

STAFF CONDUCT WITH STUDENTS

The Brunswick School Board expects all staff members, including teachers, coaches, counselors, administrators, and others to maintain the highest professional, moral, and ethical standards in their conduct with students. For the purposes of this policy, staff members also include school volunteers.

The interactions and relationships between staff members and students should be based upon mutual respect and trust; an understanding of the appropriate boundaries between adults and students in and outside of the educational setting; and consistency with the educational mission of the schools.

Staff members are expected to be sensitive to the appearance of impropriety in their conduct with students. Staff members are encouraged to discuss issues with their building administrator or supervisor whenever they are unsure whether particular conduct may constitute a violation of this policy.

Unacceptable Conduct

Examples of unacceptable conduct by staff members include but are not limited to the following:

- A. Any type of sexual or inappropriate physical contact with students or any other conduct that might be considered harassment under the Board's policy on Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students;
- B. Singling out a particular student or students for personal attention and friendship beyond a reasonable staff-student relationship;
- C. Associating with students in any situation or activity that includes the presence of alcohol, drugs, or tobacco or that could be considered sexually suggestive;
- D. Sexual banter, allusions, jokes, or innuendos with students;
- E. Asking a student to keep inappropriate secrets;
- F. Disclosing inappropriate personal, sexual, family, employment, or other private matters to one or more students;
- G. Maintaining inappropriate personal contact with a student outside of school by phone, email, Instant Messenger or Internet chat rooms, social networking websites, or letters (beyond homework or other legitimate school business).

Reporting Violations

Students and/or their parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to notify the principal if they believe a teacher or other staff member may be engaging in conduct that violates this policy.

Staff members are required to notify the principal or Superintendent promptly if they become aware of a situation that may constitute a violation of this policy.

Disciplinary Action

Staff violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal. Violations involving sexual or other abuse will also result in referral to the Department of Health and Human Services and/or law enforcement in accordance with the Board's policy on Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect.

Dissemination of Policy

This policy shall be included in all employee, student and volunteer handbooks.

Cross Reference: *ACAA - Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students*

GCSA - Staff Computer/Internet Use

JLF - Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect

Adopted: *12/10/09*