

TUPPER LAKE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

CODE OF CONDUCT

2024-25

OUR MISSION

TOGETHER, WE
INSPIRE, CHALLENGE,
AND PROUDLY
SUPPORT ALL
STUDENTS



OUR VISION

The Tupper Lake Central School District welcomes our families and the community in working collectively as we empower students to accomplish their academic and personal goals.

OUR CORE BELIEFS

We are all responsible for...

- ensuring safety and security,
- creating an inclusive learning environment where all students are encouraged to take learning risks,
- demonstrating empathy in all interactions,
- embracing individual student's pathways to success,
- valuing the contributions of each student and staff member and,
- promoting civic engagement in the community.



INTRODUCTION

Dear Students, Families, and Colleagues,

We are pleased to introduce our district's Code of Conduct. Our Code of Conduct applies to students, staff, and visitors when they are in our schools or engaged in school-sponsored activities that are held off-campus.

In this document, we set high expectations and standards for personal conduct to which we must hold ourselves and each other accountable. The Code of Conduct is one of many strategies we employ to ensure a safe, positive, and purposeful school environment.

At the center of our approach is a continued commitment to equity and the dignity of each school community member. Our Code of Conduct is an important tool to help us achieve our ambitious vision of working collectively as we empower students to accomplish their academic and personal goals.

Please review this document carefully and use it as a guide throughout the school year. By adhering to our Code of Conduct, we demonstrate our commitment to the ideals of community and school citizenship that make Tupper Lake Central School a great place to learn, work, and grow.

Sincerely,
The Code of Conduct Team

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WHY A CODE OF CONDUCT

The goal of the Tupper Lake Central School District Code of Conduct is to ensure that the right of all students to receive an education in a safe, civil, engaging and caring environment is met. For our schools to be safe and supportive environments, everyone within the school community must demonstrate and offer respect.

The Code of Conduct serves as a guide to engaged citizenship, promoting positive behavior and helping students understand expectations based on safety, inclusivity, empathy, individuality, and engagement. Students are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate and civil manner, with proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students, school personnel and other members of the school community as well as for the care of school facilities and equipment.

The Board of Education recognizes the need to clearly define expectations for acceptable conduct and identify the possible responses to unacceptable conduct. Levels of behavior concerns, violations and responses, interventions and consequences are outlined in the Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct applies to all individuals while in Tupper Lake Central School District school buildings, on school grounds, in school vehicles and at all school, school-related and district-sponsored activities, including those held at locations off school property. It also applies at non-school events when behavior can negatively affect the educational process or endangers the health, safety, morals or welfare of the school community.

The Tupper Lake Central School District Code of Conduct ensures that students have equitable access to behavioral support and intervention and that race, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or gender expression are not predictors of student achievement.

PROCEDURES WITHIN EACH BUILDING

Discipline is most effective when it deals directly with the problem at the time and place it occurs, and in a way that students view as fair and impartial. School personnel who interact with students are expected to use disciplinary action only when necessary and to place emphasis on the students' ability to grow in self-discipline.

In order to be effective in changing student behavior, necessary disciplinary action will be firm, fair and consistent. Restorative practices will be utilized as appropriate. In determining the appropriate disciplinary action, school personnel authorized to impose disciplinary penalties will consider the following:

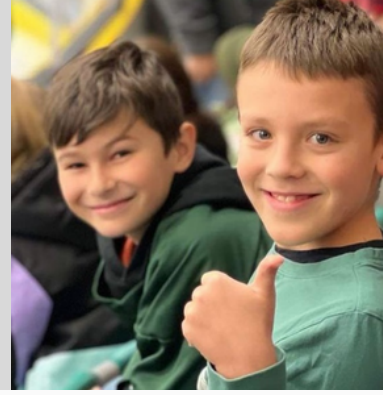
- The student's age.
- The nature of the offense and the circumstances that led to the offense.
- The student's prior disciplinary record.
- The effectiveness of other forms of discipline.
- Information from parents, teachers and/or others, as appropriate
- Other extenuating circumstances.

