

## **NOTE TO PARENTS ON DISCIPLINE**

Teachers and staff have one primary goal, "Teaching for Learning for All students." In order to achieve this objective, rules of discipline must be implemented and enforced at school. Problems created by disruptive students consume precious learning time which should be devoted to progressive learning. Therefore, in order to ensure a safe teaching/learning environment for all students, the Public Schools of Robeson Board of Education must rely on parents, teachers, principals, assistant principals, and entire school staff to maintain specified rules governing student behavior.

The teacher is primarily responsible for classroom discipline. Rules and procedures relative to assertive discipline are to be implemented. All rules and expectations shall be carefully communicated to students by each classroom teacher. The principal shall provide assistance as deemed necessary.

School rules are to protect students and to ensure a pleasant learning environment. Proper student behavior and attitude can greatly enhance the learning process. The main goal of school is education. Any person preventing students from reaching this goal will be disciplined. This school will protect a student's right to an education. When rules are broken, consequences will be administered.

Team teachers have different reward and punishment/discipline systems. When students recognize this, they have learned a valuable fact of life. Teams of teachers are not all alike and neither are the many people with whom they will come into contact. In whatever job, vocation, or profession they choose, they will have to adjust to a variety of demands from a variety of personalities.

School is democratic. Rules apply to all. No student is singled out for special favors or punishment. The average student intent on doing a good day's work and holding a pleasant attitude will rarely have to worry about being disciplined.

What can parents do to make Prospect Elementary School better? Get involved with the school. Parents should have the philosophy that this is our school-what can I do to make it better? Visit with the teachers who instruct your children. They are professionals who have spent many years training for this profession.

When a complaint arises, listen to your child; then visit the school, to conference with the appropriate personnel. Students sometimes slant things to make the school sound bad. It is quite natural in working with children that misunderstandings do arise. This is why parents should never pre-judge, but go to school and find out if there is a problem.

## **GENERAL STUDENT EXPECTATIONS**

### **A. Attendance**

Students are expected to attend school regularly, to meet their school schedules on time and to be prompt in making up work during any absence.

### **B. Compliance With Directions**

Students shall comply with all directions of principals, teachers, substitute teachers, student teachers, teacher assistants, on-duty bus drivers and all other school personnel who are authorized to give such directions during any period of time when they are subject to the authority of such school personnel.

Failure to comply with directions is considered insubordination and a suspend able offense

### **C. Honesty**

Students should follow the highest standards of honesty and integrity in their academic studies, extracurricular activities and personal relationships with students and staff.

### **D. Identification Of Students**

A student shall promptly identify himself or herself clearly and accurately upon requests of teachers, student teachers, teacher assistants, principals or other school personnel during any period of time when he or she is properly under the jurisdiction of school personnel.

### **E. Staff/Student Relationship**

Students are expected to exhibit proper respect to all school personnel, to respect the rights of others and, in general, treat others as they would like to be treated.

## **SPECIFIC BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS**

### **A. School Flower Delivery to Students**

Students will not be permitted to receive flowers at school. The delivery of flowers causes a disruption of school and a safety problem on buses. The school will **NOT** accept the delivery of flowers.

### **B. Dress Code**

Good judgment in selecting dress is expected of all students. Students are expected to dress in a manner which is neat, clean, and appropriate for the learning environment.

Clothing styles are constantly changing; therefore, it is impossible to list all dress and grooming trends that are inappropriate for school wear. Following are examples of dress that are considered unbecoming for school wear. This list is not intended to be all-inclusive. Schools may formulate additional rules as they deem necessary. The interpretation of inappropriate clothing rests with the local school administration.

Students shall not wear clothing or hairstyles which distract other students, interfere with the classroom participation of other students, or present a health or safety hazard. Specifically:

1. Shoes or sandals are to be worn at all times during the school day. Flip-flop types are not permitted.
2. Sunglasses, hats, caps, head scarves, or head covers of any description are not permitted unless authorized by the school for a special reason or school activity.
3. Clothing deemed to be or has the potential to be disruptive of the educational process is not permitted.
4. Clothing with vulgar language, inserts, signs, or clothing advertising drugs or alcoholic beverages are not permitted.
5. Distractive, scanty clothing, tank tops, halters, low-cut tops, mini-skirts, midriff blouses, or noticeably tight or transparent clothing is not permitted.
6. Students will be permitted to wear shorts to school. Shorts should be modest and of sufficient length. A guideline for students to use in determining whether or not the shorts are long enough is as follows: Have the shorts at the waistline, stand straight with arms and fingers fully extended by one's side; the bottom of the shorts should be approximately even with the extended fingers.

