

**IMPORTANT:** PARENTS AND STUDENTS SHOULD READ THIS DOCUMENT CAREFULLY AND PROVIDE THE REQUIRED SIGNATURES ON PAGE 29. PLEASE TEAR OUT PAGE 29 AND RETURN IT TO THE SCHOOL. **ATTENTION IS CALLED TO THE FACT THAT CERTAIN VIOLATIONS SUCH AS WEAPONS, ALCOHOL, DRUGS, VIOLENCE, ARSON, MAJOR DISRUPTIONS, AND SEXUAL MISCONDUCT MAY LEAD TO EXPULSION OR EVEN PERMANENT EXPULSION FROM SCHOOL FOR THE FIRST OFFENSE.**

2013 – 2014

THE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF AIKEN COUNTY

CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT FOR GRADES PRE-K TO 12

The policies set forth in the following Code as adopted by the Aiken County Board of Education apply to all students of The Consolidated School District of Aiken County. (Elementary Principals have broad discretion in the application of this Code due to the developmental nature of their students.) This Code applies to summer school students, students in the adult education program, and students who have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan.

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**INTRODUCTORY MATTERS**

- I. ***Philosophy:*** The Aiken County Board of Education believes that citizens desire the best possible education for their children. A positive learning environment is safe, drug free, and without disruption. Good student conduct is essential to the achievement of the school's goals and objectives. The Code of Student Conduct establishes guidelines for students, parents, teachers, and administrators to maintain an appropriate school environment.

Disciplinary action is best resolved among teacher, child, and parent in a calm, reasonable manner. However, serious violations of the Code must be handled quickly and effectively by the Administration. The objective of disciplinary action is to encourage good choices and acceptable behavior by the students with every reasonable effort being made to keep students within the school's influence and to offer strategies for changing behaviors. To insure the welfare of the greatest number of students requires the dismissal of any students who fail to observe the required standards. Although this Code of Student Conduct requires an initial recommendation of expulsion for any offense listed in Section VI (A-G), the Hearing Tribunal, as well as the Board, reserves discretion to consider the merits of each case presented – in particular with regard to extenuating, mitigating, or aggravating circumstances. Whenever alternatives to expulsion are under consideration, such matters including (but not limited to) prior conduct [disciplinary record], academic achievement, citizenship, and contributions to the regular and extra-curricular school programs by the student may be considered. Deferential treatment for the purpose of maintaining athletic or extra-curricular eligibility is not allowed.

- II. ***Legal Authority for Discipline in South Carolina:*** The regulation of student conduct and discipline in South Carolina schools is derived from the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended; from Regulations of the South Carolina State Department of Education; and by specific precedent and opinion. (For a more detailed reference to legal authority see Appendix (A).)