As a rule, discipline will be progressive. This means that a student's first violation will usually merit a lighter penalty than subsequent violations. Disciplinary consequences potentially include:

- Tutorial
- Detention (lunch, 30, 60, and 120 minute)
- In School Suspension
- Out of School Suspension
- Referral to PINs

If the conduct of a student is related to a disability, the student shall be referred to the Committee on Special Education and discipline, if warranted, shall be administered consistent with the separate requirements of this Code of Conduct for disciplining students with a disability. A student identified as having a disability shall not be disciplined for behavior related to his/her disability.

BILL OF RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENTS



Students have the **RIGHT** to:

- Take part in all district activities on an equal basis regardless of race, sex, national origin, or handicap.
- Take part in student government activities unless properly suspended from participation pursuant to the district's discipline policy.
- Address the Board of Education on the same terms as any citizen.
- Be suspended from instruction only after his/her rights pursuant to Education Law 3214 have been observed.
- In all disciplinary matters have the opportunity to present his/her version of the facts and circumstances leading to imposition of disciplinary sanctions to the professional staff member imposing such a sanction.
- Be protected from intimidation, harassment, or discrimination based on actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, or religious practice, sex, gender/gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability, by employees or students on school property or at a school-sponsored event, function or activity.

Students have the **RESPONSIBILITY** to:

- Be familiar with and abide by all district policies, rules and regulations pertaining to student conduct.
- Work to the best of his/her ability in all academic and extracurricular pursuits and strive toward the highest level of achievement possible.
- Conduct himself/herself as a representative of Tupper Lake School District when participating in or attending school-sponsored extracurricular events and hold himself/herself to the highest standards of conduct, demeanor, and sportsmanship.
- Be in regular attendance of school and in class.
- Contribute to maintaining an environment conducive to learning and to show due respect to other persons and property.
- Make constructive contributions to his/her school and to report fairly the circumstances of school-related issues.
- Respect one another and treat others fairly in accordance with the District Code of Conduct and the provisions of the Dignity Act. To conduct themselves in a manner that fosters an environment that is free from intimidation, harassment, or discrimination. To report and encourage others, to report any incidents of intimidation, harassment or discrimination.

BILL OF RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS

Parents have the RIGHT to:

- Be actively involved in their children's education.
- Be treated courteously, fairly and respectfully by all school staff.
- Receive timely information about policies and procedures that relate to their children.
- Receive regular reports from school staff regarding academic progress and behavior.
- Receive notification and information of inappropriate or disruptive behaviors by their children and disciplinary actions taken.
- Receive information about due process procedures for disciplinary matters concerning their children.
- Receive information about improving their children's progress, including counseling, tutoring, after-school programs, academic programs, and mental health services.
- Receive information about services for students with disabilities and English language learners.
- Be contacted when their child is believed to have committed a crime or when police are called.
- Receive communication through provided translators.

Parents have the RESPONSIBILITY to:

- Provide updated contact information to the child's school at the Tupper Lake Central School District.
- Make sure that their children attend school regularly and on time.
- Let school know when and why children are absent.
- Tell school officials about any concerns or complaints.
- Support their children by providing an environment suitable for learning and developing good study habits.
- Work with school staff to address any academic or behavioral problems their children may be facing.
- Talk with their children about behavior expectations.
- Teach and model respect.
- Advocate for their children and taking an active role in the school community.
- Attend parent/teacher conferences and monitoring their children's grades and progress.
- Be respectful and courteous to staff, other parents, guardians, caregivers and students while on school premises or when participating in school-related events.
- Teach children that all children have the right to attend school and be treated with respect and dignity regardless of race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender/gender identity or sex.

