

SECOND READ DRAFT SEPTEMBER 2014

**PHILOSOPHY/VISION OF THE BRUNSWICK PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

The Brunswick School Board envisions that all students are part of a community of lifelong learners who are able to contribute positively to society. We provide a comprehensive and rigorous academic program so that all students attain their full potential and make significant contributions to their communities. We strive to ensure that all students will acquire and apply the skills necessary to communicate effectively, to think critically and creatively, and to become responsible citizens of our democratic and global society.

To achieve our vision, the Brunswick School Board focuses on educating students as individuals within a community of lifelong learners. We recognize the worth and dignity of every student in order to provide for maximum intellectual, physical, social and emotional development. In order to reach their full potential, all students will demonstrate proficiency in basic skills, exercise responsible and creative decision making, explore ideas, embrace the aesthetics of life, and be responsible, productive citizens.

This requires a collaborative effort by the community, families of students, the Board, the administration, the faculty, the staff, and the students.

**DRAFT – SECOND READ – SEPTEMBER 2014**

**SCHOOL SYSTEM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

The Brunswick School Board recognizes its responsibility to set goals for the efficient operation of the school unit. In discharging this responsibility, the Board will strive to ensure that the resources of the unit are directed toward meeting the educational needs of each eligible student.

The Board will develop annual goals based on input solicited from a variety of sources. These goals will be shared with the community, the staff, and the students. The administration shall develop appropriate objectives designed to achieve the stated priorities.

The Board will regularly evaluate progress towards meeting the goals and will adopt appropriate policies designed to facilitate their accomplishment.

*Legal Reference: Title 20-A MRSA SEC. 4511.3, A*

*Revised:*

## Draft for Second Read

**SCHOOL SYSTEM COMMITMENT TO STANDARDS  
FOR ETHICAL AND RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR**

The Brunswick School Board believes that promoting ethical and responsible behavior is an essential part of the school unit's educational mission. The Board recognizes that ethics, constructive attitudes, responsible behavior, and "character" are important if a student is to leave school as a "responsible and involved citizen," as described in the Guiding Principles of the Maine Learning Results. The Board also recognizes that Maine law requires the adoption of a district-wide student code of conduct consistent with statewide standards for student behavior developed by the Commissioner of the Department of Education in compliance with 20-A MRSA § 254(11).

The Board seeks to create and maintain a school climate in which ethical and responsible behavior can flourish. The Board believes that instilling a sense of ethics and responsibility in students requires setting positive expectations for student behavior as well as establishing disciplinary consequences for behavior that violates Board policy and/or school rules. Further, the Board believes that in order to teach ethical and responsible behavior, adults who interact with students must strive to model and reinforce ethical and responsible behavior. To that end, the Board supports an active partnership between schools and parents.

The Board, with input from administrators, staff, parents, students, and members of the community, will adopt a Student Code of Conduct consistent with statewide standards for student behavior<sup>1</sup> that shall include the following:

- A. Define unacceptable student behavior;
- B. Establish standards of student responsibility for behavior;
- C. Prescribe consequences for violation of the Student Code of Conduct, including first-time violations, when appropriate;
- D. Describe appropriate procedures for referring students in need of special services to those services;
- E. Establish criteria to determine when further assessment of a current Individual Education Plan (IEP) is necessary, based on removal of the student from class;
- F. Establish policies and procedures concerning the removal of disruptive or violent students from a classroom or a school bus, as well as student disciplinary and placement decisions, when appropriate;
- G. Establish guidelines and criteria concerning the appropriate circumstances when the Superintendent/designee may provide information to the local police or other appropriate law enforcement authorities regarding an offense that involves violence committed by any person on school grounds or other school property; and,

- H. Establish policies and procedures to address bullying, harassment and sexual harassment.

The Board will review the Student Code of Conduct periodically, inviting input from administrators, staff, parents, students, and members of the community.

When revising the prescribed consequences for violation of the Student Code of Conduct, the Board shall consider (evaluate and revise, as deemed necessary or desirable) relevant existing district-wide school disciplinary policies and/or consider adoption of new policies that:

- A. Focus on positive interventions and expectations and avoid focusing exclusively on unacceptable student behavior;
- B. Focus on positive and restorative interventions that are consistent with evidence-based practices rather than set punishments for specific behaviors, and avoid “zero tolerance” practices unless specifically required by federal or state laws, rules or regulations;
- C. Allow administrators to use their discretion to fashion appropriate discipline that examines the circumstances pertinent to the case at hand; and
- D. Provide written notice to the parents of a student when a student is suspended from school, regardless of whether the suspension is an in-school or out-of-school suspension.

The Superintendent of Schools will inform students, parents, staff, and the community of the Student Code of Conduct and relevant district-wide school disciplinary policies through handbooks, the school unit’s website, and/or other means selected by the Superintendent or his/her designee.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA §§ 254, 1001(15)

Cross Reference: JKD – Suspension of Students  
JKF – Disciplinary removal of Students with Disabilities  
JKF-R – Removal of Students with Disabilities – Adm. Procedures  
IHBAA – Referral  
IHBAA-R Referral Procedures

*Adopted:*

<sup>1</sup>The statewide standards are the “core values” identified in the report of the Commission for Ethical and Responsible Student Behavior, Taking Responsibility: Standards for Ethical and Responsible Behavior in Maine Schools and Communities. The core values are: Respect, Honesty, Compassion, Fairness, Responsibility and Courage. The Code of Conduct must be “consistent with,” not identical to, the statewide standards developed under 20 M.R.S.A. § 254(11).

**Brunswick School Department**  
**Brunswick, Maine**  
**DRAFT**  
**Administration District Goals 2014-2015**

**Goal 1: Improve Student Achievement**

Objectives:

- a. Maintain data teams at all schools and expand staff knowledge of student performance
- b. Review and support procedures for the RTI process and bench marks
- c. Maintain emphasis of the district data team on growth for the lower quartile and staff attendance
- d. Improve teacher knowledge of differentiated instruction and support uninterrupted instructional time at the elementary schools
- e. Support the NEASC evaluation process at BHS and develop a plan to address the recommendations
- f. Research and support an appropriate school climate survey for the school department.

**Goal 2: Comply with State Mandates**

Objectives:

- a. Develop a multi-year extension plan on the Maine State Standards and Proficiency Diploma
- b. Develop committees and begin work as outlined in the Extension Plan to meet State timelines.
- c. Continue work on the new Teacher/Principal Evaluation Plan.
  1. Add more teachers to the committee per legislation.
  2. Include student achievement as part of the criteria for evaluation.
  3. Provide training for administrators and department heads on the implementation of the new plan.
  4. Provide information to the School Board on the committee's work for their feedback and final approval.

**Goal 3: Develop and Carry-out Facilities Updates and Transitions**

Objectives:

- a. Develop and carry-out transition programs for staff, students, and parents of fifth grade students moving to BJHS in September 2015.
- b. Review the risk analysis of BJHS and Coffin with the School Board and help develop a plan of action.
- c. Gather data on staff and parent feelings concerning facilities updates.