7. Pants shall be worn at the waist. **“Sagging” will not be permitted.** Wear belts if they are needed to keep pants at the waist.
8. All shirttails shall be worn inside pants.
9. Loop-style earrings constitute a potential hazard if snagged or grabbed accidentally. Students should not wear them at school.
10. Only clear or see-through nylon book bags are permitted.
11. All clothing will be worn as intended by the manufacturer (i.e. long pants will not be rolled up, caps, (when allowed) will not be worn backwards, etc.).

**FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE DRESS CODE WILL RESULT IN THE FOLLOWING:**

**First Offense**

After a conference involving the student, the teacher and/or administrator (depending upon the situation), students dressed inappropriately will be placed in isolation, or allowed to change the dress item in question, or parents will be called to remedy the code violation.

**Additional Offenses**

Principal’s discretion based upon his/her investigation of the severity of the situation and a determination of the appropriate punishment with in guidelines established by the Board of Education.

**FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE RULE CONCERNING SUNGLASSES AND HEAD COVER ( HAT, CAPS, AND SCARVES) WILL RESULT IN THE FOLLOWING:**

**First Offense**

Property confiscated until the end of the day.

**Additional Offenses**

Property confiscated and kept for a period of time at the discretion of the principal. Refusal to submit the confiscated item will result in further disciplinary action. A student shall comply with school regulations and directions of all school employees who are authorized to give such directions. School regulations and directions given by authorized school personnel are to be complied with during any period of time when students are subject to the authority of such regulations and personnel.

**C. Respect for School Property**

Students are expected to display proper respect for and care of school property.

**D. Felony Conviction/Threat to Safety**

Any student fourteen (14) years or older who has been convicted of a felony and whose continued presence in school constitutes a clear threat to the safety and health of other students or employees may be expelled from school by recommendation of the principal and approval of the Board of Education.

**E. Assault/Causing of Personal Injury**

No student shall participate in an assault; cause or attempt to cause physical injury, or intentionally behave in such a manner as could reasonably cause physical injury to any student, school employee or person other than a student or school employee in any school. **A fight is considered an assault when: there are weapons or other objects that could reasonably be considered weapons involved; a student causes or attempts to cause injury to a school employee; two or more students assault, attack, cause, or attempt to cause physical injury to any other student. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the following penalty: First offense – Recommendation for long-term suspension. If convicted in court of committing a felony, recommendation of expulsion.**

**F. Weapons & Dangerous Instruments**

No student shall knowingly possess, handle or transmit a knife, razor, ice pick, explosive, loaded cane, machete, pistol, rifle, shotgun, pellet gun, metal knuckles or other object that can reasonably be considered a weapon or dangerous instrument in school. When behavior patterns disrupt the learning climate of the school or the safety and welfare of individuals, it shall become a matter of administrative action involving the students and/or parent or guardian. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the following:

**First Offense – Short-term suspension**

**Second Offense – Recommendation for long-term suspension**

**Recommendation for expulsion if convicted in court of committing a felony.**

## **G. Extortion**

No student or students shall, by threatening or abusive action, extort money or attempt to extort money, personal property or personal services from any student. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the following:

**First Offense:** Short-term suspension

**Second Offense:** Recommendation for long-term suspension

## **H. Disruption of School**

No student shall, by use of passive resistance, noise, threat, fear, intimidation, coercion, force, violence or any other form of conduct, intentionally cause disruption of any lawful function, mission or process of the school to which he is assigned or any other school in the school system, or shall any student urge any other student to engage in such conduct.

## **I. Threatening, Insulting, Abusive or Seriously Discourteous Words or Signs, Profanity, Language of a Racial Nature or Other Acts**

No student shall direct toward any school employee, toward any other student or toward any other person, in school, any language which threatens force or violence or which is abusive or insulting or any sign or act which constitutes a threat of force or violence or which is abusive, insulting or threatening.