BILL OF RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF STAFF



Staff have the RIGHT to:

- Work in a safe and orderly environment.
- Be treated courteously, fairly and respectfully by students, parents/guardians and other school staff.
- Communicate concerns, suggestions and complaints.
- Receive supportive professional development and training.
- Receive necessary resources

Staff have the RESPONSIBILITY to:

- Foster and nurture so that students develop as learners both academically and socially.
- Recognize that children should be subject to behavior management, support and discipline policies appropriate with their ages and levels of understanding.
- Be respectful and courteous to students, parents, guardians and caregivers.
- Serve as role models for students.
- Cooperate and schedule conferences with students, parents and others to understand and resolve academic and behavioral concerns.
- Make every effort to accommodate families whose work schedules, access to transportation or distance from school, limits their ability to meet or participate.
- Keep parents informed of their student's progress, challenges, effort and achievements.
- Encourage students to participate in classroom, extracurricular and other school-related activities.
- Know and enforce rules, policies and procedures consistently, fairly and equitably.
- Confront issues of discrimination and harassment in any situation that threatens the emotional, physical health or safety of any student, employee or person who is on school property or at a school function and reporting incidents of discrimination and harassment that are witnessed or otherwise brought to the attention of the teacher, counselor, administrator, staff member or to the dignity act coordinator.
- Ensuring that race, economics and disability are never predictors of student achievement.

**Principals have the
Responsibility of:**

- Promoting a safe, supportive and orderly school environment for all school community members, regardless of actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex.
- Reviewing the Code of Conduct and procedures for reporting incidents with all staff at the beginning of the school year. Ensuring all staff participate in mandated yearly training such as The Dignity for All Students Act (DASA), school violence prevention and mental health first aid.
- Maintaining confidentiality and respecting student and parent rights to privacy.
- Developing the capacity of staff, students and families to intervene regarding behavioral concerns.
- Ensuring that race, economics and disability are never predictors of student achievement.
- Communicating with staff, students and parents/guardians interventions/consequences when applied using the Code of Conduct.

**Superintendent has the
Responsibility of:**

- Promoting a safe, supportive and orderly school environment for all school community members, regardless of actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex.
- Reviewing the policies of the Board of Education and state/ federal laws, relating to school operations and management, with all district administrators.
- Maintaining confidentiality and respecting student and parent rights to privacy.
- Working with district administrators to enforce the Code of Conduct and ensuring that all incidents are resolved promptly and that students are treated fairly and equitably.
- Addressing issues of discrimination, harassment or any situation that threatens the emotional or physical health or safety of any student, employee or person on school property or at a school function.
- Ensuring that race, economics and disability do not predict student achievement.

**Board of Education has the
Responsibility of:**

- Promoting a safe, supportive and orderly school environment for all school community members regardless of actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex.
- Approving the Tupper Lake Central School District Code of Conduct annually.
- Addressing issues of discrimination, harassment or any situation that threatens the emotional or physical health or safety of any student, school employee or person who is lawfully on school property.
- Ensuring that policies promote and ensure equity.
- Maintaining confidentiality and respecting student and parent rights to privacy.

BILL OF RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF VISITORS



Visitors have the **RIGHT** to:

- Be treated courteously, fairly and respectfully by students, parents/guardians and other school staff.
- Communicate concerns, suggestions and complaints.
- Receive necessary resources.

Visitors have the **RESPONSIBILITY** to:

- Parents and other District residents are encouraged to visit the schools under the following conditions:
 - All visitors must report to the Main Office upon arrival, present photo identification and obtain a visitor's badge, which must be worn throughout the visit and returned upon departure.
 - Visitors attending school functions that are open to the public, and held outside regular school hours such as PTO meetings, concerts, or public gatherings, are not required to register.
 - Parents or residents who wish to observe a classroom while school is in session are required to arrange such visits in advance with the classroom teacher(s) so that class disruption is kept to a minimum.
 - Teachers are not expected to take class time to discuss individual matters with visitors.
 - Any unauthorized person on school property will be reported to the principal or designee. Unauthorized persons will be asked to leave. The police may be called if the situation warrants it.
 - Complying with the terms and conditions of any legally enforceable documents.
 - All visitors are expected to abide by the Public Conduct on School Property rules contained in this Code of Conduct.

ATTENDANCE



STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND SCHOOL DAILY AS REQUIRED BY STATE LAW.

