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## Preface to Lynn Public Schools Discipline Code

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The Lynn School Committee has adopted the following Discipline Code in order to promote a high standard of behavior in the Lynn Public Schools, while also balancing the rights of students. By adopting the Discipline Code, the School Committee hopes to provide all students with a safe and caring learning environment, which fosters academic, behavioral, and social-emotional development.

The School Committee recognizes the importance of the core values of the Lynn Public Schools, including inclusiveness, high expectations, collaboration, shared responsibility, and inspiring life-long learning, as they relate to discipline. Disciplinary consequences included in the Discipline Code are consistent with those set forth in applicable law. While the laws allow for flexibility in the administration of discipline, the Discipline Code should be administered with fairness and equity, while taking into account the individual circumstances in each incident of student misconduct.

The degree, frequency, and circumstances surrounding each incident should impact the methods used in enforcing the Discipline Code, and disciplinary actions shall be progressively applied. For example, disciplinary actions that are available but should be used carefully include out of school suspension, expulsion, and notice to local law enforcement or other appropriate legal authorities.

In addition to the Discipline Code, the Lynn Public Schools also uses support, prevention, and similar measures to promote a high standard of behavior. While these measures may exist outside of the Discipline Code, they are no less important.

Recognizing that discipline is the dual responsibility of the home and school, the School Committee has adopted the Discipline Code with input from various stakeholders, including school district leadership, educators, and administrators, as well as parents and students themselves.

Finally, students are reminded that they are subject to the Discipline Code in school buildings, on school property, on the way to or from school, on buses or other school transportation, and at school-sponsored or school-related events such as field trips, athletic events, and non-athletic events. Students also are subject to the Lynn Public Schools District Policy Manual. Students additionally are subject to any criminal or civil law(s) that may exist and apply to their actions at any given time.

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## Discipline Code

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Students also are subject to the Lynn Public Schools District Policy Manual, whether or not specifically referenced below.

Students additionally are subject to any criminal or civil law(s) that may exist and apply to their actions at any given time, whether or not specifically referenced below.

Support, prevention, and similar measures are used in the Lynn Public Schools in addition to the Discipline Code, in order to promote a high standard of behavior.

### **1.0 Attendance-Related Problems**

The following infractions are subject to M.G.L. c. 71 § 37H ¾ and may result in: Detention (of any kind), parent conference, suspension, and/or Court proceeding through a CRA (Child Requiring Assistance) Application.

- 1.1 Truancy
- 1.2 Skipping Class
- 1.3 Absences in violation of Attendance Policy (See District Policy Manual File JH and/or any similar and/or successor Policy Manual document. Also contained in this Handbook.)
- 1.4 Tardiness (Unexcused)
- 1.5 Dismissals (unless granted by the Principal or their designee)

- 1.6 Use of automobile during school hours
- 1.7 Violation of closed campus rule (All students shall remain on school property the entire school day.)
- 1.8 Failure to report to homeroom
- 1.9 Failure to report to office upon arriving late to school

**2.0 School Incidents**

The following infractions are subject to M.G.L. c. 71 § 37H ¾ and may result in: Detention (of any kind), parent conference, suspension, and/or notice to local law enforcement or other appropriate legal authorities.

- 2.1 Cheating
- 2.2 Forgery of school documents
- 2.3 Disruptive behavior
- 2.4 Repeated and/or continual misbehavior
- 2.5 Refusal to meet behavioral standards of the class
- 2.6 Failure to return loaned school equipment, books, or any other school property
- 2.7 Failure to report for detention
- 2.8 Failure to report back to school staff
- 2.9 Failure to return official school documents requiring a signature
- 2.10 Insubordination
- 2.11 Sent to office twice in one day
- 2.12 Habitual school offender
- 2.13 Gambling
- 2.14 Unauthorized demonstration
- 2.15 Dangerous operation of vehicles or other modes of transportation on school property (including, but not limited to cars, trucks, motorcycles, bicycles, skateboards, roller blades/skates, etc.)
- 2.16 Use of gang symbols or other display of gang membership (See also District Policy Manual File JICF and/or any similar and/or successor Policy Manual document)

**3.0 Student Appearance**

The following infractions are subject to M.G.L. c. 71 § 37H ¾ and may result in: Parental notification to bring proper attire, detention (of any kind), parent conference, and/or suspension. Dress Code violations also may result in the student having to change, cover, or remove attire.

- 3.1 Violation of Student Dress Code (See District Policy Manual File JICA and/or any similar and/or successor Policy Manual document. Also contained in this Handbook.)

**4.0 Electronic Devices and Other Objects**

The following infractions are subject to M.G.L. c. 71 § 37H ¾ and may result in: Confiscation of device/object, detention (of any kind), parent conference, and/or suspension.

- 4.1 Violation of Student Electronic Devices Policy (See District Policy Manual File \_\_\_\_ and/or any similar and/or successor Policy Manual document. Also contained in this Handbook.)
- 4.2 Possession of any electronic device or other electronic or non-electronic object that causes any disruption or distraction from the learning process or endangers health or safety

**5.0 Vandalism and Property Damage**

The following infractions are subject to M.G.L. c. 71 § 37H ¾ and may result in: Detention (of any kind), parent conference, suspension, and/or notice to local law enforcement or other appropriate legal authorities.

- 5.1 Property damage or destruction of any kind
- 5.2 Graffiti, defacing property, or vandalism of any kind

**6.0 Assault and Similar Conduct**

The following infractions are subject to M.G.L. c. 71 § 37H and may result in: Detention (of any kind), parent conference, suspension, expulsion, and/or notice to local law enforcement or other appropriate legal authorities.

