



Code of Conduct Summary for Students and Families 2024-2025

The Arlington Central School District Board of Education (Board) strives to create safe, inclusive environments that support the mental, social and emotional well-being of all students. The District will foster a sense of belonging by honoring the dignity of each individual, and by developing students' abilities to be inclusive and welcoming while affirming students' personal and cultural identities. The District is committed to providing a safe and productive school environment where students and staff engage and thrive in the teaching and learning process. All stakeholders, including students, teachers, administrators, staff, parents and visitors, are essential to achieving this goal.

The District has a long standing set of expectations for conduct on school property and at school functions. These expectations are based on the principles of safety, civility, mutual respect, citizenship, character, acceptance, inclusiveness, equity, honesty and integrity.

The Board recognizes the need to define these expectations for acceptable conduct on school property, to identify the possible consequences and interventions of unacceptable conduct, and to ensure that discipline, when necessary, is administered promptly and equitably. To this end, the Board adopts this Code of Conduct (Code).

This Code applies to all stakeholders, which include students, employees, parents and other visitors when on school property, school buses or attending a school function, including distance learning activities, or when engaged in off-campus behavior that endangers the health, safety and well-being of members of the school community.

Student Rights:

1. Each student has the right to be an active learner in a safe learning environment.
2. No student has the right to harass, threaten, or intimidate another student.
3. No student has the right to interfere with the education of their fellow students or with the environment necessary to obtain it.
4. In addition, to promote a safe, healthy, orderly and civil school environment, all district students have the right to:
 - a. take part in all district activities on an equal basis subject to necessary restrictions based on health and safety, regardless of race, color, creed, national

origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, economic status, or marital status.

- b. present their version from their perspective of the relevant events to school personnel authorized to impose a disciplinary consequence in connection with the imposition of the consequence.
- c. access school rules and, when necessary, receive an explanation of those rules from school personnel;
- d. enter into dialogue with staff on issues that affect them.
- e. file a Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) complaint, to know who the DASA Coordinators are (posted in each building lobby), and to know the status of their complaint.

Student Responsibilities:

All District students have the responsibility to:

1. Contribute to maintaining a safe and orderly school environment that is conducive to learning and to show respect to other persons and to school property.
2. Be familiar with and abide by all district policies, rules and regulations dealing with student conduct.
3. Attend school every day and be in class on time, unless they are legally excused. Students should be prepared to learn.
4. Work to the best of their ability in all academic and extracurricular pursuits and strive toward their highest level of achievement possible.
5. Adhere to the provisions of the Use of Technology Student Acceptable Use Agreement (Regulation 5300-R3b), and when requested, sign the Agreement.
6. React to direction given by teachers, administrators and other school personnel in a respectful, positive manner.
7. Work alongside staff to develop mechanisms for managing their emotions and responses.
8. Ask questions when they do not understand.
9. Seek help in solving problems that might lead to discipline.

10. Dress appropriately for school and school functions.
11. Accept responsibility for their actions and commit to repairing any harm.
12. Conduct themselves as representatives of the District when participating in or attending school sponsored extracurricular events and hold themselves to the highest standards of conduct, demeanor, and sportsmanship, on and off school grounds.
13. Report violations if you see or hear something that may disrupt the school or community.
14. Accept restorative-based consequences and interventions with good will.

Student Conduct:

All Arlington students are expected to conduct themselves in a civil manner that shows regard for other students, staff, and other members of the school and general community.

Prohibited student conduct includes behaviors that are:

- Disorderly/Unsafe (i.e., running, misusing equipment)
- Insubordinate (i.e., failure to comply with reasonable directions)
- Violent (i.e., hurting others, possessing a weapon, threatening others)
- Endangering the welfare of others (i.e., discrimination, harassment, sexual harassment, intimidation, possession of alcohol or drugs, provoking/encouraging/inciting others to violate the Code of Conduct)
- Dangerous behaviors off campus, including on the school bus
- Academic misconduct (i.e., plagiarism, cheating, forging notes), which may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension from school.
- Using cell phones or electronic devices that may be disruptive in school, especially to take pictures or record videos without permission from faculty or staff.

Dignity for All Students Act

New York State's Dignity for All Students Act (The Dignity Act) seeks to provide the State's public elementary and secondary school students with a safe and supportive environment free from discrimination, intimidation, taunting, harassment, and bullying on school property, a school bus and/or at a school function. Administrators, faculty, staff, and students play an important part in creating and sustaining a healthy and respectful environment.