Such attendance creates an environment that fosters subject competency, continuity of learning, and responsibility, which are all integral to the educational process. Active student participation is an integral part of the school curriculum. Students must attend classes every school day unless excused for a valid reason.

STUDENTS MUST ATTEND ALL CLASSES.

Based upon the District's education and community needs, values, and priorities, the District has determined that absences, tardiness, and early departures will be considered excused or unexcused according to the following standards:

Excused: An absence, tardiness, or early departure may be excused if due to personal illness, illness or death in the family, impassable roads due to inclement weather, religious observance, quarantine, required court appearances, attendance at health clinics, approved college visits, approved cooperative work programs, military obligations, or other reasons as may be approved by the Board.

Unexcused: An absence, tardiness, or early departure is considered unexcused if the reason for the lack of attendance does not fall into the above categories (e.g., family vacation, hunting, babysitting, haircut, obtaining learner's permit, road test, oversleeping).

A written excuse, signed by a parent or person in parental relation, should be presented by the student when returning to school following each absence. Students and parents are responsible for keeping informed of makeup work for time missed in class, whether the absence is excused or unexcused.

Illness During the School Day

For health and safety reasons a student who becomes ill or who is injured during the school day, must report to the school nurse. If, in the opinion of the nurse, the student is too ill to continue to school, the nurse will contact the parent or other designated adult to make appropriate arrangements for the student to get home.

In the event that the nurse is not able to make contact with the parent or designated adult, the student shall be offered the opportunity to remain in the nurse's office. If the student would prefer to return to class, it will be the nurse who makes a nursing assessment that determines whether the student is able to return to classes. The Main Office will be notified so that the student will not be charged with unauthorized absences.

Additional Attendance Procedures

- Teachers will be notified if they will be out of the class for any reason (early dismissal, nurse's office, counseling office, Main Office, music lessons).
- Students will remain in school all day and will attend assigned courses unless granted early release.
 - Students not present for the entirety of a class will make arrangements with the teachers around making up class time and discipline as appropriate.
- Students who are tardy to school will report to the appropriate office to check in, and the tardiness will be categorized.

Early Dismissal

Information relating to the early dismissal will be communicated to the office.

No student is to leave the building without permission from an authorized school person.

See Tupper Lake Central School District Board Policy 7110

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY



As part of a school community, students and faculty have the duty and responsibility to promote academic integrity. This means that students are responsible for completing their own work. The purpose of assignments is to develop the skills and measure the progress of each student. Students learn more and attain a feeling of accomplishment through their own hard work and initiatives.

One aspect of academic integrity that is very important throughout a person's lifetime is acknowledging sources. Plagiarism is defined as the practice of using or copying someone else's ideas or work and pretending that you thought of it or created it.

Learning how to acknowledge sources begins in elementary school but is taught and refined over time through the middle school years to prepare students for high school and college. Among other things, this includes using quotation marks and footnotes and citing sources where appropriate.

STUDENTS SHOULD FOLLOW THESE RULES OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

- Do your own work.
- Don't let others use or copy: classwork, homework, quizzes and tests. Others should not get credit for work that you have done.
- If you are helping someone, do not do the work for them.
- If you are working in a group, follow the teacher's directions on sharing work.
- Be truthful.
- If you are uncertain about the directions, ask the teacher for clarification.

STUDENTS WHO FAIL TO FOLLOW THESE RULES WILL FACE DISCIPLINARY CONSEQUENCES AND HAVE A REFERRAL DOCUMENTED.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE

The possession of drugs, drug paraphernalia, synthetic narcotics, non-prescribed medications, or alcohol or the consumption of drugs or alcohol during school hours or at any interscholastic or co-curricular event or other school-sponsored activity is strictly prohibited.

No person may come to school or a co-curricular event or other school-sponsored activity, on or off campus, after the person has consumed alcohol or drugs or synthetic narcotics, non-prescribed medications, when in possession of drugs, synthetic narcotics, non-prescribed medications, drug paraphernalia or alcohol. The penalties for such conduct may include not only suspension, but following suspension, exclusion from any and all co-curricular interscholastic or other school-sponsored activity.