## **J. Narcotics/Alcohol/Stimulant Drugs**

No student shall possess, use, transmit, or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana or other drug as defined as a controlled substance pursuant to Chapter 9 of the North Carolina General Statutes or any alcoholic beverage or other intoxicating liquor, beer or wine as defined by Chapter 18-A of the North Carolina General Statutes while in school unless such possession, use or transmission is authorized by law and authorized by a valid medical prescription from a registered physician will not be considered a violation of this rule when the drug is taken by the person for whom the drug was prescribed . Failure to comply with this rule will result in the following:

- A. Selling of Drugs or Alcohol - First offense will result in long-term suspension, with a recommendation for expulsion if the student is convicted of committing a felony.
- B. Use, transmission or possession of drugs, drug paraphernalia or alcohol - First offense will result in long-term suspension. This will be reduced to three (3) day suspension if the student and parent/guardian attend an approved drug rehabilitation program.
- C. A second or succeeding offense will result in long-term suspension without opportunity for shorter suspensions by attending a drug rehabilitation program.

**K. Student Demonstration**

No student or students shall, on or off school premises, engage in any protest, march, picket, sit-in, boycotts, walkouts, or any similar activity which has as its purpose the disruption of any lawful function, mission or process of the school to which the student is assigned or any other school in the system.

**L. Breaking In/Theft/Property Damage**

No student shall break in or enter a school building, commit arson, vandalize, attempt to steal or intentionally damage or attempt to damage any school property or private property while the private property is under school jurisdiction. Students will be required to make restitution for damages or work at removing the damage.

**M. Bomb Threat Or Hoax**

No student shall, by any means of communication, make a report, knowing or having reason to know the report is false, that there is located on any school premises a device designed to cause damage or destruction by explosion, blasting or burning. No student shall place on any school premises, with the intent of perpetrating a hoax, any device which would appear to reasonable person to be a bomb or similar instrument capable of causing injury or damage.

Penalty: Failure to comply with the last five rules will result in the following penalty:

**First Offense:** Short-term suspension

**Second Offense:** Recommendation for long-term suspension

**N. Hazing**

Hazing is prohibited. No group or individual shall require any student to wear abnormal dress or costume, annoy another student by playing abusive or ridiculous tricks on him/her, frighten, scold, beat, harass, or subject him to personal indignity.

**O. Other Illegal Activities**

A student shall not engage in any conduct at school which violates any law of the United States, the state of North Carolina or any political subdivision of North Carolina in which the conduct occurs and which is detrimental to the maintenance of good order and discipline in the school.

Failure to comply with the previous two rules will result in the following penalty: Principal's discretion based upon his/her investigation of the severity of the situation and a determination of the Board of Education.

In as much as each of the above offensive behaviors is a violation of one or more laws of the state of North Carolina, the principal shall immediately report such violations to the proper law enforcement agency for investigation and prosecution. In such cases, school officials shall cooperate fully with the law enforcement agency. However, internal disciplinary proceedings shall proceed independently from the criminal investigation and prosecution.

**P. Fighting**

No student shall allow the loss of self-discipline and control to the extent where physical contact is made in anger in school. Any physical attack, other than that covered under the Assault Rule, will be considered a fight. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the following penalty: Principal's discretion based upon his/her investigation of the severity of the situation and a determination of the appropriate punishment within guidelines established by the Board of Education.

Students involved in fighting on the school campus will be punished alike unless it is determined that one party acted as the aggressor without provocation, then the aggressor will be punished.

The following disciplinary penalty will be imposed when students are involved in fighting.

- First Offense: Suspension for 3-5 days**
- Second Offense: Suspension for 5-10 days**
- Third Offense: Suspension for 10 days with the recommendation for suspension for the remainder of the school year.**

\*\*\*\*\*NC Statute 1433-A: Allows schools to prosecute students involved in a fight.

**Students will be referred to the appropriate juvenile/other authorities in the following instances:**

- 4. Weapons and dangerous instrument
- 5. Narcotics/alcohol/stimulant (use or possession)
- 6. Bomb threat or hoax
- 7. Hazing
- 8. Fighting
- 9. Disruption of school (such as threatening, insulting, abusive behavior, student demonstrations, break-ins, theft or property damage).