Each school has a Dignity Act Coordinator, who is trained in addressing the issues covered by the law. If anyone is making you or anyone else feel unsafe, threatened, harassed or discriminated against, and is therefore causing an imposition on your ability to learn, please talk to your Dignity Act Coordinator, principal, or another trusted adult at school.

Dignity Act Coordinators

The Board of Education shall appoint District Coordinators and Building Level Coordinators on an annual basis and as changes occur throughout the school year. The names of the Building Level Dignity Act Coordinators are posted in each school building and are also available on the District website (arlingtonschools.org) or by contacting any school or the central administrative office.

Reporting & Retaliation

All students are expected to promptly report any violations of the Code of Conduct to an appropriate adult. This includes incidents of other students or staff being harassed or discriminated against by students, school staff or other individuals on school property. Students who believe they have been harassed or discriminated upon due to their actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sex, sexual orientation, or gender (including gender identity and expression), are to report allegations to the Dignity Act Coordinator(s) who will investigate all complaints and take prompt corrective action, as necessary. In addition, any district staff member who observes or learns of an incident or possible incident of harassment or discrimination must take immediate and appropriate action to report the incident to the administration. Staff members must also take steps to both end the harassment or discrimination and prevent it from recurring. Any act of retaliation against a person who reports, investigates or participates in the review of a complaint of harassment or discrimination will not be tolerated.

All students, staff, and parents are responsible to report violations of the Code of Conduct to a school administrator or law enforcement personnel. Restorative and accountable consequences and interventions are determined after a thorough investigation has been conducted. Disciplinary action, when necessary, will be firm, fair and consistent. School personnel will consider all circumstances in determining consequences. As a general rule, discipline will be progressive, meaning that a student's first violation will receive a lighter penalty than subsequent violations (unless a law has been broken). Discipline procedures range in severity from a verbal warning to permanent suspension from school. Students must be told what rule has been broken and must be given a chance to tell their version of the facts to the administrator who is imposing a penalty. Additionally, information must be shared with parents if the penalty will result in removal from class, and/or suspension from school, transportation or extracurricular activities.

Please refer to the Code of Conduct for further details.

Note: The District adheres to all Federal and State regulations regarding the discipline of students with disabilities.

Dress Code

The responsibility for student dress and general appearance rests with individual students and parents. Examples of standards of dress include but are not limited to the following:

- Clothing must be suitable for all scheduled classroom activities including physical education, science labs, wood shop, and other activities where unique hazards exist.
- Underwear and undergarments will be covered with outer clothing that is not see-through.
- Footwear must be worn at all times. Footwear that is a safety hazard will not be allowed.
- Clothing may not include items that are vulgar, obscene, libelous or that denigrate others on account of race, color, hair texture and protective styles religion, creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, weight, physical appearance or disability.
- Clothing may not include messages or depictions of items that are threatening, discriminatory or promote or cause fear, violence, or are otherwise disruptive to the educational environment.
- Clothing may not promote and/or endorse gang involvement, the use of alcohol, tobacco (smoking/vaping) or illegal drugs and/or encourage other illegal activities.
- Clothing that obstructs the identification of a student, including but not limited to hats and hoods, may not be worn in school except in cases of medical or any otherwise approved reason. Hoodies must allow the face and ears to be visible to school staff.
Clothing worn for religious and/or cultural reasons are permitted including but not limited to durags, hijabs, turbans, yarmulkes, etc.)
- Specialized courses may require specialized attire, such as sports uniforms or safety gear.

Academic Integrity

Each students' work should be their own. Students have the responsibility to complete their work themselves and to acknowledge (cite) sources of information used in that work. This includes information gathered from internet sources such as youtube, etc. The Code of Conduct contains more information about the rules of academic integrity and the consequences for violating them.

Visitors to the Schools

Anyone who is not a district employee or student of the school is considered a visitor. When a visitor wants to visit a building during the school day they must call the main office to make an appointment. Upon being granted entry, the visitor must report directly to the building security greeter and show photo identification. The security greeter or a staff member will utilize the visitor management system to confirm identification prior to granting further entrance to the building. All persons on school property or attending a school function shall conduct themselves in a respectful and orderly manner. This includes, but is not limited to, abiding by the no smoking policy, being properly attired, not committing acts of violence or harassment, and not violating any civil law. Visitors are expected to abide by all the rules for public conduct on school property contained in the Code of Conduct. Any visitor who does not abide by the Code of Conduct will be asked to leave school property.

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The Code of Conduct is posted on our website at www.arlingtonschools.org.

Please contact your school principal if you have additional questions or need more information about the Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct is reviewed and updated as necessary each year. It is approved annually by the Arlington Central School District Board of Education.

This summary document is distributed to all students in the beginning of the 2024-25 school year.