See Tupper Lake Central School District Policy 7320

SMOKING OR USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS

The use or possession of tobacco products or accessories, e-cigarettes or vapor instruments and/or products and dab pens and/or cartridges of any kind by persons in school buildings, on school property or in vehicles owned or operated by the District or at school-sponsored events is prohibited. The penalties for such conduct may include not only suspension, but following suspension, exclusion from any and all co-curricular interscholastic or other school-sponsored activity.

See Tupper Lake Central School District Policy 5640

REIMBURSEMENT FOR DAMAGED OR STOLEN PROPERTY

Persons who willfully, maliciously, steal or unlawfully damage, deface, destroy real or personal property in the care, custody and/or ownership of the District; shall reimburse the District for the cost of repairing or replacing the affected school property. Persons who have stolen property shall reimburse the person from whom the item(s) were stolen.

See Tupper Lake Central School District Board of Education Policy 7311 Reimbursement for Damaged or Stolen Property.

THE DIGNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS ACT



New York State's Dignity for All Students Act (the Dignity Act or DASA) took effect on July 1, 2012. Just as does the district's Code of Conduct, the new law 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 (including cyberbullying) on school property, school buses, and/or at school functions, as well as to foster civility in public schools. Consistent with the Dignity Act, the District prohibits acts of bullying (including cyberbullying), discrimination, and harassment against students by students and/or school employees on school property, on school buses, or at any school functions based on a student's actual or perceived race actual or perceived race (including traits associated with race such as hair texture and protective hairstyles), color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity or expression), or sex. The Amendments of 2013 afford protections under DASA to include all forms of harassment of any kind. Prevention is the cornerstone of the District's effort to address bullying and harassment. To implement this anti-bullying prevention program, the Board will designate, at its annual organizational meeting, individuals at each school to act as the Dignity for All Students Act Coordinators (Dignity Act Coordinator). These individuals shall be thoroughly trained to handle human relations in the areas of race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender, sex or any other legally protected status.

LP Quinn Elementary School DASA Coordinator: Kristin Skiff

Tupper Lake Middle High School DASA Coordinator: Brian Bennett

PROHIBITING THREATS OF VIOLENCE

The School District is committed to the prevention of violence against any individual or property in the schools, on school property, or at school activities, whether students, staff, or others make such acts and/or threats of violence. Threats of violence against students, school personnel, and/or school property will not be tolerated whether or not such threats occur on school grounds or during the school day.

Any person who commits an act or threatens an act of violence, including bomb threats, whether made orally, in writing, or by email, shall be subject to appropriate discipline in accordance with applicable law, District policies, and regulations, as well as the Code of Conduct on School Property and collective bargaining agreements, as may be necessary.

While acknowledging an individual's constitutional rights, including applicable due process rights, the District refuses to condone acts and/or threats of violence threatening the safety and well-being of staff, students, visitors, and/or the school environment. Employees, students, agents, and invitees shall refrain from engaging threats or physical actions which create a safety hazard for others.

DRESS CODE

STUDENT DRESS CODE

Persons shall attend school and school functions in suitable attire. Persons will not be permitted to attend school or school functions wearing clothing which is considered inappropriate in the judgment of the principal or principal's designee of the school.

