

August 12, 2014

To: Green Island Students and Parents/Guardians:

The following is a summary of the changes made to the Green Island Union Free School District Code of Conduct. The revised Code of Conduct was approved at the Board of Education meeting on August 7, 2014. The full document is available on the District website at:

www.greenisland.org

2014 Code of Conduct Revisions

- Student rights were expanded to protect students from discrimination in district activities based on religious practice, weight, and ethnic group.
- Rules relating to probation and suspension from athletics and extracurricular activities were separated. The athletic rules shall be governed by the Athletic Handbook and extracurricular activities shall be subject to the same standard set forth in the Code of Conduct.
- The Electronic Devices section was changed so that it was in agreement with Board of Education Policy #5695. No use of cellphones and/or unapproved electronic devices will be allowed during the school day, including but not limited to, morning study hall and after school detention. Any unapproved devices used shall be confiscated and held in the main office until the end of the school day.
- Added language to clarify to whom a student can be released to prior to the end of the school day or in an emergency situation, as well as release at the end of the day in accordance with Board of Education Policy #5162 and what is recommended in *School Law* (p. 441).
- Added information for students and parents about their rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) in regards to student records.
- The Dress Code was edited to reflect a unified K--12 policy. We also added "weight" to the list of items that clothing may not denigrate and the prohibition of midriff baring clothing. We added that clothing should not promote and/or encourage illegal or violent activities, including the use of alcohol and drugs. We added a prohibition on hats except for headwear that is used for religious or medical reasons or approved activities. We also added that headphones should not be worn unless for an instructional purpose.
- Under "Teach Discipline" modified language to differentiate between disciplinary and non--disciplinary removal of students from the classroom and the procedure followed by teachers. This coincides with Educational Law and best practices.

The following **minor** changes were also made to support DASA, and to create a clear, concise document:

- The following definitions were added or changed
 - student
 - disruptive student
 - parent
 - violent student

- cyberbullying
- gender
- gender expression
- gender identity
- sexual orientation
- harassment and bullying
- hazing
- school function
- insubordination
- Removed language in regards to maintenance of attendance records since it is already covered in the attendance policy
- Added the DASA Coordinator as an Essential Partner
- Further defined the Discipline of Students with Disabilities to cover only those students identified with a 504 plan or IEP.
- Added the misuse of any electronic device under “Prohibited Student Conduct” and included an example of bullying and cyberbullying in accordance with DASA.
- Added language in regards to reporting DASA related offenses
- Changed formatting of Discipline Codes
- Added bullying, cyberbullying, and cyber threats as examples of Level II infractions.
- Added language regarding the reporting of Level II and Level III offenses to NYS in accordance with NYS Education Law
- Added an updated “Discipline Ladder” as an addendum to the document.
- Added the Attendance Policy as an addendum to the document.
- Updated Student Conduct and Consequences to reflect current practice in regards to the option of in--school or out--of--school suspension.
- Added language regarding filing of PINS paperwork to say, “PINS filed for persons under 16 before the filing date for schools,” to reflect current practice.