges shall be
- 17 given to the student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) and his/her right to appear at a
- 18 hearing.

### 19 *Disciplinary Options*

- 20 • Other hearing authority or Board action which results in appropriate placement
- 21 • Restorative Learning

22 \* Designates zero tolerance offenses.

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#### Legal References

1. [TCA 49-6-4005](#)
2. [TCA 49-6-3024](#)
3. [TCA 49-6-2801](#)
4. [TCA 49-6-4002](#)
5. [TCA 49-6-4109](#)
6. [TCA 49-6-4009](#)
7. [TCA 49-6-2802](#)
8. [TCA 39-16-517; TCA 49-6-3401\(g\); Public Acts of 2024, Chapter No. 882; Public Acts of 2024, Chapter No. 915;](#)
9. [Public Acts of 2024, Chapter No. 882](#)

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#### Cross References

Security 3.205  
 Traffic and Parking Controls 3.403  
 Procedural Due Process 6.302  
 Student Discrimination, Harassment, Bullying, Cyber-bullying, and Intimidation 6.304  
 Title IX & Sexual Harassment 6.3041  
 Interference/Disruption of School Activities 6.306  
 Bus Safety and Conduct 6.308  
 Zero Tolerance Offenses 6.309  
 Dress Code 6.310  
 Corporal Punishment 6.314  
 Detention 6.315  
 Suspension 6.316  
 Safe Relocation of Students 6.4081