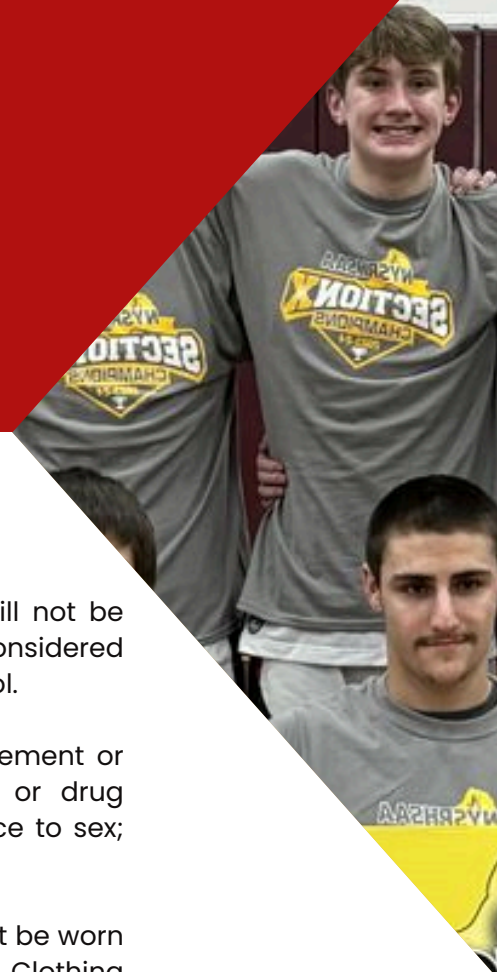
Such inappropriate clothing may include (but not be limited to): any advertisement or endorsement of the use of tobacco, alcohol, or drugs; displays of drugs or drug paraphernalia; socially unacceptable language; clothing which makes reference to sex; clothing which is excessively short or otherwise revealing.

Headgear of any kind including, but not limited to, hats, caps, and hoods may not be worn in school; with the exception of headgear for a religious or medical purpose. Clothing generally accepted as "outer wear" may not be worn in the classroom.

See Tupper Lake Central School District Policy 7312

BACKPACKS

Students must place all backpacks in their cubbies or lockers upon arrival in the building and only retrieve them when they are preparing to leave for the day. No student may wear a backpack during the school day unless a medical exemption has been cleared through the nurse's office.



CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONICS



Grades PreK–5

Cell phones and electronic devices are not permitted to be used during the school day and/or on buses for all students in grades PreK–5.

Grades 6–12

Cell phones and electronic devices should be kept out of sight and silenced (including vibration) during the school day for all students in grades 6–12, except for specific times of day noted below:

- Students in grades 6–12 will be allowed to use electronic devices for personal use prior to 7:50 a.m., during hallway passing time, in the cafeteria during scheduled lunch mods, and after 2:05 if they are not required to stay for tutorial or detention.
- Cell phones and electronic devices may not be used or visible during class, study hall, detention, tutorial or ISS.
- Teachers and staff members shall use their discretion to permit students to use cell phones during the school day, under direct supervision, only if the teacher determines that the cell phone usage is necessary and/or enhances the educational learning experience.
- Cell phones and electronic devices may not be used to take photographs or record audio and/or video at any time during the school day unless proper authorization has been provided by the building principal.

Unauthorized or inappropriate cell phone use will result in a referral to the middle/high school office and normal discipline procedure will be followed. The cell phone will be turned in and returned to the student at the end of their school day.

Note: If a student is asked to turn in their phone by a staff member and refuses, the infraction of Insubordination/Disrespect to Staff Members will be added to the referral and will result in appropriate consequences for that infraction in addition to losing their phone for the day.

OUR REVISION PROCESS

A district committee will annually review and revise the plan annually to ensure a Code of Conduct that is appropriate for district and school needs.

The Board of Education will work to ensure that the community is aware of this Code of Conduct by:

- providing copies of a plain-language summary of the code to all students at a general assembly held at the beginning of each school year;
- mailing/emailing the Code of Conduct summary, to all parents of District students before the beginning of the school year and making this summary available later upon request;
- communicating to all students and parents at the beginning of the school year that the full Code is available online and in school offices;
- providing all current teachers and other staff members with a copy of the Code (print or electronic) and a copy of any amendments to the Code as soon as practicable after adoption;
- providing all new employees with a copy of the current Code of Conduct (print or electronic) when they are first hired;
- making copies of the Code available for review by students, parents and other community members; and
- posting the complete Code of Conduct on the District's internet website, including any annual updates or amendments thereto.



The Board of Education will review this Code of Conduct every year and update it as necessary. In conducting the review, the board will consider how effective the code's provisions have been and whether the Code has been applied fairly and consistently.