**Q. Tobacco**

No student shall bring into school tobacco, tobacco products, matches, lighters, pouches, rolling papers, pipes or any other items that could reasonably be considered for the purpose of using tobacco products.

## **R. Trespassing**

No student shall be on the campus of another school in the Public Schools of Robeson County System during the school day without the knowledge and consent of the officials of the school he/she is visiting. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the following penalty: Principal's discretion based upon his/her investigation of the severity of the situation and a determination of the appropriate punishment within guidelines established by the Board of Education.

Any student under suspension or dismissal for disciplinary reasons from Prospect Elementary School may not participate in any extracurricular activity held on the school campus or at any other school campus in which Prospect Elementary School participates.

## Metal Detectors

“The Public Schools of Robeson County Board of Education authorizes the use of hand-held or walk-through metal detectors to check students’ and persons on school sites personal effects.

Before conducting a metal detector check of an individual student, the administrator or law enforcement officer must have individualized, reasonable suspicion that the student is in possession of an illegal or unauthorized metal-containing object or weapon.

If a properly conducted search yields a weapon or other illegal material, it shall be turned over to the proper legal authorities for ultimate disposition.

Any person on school sites in the Public Schools of Robeson County may be required to a metal detector scan. Bags and parcels may also be searched by means of metal detecting devises, by personal inspection, or otherwise.

Persons entering school buildings or entering athletic facilities may be scanned. Groups of individuals on school sites may be scanned in accordance with Board of Education policy.

A student’s failure to permit a metal detector check as provided in the Board of Education policy will be considered grounds for disciplinary action, including possible suspension. A non-student’s refusal to permit a metal detector check will be grounds for denial of entry to a school-sponsored event.”

*(Public Schools of Robeson County Policy Manual, Student Section)*

**\*A copy of the entire School Board Policy regarding metal detectors may be requested in the school office.**

## Corporal Punishment

In order to maintain an orderly atmosphere and control student behavior, corporal punishment is one of several options available to teachers and principals. However, corporal punishment should be regarded as a last resort and should be employed only in cases where other means of securing cooperation from the student have failed.

Only a teacher, principal, or assistant principal may administer corporal punishment and may do so only in the presence of a principal, assistant principal, or teacher. The following shall apply:

The principal shall annually review the guidelines for administering corporal punishment with all teachers in the school, and provide an opportunity for interactions to assure uniform understanding. Board policy regarding corporal punishment must be available to all students and their parents/guardians at the beginning of each school year.

Corporal punishment shall not be administered in the presence of other children. Minimal procedural due process shall be accorded the student in cases where corporal punishment is administered. Minimal due process shall include confronting the student with charges and allowing the student's defensive responses.

- A. Prior Notice...Corporal punishment shall not be used unless the child has been warned. Corporal punishment may be the last resort. Corporal punishment should not be used unless other lesser punishments have been tried first.
- B. The Presence of Another School Official...Only a teacher, principal, or assistant principal may administer corporal punishment, and may do so only in the presence of a principal, and/or a teacher, who shall be informed beforehand, in the student's presence, of the reason for the punishment.
- C. Corporal punishment shall be applied upon the buttocks only. Slapping or striking a child about the head or face is strictly forbidden, as is the vigorous shaking of a child by the shoulders.
- D. Documentation...The staff member who administered the corporal punishment shall document the reason for the punishment, provide documentation of lesser punishment tried first, and the name and signature of the second individual who was present when corporal punishment was administered. A copy of the documentation will also be mailed to the parent/guardian, upon request, and to the Superintendent within twenty-four (24) hours of administering the punishment.
- E. The Superintendent shall maintain a permanent file of the reports of corporal punishment.
- F. Notwithstanding this policy, school personnel may use reasonable force to control behavior or to remove a person from the scene in those situations, when necessary:
  - 1. To quell a disturbance threatening to others.
  - 2. To obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects on the person, or within the control of the student.
  - 3. For self defense.
  - 4. For the protection of persons or property.
  - 5. In the exercise of lawful authority to restrain pupils and maintain order.

(PSRC Policy Manual; Reference G.S. 115C-390; G.S. 115C-391)