

Student Discipline

It is essential to Glenburn students that the school maintains a safe and orderly environment which supports student learning and achievement. Good discipline allows the schools to do this and promotes good citizenship.

Students must respect school property, the school staff, and each other if a proper learning environment is to be maintained. Students must also act in accordance with school committee policies, school rules and applicable state and federal laws.

Disciplinary action may be taken against students who violate policies, rules or laws, and/or whose conduct directly interferes with the operations, discipline or general welfare of the school. Any student who willfully destroys school property will be required to reimburse the school for the full cost of replacing or repairing the item(s) in question.

The school committee expects the following principles to guide the development and implementation for school rules and disciplinary procedures:

1. Expectations for student behavior should be clear and communicated to school staff, students and parents.
2. Discipline should emphasize positive reinforcement for appropriate behavior as well as appropriate consequences for misbehavior. The focus should be on providing a school environment where students are engaged in constructive learning and interactions with others.
3. Maintaining classroom control is the primary responsibility of the classroom teacher. Teachers will set the climate within their own classrooms. Classroom climate cannot be separated from the academic expectations of the teacher and should be consistent with the abilities and interests of the students. Teachers must exercise good judgment, patience, and understanding while showing firmness, fairness, consistency, and nondiscrimination in their relations with students. Good discipline cannot be measured by noise level or by simple observation of student activity. It is dependent upon student compliance with reasonable teacher and administrative expectations.
4. Consequences for misbehavior should be in proportion to the offense, and must be fairly and consistently enforced, as outlined in the Glenburn School Code of Conduct.
5. The school should actively involve parents in the process of preventing and resolving disciplinary problems at school.

Physical force and corporal punishment shall not be used as disciplinary methods. State law provides that "a teacher or other person entrusted with the care or supervision of a person for special or limited purposes may not be held civilly liable for the use of a reasonable degree of force against the person who creates a disturbance if the staff reasonably believes it is necessary to a) control the disturbing behavior; or b) remove the person from the scene of the disturbance."

Teachers and staff members will have the authority to make and enforce with suitable consequences, all rules necessary for the proper management of classrooms and to foster appropriate student behavior, subject to approval of the principal.

School-wide rules shall be developed by the building principal with appropriate input from school staff, students and parents and shall be subject to approval by the superintendent. Although teachers, staff and administrators are individuals and as such, deal with discipline issues in many different ways, they must keep in mind their integral part in school wide discipline by maintaining consistent enforcement of all school-wide rules and school committee policies.

Principals shall provide for the suspension or other serious disciplinary action against students in accordance with school committee policies, administrative procedures and Maine law.

Legal Reference: 17-A MRSA § 106
 20-A MRSA § 4009

Ch. 125.23, B, 5, 1 (Maine Dept. of Ed. Rule)

Cross Reference: AC - Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action
 ACAA - Student Harassment and Sexual Harassment
 JICIA - Weapons, Violence and School Safety
 JKB - Student Detention
 JKD - Suspension of Students
 JKE - Expulsion of Students
 JKF - Suspension/Expulsion of Students with Disabilities

Adopted: November 17, 1998

Amended: March 15, 2006

Replaces Policy #4116

Amended/Adopted: October 28, 2015