The board may appoint an advisory committee to assist in reviewing the code and the District's response to Code of Conduct violations. The committee will be made up of representatives of student, teacher, administrator, and parent organizations, school safety personnel and other school personnel.

Before adopting any revisions to the code, the board will hold at least one public hearing at which school personnel, parents, students and any other interested party may participate. The Code of Conduct and any amendments to it will be filed with the Commissioner no later than 30 days after adoption. This Code of Conduct remains in effect until it is revised by the Tupper Lake Central School District Board of Education and its designees.

This document was created with a shared decision-making process that reviewed the following school district's Code of Conduct, School Board Policy, and School Handbooks:

Brushton-Moira Central School District	Long Lake Central School District	St. Regis Falls Central School District
Chateauguay Central School District	Malone Central School District	Salmon River Central School District
Edwards Knox Central School District	Massena Central School District	Saranac Lake Central School District
Boquet Valley Central School District	Niskayuna Central School District	Tupper Lake Central School District
Lake Placid Central School District	Northville Central School District	Franklin Essex Hamilton BOCES

DEFINITIONS

(ALPHABETICAL ORDER, PAY ATTENTION TO ITALICS)

THE FOLLOWING SECTION IS TO UNDERScore COMMON LANGUAGE FOR CONDUCT ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

Assault	To cause serious physical injury to another individual, cause such injury to such person or to a third person by means of a deadly weapon or a dangerous instrument.
Behavior Violations	Actions that are inappropriate in school, unacceptable or that warrant response, interventions and consequences.
Bomb Threat	The making of threats or providing false information, in writing, in person, on the phone, including text message or other means, about the presence of explosive materials or devices on school property, without cause.
Bullying	Generally defined as repeated and intentional acts that cause harm to others, and may involve verbal harassment, verbal or non-verbal threats, physical assault, stalking, or other methods of coercion such as manipulation, black mail, or extortion. It is aggressive behavior that intends to hurt, threaten or frighten another person. An imbalance of power between the aggressor and the victim involved.
Cheating	The use of fraudulent means to complete an academic assignment or test.
Child Pornography	Sexually explicit images of children younger than 17 years of age.
Consequence	A result or response that follows an action.
Criminal Behavior	Any behavior that is considered a violation against municipal, state or federal laws.
Dignity for All Students (DASA) Coordinator	An employee, designated by the board, trained in human relations in the area of race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender and sex. Dignity for All Students Coordinators manage documentation, processing, actions and interventions enforcing DASA.
Disability	As currently defined in subdivision 21 of section 292 of the New York Executive Law.
Discrimination	Unjust or prejudicial treatment toward any student by a student(s) and/or employee(s) on school property or at a school function including, but not limited to, discrimination based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender, sex, or any other protected class.

Electronic Technology	Devices and equipment such as cell phones, computers, smart wearables, and tablets.
Employee	Any person receiving compensation from a school district or employee of a contracted service provider or worker placed within the school under a public assistance program, pursuant to title nine-B of article five of the Social Services Law, and consistent with the provisions of such title for the provision of services to such district, its students or employees, directly or through contract, whereby such services performed by such person involve direct student contact.
Ethnic Group	A group of people who identify with each other through a common heritage including language, culture, and often a shared or common religion and/or ideology that stresses ancestry.
Gender	Actual or perceived sex and includes a person's gender identity or expression.
Gender Expression	The way in which we express gender identity to others through behavior, clothing, hairstyle, activities, voice or mannerisms.
Gender Identity	The way in which people self-identify as being male or female. Gender identity is internal and not necessarily visible to others.
Harassment	The creation of a hostile environment by conduct or by verbal threats, intimidation or abuse that has or would interfere with a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits or mental, emotional or physical well-being or threats, intimidation or abuse that cause or would be expected to cause a student to fear for their physical safety.
Interventions	Specific programs, strategies, restorative practices, skill-building sessions and individual and group counseling activities, among other things, that enable students to reflect on behavior, attitudes, needs and feeling; learn replacement behaviors and habits, work through personal obstacles, resolve conflict and develop goals and plans to get back on track.
National Origin	A person's country of birth or ancestor's country of birth.
Parent/ Person in Parental Relation	Parent, legal guardian, or person in parental relation to a student. A person in parental relation to another individual shall include their father or mother, by birth or adoption, their step-father or step-mother, their legally appointed guardian, or their custodian.
Plagiarism	The practice of using or copying someone else's idea or work and pretending that you thought of it or created it.
Race	Group of persons related by common descent or heredity.