- 6.1 Assault and/or battery on a school department employee or other educational staff on school premises or at a school-sponsored or school-related event
- 6.2 Use or possession of a dangerous object or weapon (See also District Policy Manual File JICI and/or any similar and/or successor Policy Manual document; Note: Firearms also subject to M.G.L. c. 269 § 10)

The following infractions are subject to M.G.L. c. 71 § 37H ¾ and may result in: Detention (of any kind), parent conference, suspension, and/or notice to local law enforcement or other appropriate legal authorities.

- 6.3 Assault, battery, or any other unwanted or inappropriate physical contact or mental/emotional harm on a pupil
- 6.4 Fighting between pupils
- 6.5 Verbal threat to persons and/or property
- 6.6 Swearing at a school employee or other educational staff
- 6.7 Hazing (See also District Policy Manual File JICFA and/or any similar and/or successor Policy Manual document); Note: Hazing also subject to M.G.L. c. 269 § 17)
- 6.8 Unwanted or inappropriate physical contact or mental/emotional harm on a school department employee or other educational staff

**7.0 Harassment / Bullying**

The following infractions are subject to M.G.L. c. 71 § 37H ¾ and may result in: Detention (of any kind), parent conference, suspension, and/or notice to local law enforcement or other appropriate legal authorities.

- 7.1 Harassment (whether sexual harassment or any other form of harassment) on a school department employee or other educational staff or pupil (See also District Policy Manual File \_\_\_\_ and/or any similar and/or successor Policy Manual document. Policy also contained in this Handbook.)
- 7.2 Bullying (See also District Policy Manual File JICFB and/or any similar and/or successor Policy Manual document); Note: Bullying also subject to M.G.L. c. 71 § 370. Policy also contained in this Handbook.)

**8.0 Arson and Fire-Related Incidents**

The following infractions are subject to M.G.L. c. 71 § 37H ¾ and may result in: Detention (of any kind), parent conference, suspension, and/or notice to local law enforcement or other appropriate legal authorities.

- 8.1 Setting a fire
- 8.2 Causing a false fire alarm or other alarm , or falsely calling 911
- 8.3 Inappropriate use of a fire extinguisher
- 8.4 Possession, use, sale, or distribution of fireworks

## **9.0 Stealing**

The following infractions are subject to M.G.L. c. 71 § 37H ¾ and may result in: Detention (of any kind), parent conference, suspension, and/or notice to local law enforcement or other appropriate legal authorities.

- 9.1 Stealing, larceny, or theft of any kind

## **10.0 Trespassing**

The following infractions are subject to M.G.L. c. 71 § 37H ¾ and may result in: Detention (of any kind), parent conference, suspension, and/or notice to local law enforcement or other appropriate legal authorities.

- 10.1 Trespassing at student's own school during non-school hours
- 10.2 Trespassing at a school other than student's own school during school hours or non-school hours
- 10.3 Trespassing on public or private property during school hours or in connection with school transportation

## **11.0 Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco, Nicotine, Controlled Substances, and Paraphernalia**

The following infractions are subject to M.G.L. c. 71 § 37H and may result in: Detention (of any kind), parent conference, suspension, expulsion, and/or notice to local law enforcement or other appropriate legal authorities.

- 11.1 Possession of a controlled substance (drugs)

The following infractions are subject to M.G.L. c. 71 § 37H ¾ and may result in: Detention (of any kind), parent conference, suspension, and/or notice to local law enforcement or other appropriate legal authorities.

- 11.2 Possession of alcohol
- 11.3 Being under the influence of controlled substance or alcohol
- 11.4 Smoking, vaping, or other use of tobacco or nicotine (See also District Policy Manual File JICG and/or any similar and/or successor Policy Manual document)
- 11.5 Possession of drug, smoking, or vaping paraphernalia

## **12.0 Felonies**

The following may result in suspension if school principal determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school under M.G.L. c. 71 § 37H ½. May also result in: Detention (of any kind) and/or parent conference.

- 12.1 Upon the issuance of a criminal complaint charging a student with a felony or issuance of a felony delinquency complaint against a student

The following may result in expulsion if school principal determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school under M.G.L. c. 71 § 37H ½. May also result in: Detention (of any kind), parent conference, and/or suspension.

- 12.2 Upon a student being convicted of a felony or upon an adjudication or admission in court of guilt with respect to such a felony or felony delinquency

## **Definition of Terms**

1. **Teacher Detention** – Disciplinary time enforced by teacher.
2. **Office Detention** – Disciplinary time assigned after school enforced by principal or their designee.
3. **Suspension** – (Short term and long term suspension; in-school and out-of-school suspension).
  - a. Short term suspension means the removal of a student from the school premises and regular classroom activities for ten (10) consecutive school days or less.
  - b. Long term suspension means the removal of a student from the school premises and regular classroom activities for more than ten (10) consecutive school days, or for more than ten (10) school days cumulatively for multiple disciplinary offenses in any school year.

Suspensions may happen in school or out of school. An in-school suspension means the removal of a student from regular classroom activities, but not from the school premises, for no more than ten (10) consecutive school days, or no more than ten (10) school days cumulatively for multiple infractions during the school year.

4. **Expulsion** –The removal of a student from the school premises, regular classroom activities, and school activities for more than 90 school days, indefinitely, or permanently, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 71 § 37H, 37H ½, and/or 37H ¾.
5. **Restitution** – Payment for loss or damage to personal or school property.
6. **Saturday Detention Program** – An academic study program provided on designated Saturday mornings during the school year.