Related Services Providers	Staff members who provide any service to assist with a student's development and learning within the school setting. These may include, but are not limited to speech therapists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, school counselors, or psychologists.
Religion	Either religious or spiritual belief or preference.
Religious Practice	Attending worship services, praying, wearing religious garb or symbols, displaying religious objects, adhering to certain dietary rules, proselytizing or other forms of religious expression or refraining from certain activities.
Response to Intervention (RTI)	A research-based data-driven school-wide system for student success and is an integral part of both No Child Left Behind and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. It includes the monitoring of instruction in the core curriculum to ensure it addresses the academic and behavioral needs of all students. For students who struggle, supplemental support is provided. For students who do not respond positively to the supplemental support, intensive interventions are provided. The RTI model has three uses. One is to predict those students who might be at-risk and prevent them from falling behind. The second is to identify students who require academic or behavioral intervention. The third is as a component in the identification process of students with potential learning and/or behaviorally related disabilities.
School Employee	As currently defined in subdivision 3 of section 1125 of the Education Law, or employee of a charter school.
School Function	Any school-sponsored extracurricular event or activity. This includes any event, occurring on or off school property, sanctioned or approved by the district including, but not limited to, off-site athletic events, school dances, plays, musical productions, field trips or other district-sponsored trips.
School Property	Outside grounds, all structures, and any space within any building, structure, athletic playing field, playground, parking lot or land contained within the real property boundary line of a public elementary or secondary school.
Sexual Harassment	A form of sexual discrimination and, therefore, a violation of the state and federal laws that prohibit discrimination based on sex. Sexual harassment can be verbal, non-verbal, and/or physical, and is generally defined as the unwelcome and sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of sexual nature, and includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, taking, sending or receiving sexually explicit videos, pictures or auditory recordings or other verbal or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature.
Sexual Orientation	Actual or perceived heterosexuality, homosexuality, bisexuality, or transsexuality.

<p>Suspension</p>	<p>Includes but is not limited to;</p> <p><u>Students</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Limited access to the educational day and/or extracurricular activities <p><u>Adults/Visitors</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Removal and banishment from school grounds and/or events o We reserve the right to honor the request from another district regarding persons of their district.
<p>Threat Assessment</p>	<p>A process used to evaluate the risk posed by a student or another person, typically as a response to an actual or perceived threat concerning behavior.</p>
<p>Trespassing</p>	<p>Being on school property without permission, including while suspended.</p>
<p>Violent Student</p>	<p>Means an elementary or secondary student under the age of 21 who: commits an act of violence against any school employee; commits an act of violence on school property against any student or other person lawfully on school property; possesses, on school property, a gun, knife, incendiary bomb, or other dangerous instrument capable of causing physical injury or death; threatens, on school property, to use any instrument that appears capable of causing physical injury or death; knowingly and intentionally damages or destroys the personal property of any person lawfully on school property; or knowingly or intentionally damages or destroys District property.</p>
<p>Weapon</p>	<p>A firearm as defined in 18 USC 921 for purposes of the Gun-Free Schools Act.</p> <p>It also means any other gun, BB gun, pistol, revolver, shotgun, rifle, machine gun disguised gun, dagger, dirk, razor, stiletto, switchblade knife, gravity knife, brass knuckles, slingshot, metal knuckle knife, box cutter, cane sword, electronic dart gun, sandbag or sand club, loaded or blank cartridges, Kung Fu star, electronic stun gun, pepper spray or other noxious spray, or other device, instrument, material or substance that can cause physical injury or death.</p>