



Student Code of Conduct

Introduction

The primary objective of ABF Academy is to enhance each student's potential for learning and to foster positive interpersonal relationships. ABF supports the concept that students who possess personal, academic, civic and occupational adequacies will become effective and productive citizens. Students must develop and accept the responsibilities and obligations of citizenship. This document helps students take control of their own learning and their ability to positively alter outcomes by employing appropriate personal choices and skills.

The Code of Student Conduct is the School's policy that creates a safe learning environment to ensure academic success. If this objective is to be accomplished, it is necessary that the school environment be a safe and supportive community. The "reculturing" of the school to a positive school climate not only supports academic achievement and promotes fairness, civility, acceptance of diversity, and mutual respect.

To enhance its effectiveness, this document addresses not only the role of the parents, the students, and school, but also core values and model student behavior, rights and responsibilities of students, procedures for using corrective strategies, including suspension and expulsion. The District promotes the following beliefs:

- All students are valuable and can make worthy contributions to society.
- All students are responsible and accountable for their choices and decisions.
- In order to grow and thrive, individuals need caring relationships and a nurturing environment.
- Supportive family relationships are the foundation of the community.
- High expectations lead to higher performance that empower individuals and strengthen society.
- Continuous learning is a lifelong process that is essential to a productive and enriched life.

Students' parents, and employees are encouraged to read the Code of Student Conduct and become familiar with its content.

BEHAVIORS	RANGE OF CORRECTIVE STRATEGIES
<p>LEVEL I Behaviors are acts that disrupt the orderly operation of the classroom, school function, extracurricular activities, or approved transportation.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LEVEL I</p> <p>Disruptive Behaviors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unauthorized location • Confrontation with another student • Cutting class • Disruptive behavior (including behavior on the school bus and at the school bus stop) • Failure to comply with class and/or school rules • Possession of items or materials that are inappropriate for an educational setting * • Inappropriate public display of affection • Repeated use of profane or crude language (general, not directed at someone) • Unauthorized use of electronic devices • Violation of dress code <p><i>* See Sexual Offenses (Other), Level IV , for obscene or lewd material.</i></p>	<p>The principal or designee <u>must</u> select at least one of the following strategies from PLAN I. Principals may authorize use of PLAN II for repeated, serious, or habitual Level I infractions.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PLAN I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/guardian contact • Reprimand • Student, parents/guardians/staff conference • Revocation of the right to participate in social and/or extracurricular activities • Confiscation of wireless communication devices • Detention or other in-school program • Temporary assignment from class where the infraction occurred • Student contract • Replacement or payment for any damaged property (if appropriate) • Temporary loss of bus privileges (if appropriate) • Behavior Plan
BEHAVIORS	RANGE OF CORRECTIVE STRATEGIES
<p>Level II Behaviors are more serious than Level I because they significantly interfere with learning and/or the well-being of others.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LEVEL II</p> <p>Seriously Disruptive Behaviors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheating/Misrepresentation • Confrontation with a staff member • Defiance of school personnel • Distribution of items or materials that are inappropriate for an educational setting* • Failure to comply with previously prescribed corrective strategies • False accusation • Fighting (minor) • Harassment (non-sexual or isolated) • Instigative behavior • Leaving school grounds without permission • Joining clubs or groups not approved by the School Board • Libel • Petty theft (under \$300.00) • Use of profane or provocative language directed at someone • Prohibited sales on school grounds (other than controlled substances) • Possession and/or use of tobacco products • Slander • Vandalism (minor) 	<p>The principal or designee <u>must</u> select at least one of the following strategies from PLAN II. The use of appropriate strategies from previous PLAN may be used <u>in conjunction with</u> this PLAN. Principals may authorize the use of PLAN III for repeated, serious, or habitual Level II infractions.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PLAN II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/guardian contact • School-based program that focuses on modifying the student's inappropriate behavior or promotes positive behavior • Suspension from school for one to five days

BEHAVIORS	RANGE OF CORRECTIVE STRATEGIES
<p>LEVEL III Behaviors are more serious than Level II because they endanger health and safety, damage property, and/or cause serious disruptions to the learning environment.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LEVEL III</p> <p>Offensive/Harmful Behaviors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assault/Threat against a non-staff member • Breaking and Entering/Burglary • Bullying (repeated harassment) • Disruption on campus/Disorderly conduct • Fighting (serious) • Harassment (Civil Rights) • Hazing (misdemeanor) • Possession or use of alcohol and/or controlled substances • Possession of simulated weapons • Sexual harassment • Trespassing • Vandalism (major) 	<p>The principal or designee must select at least one of the following strategies from PLAN III. The use of appropriate strategies from previous PLANS may also be used <u>in conjunction with</u> this PLAN. Principals may authorize the use of PLAN IV for repeated, serious or habitual Level III infractions.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PLAN III</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/guardian contact • Suspension from school for one to ten days • Permanent removal from class (placement review committee decision required) • Recommendation for alternative educational setting • Recommendation for expulsion
BEHAVIORS	RANGE OF CORRECTIVE STRATEGIES
<p>LEVEL IV Behaviors are more serious acts of unacceptable behavior than Level III. They seriously endanger the health and well-being of others and/or damage property.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LEVEL IV</p> <p>Dangerous or Violent Behaviors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Battery against a <u>non-staff</u> member • Grand theft (over \$300.00) • Hate crime • Hazing (felony) • Motor vehicle theft • Other major crimes/incidents • Sale and/or distribution of alcohol and/or controlled substances • Sex offenses (other) (including possession and/or distribution of obscene or lewd materials) 	<p>The principal or designee must use the following strategies from PLAN IV. The use of appropriate strategies from previous PLANS may also be used <u>in conjunction with</u> this PLAN.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PLAN IV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/guardian contact • Suspension from school for one to ten days • Recommendation for alternative educational setting • Recommendation for expulsion.

BEHAVIORS	RANGE OF CORRECTIVE STRATEGIES
<p>LEVEL V Behaviors are the most serious acts of misconduct and violent actions that threaten life.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LEVEL V</p> <p>Most Serious, Dangerous or Violent Behaviors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aggravated assault • Aggravated battery against a non-staff member • Armed robbery • Arson • Assault/Threat against an employee or persons conducting official business • Battery or Aggravated battery against an employee or persons conducting official business* • Homicide • Kidnapping/Abduction • Making a false report/threat against the school* • Sexual battery • Possession, use, sale, or distribution of firearms, explosives, destructive devices, and other weapons. * 	<p>The principal or designee <u>must</u> use the following strategies from PLAN V. The use of appropriate strategies from previous PLANS may also be used <u>in conjunction with</u> this PLAN.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PLAN V</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/guardian contact • Suspension from school for ten days • Recommendation for expulsion

SAFEGUARDS: PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF STUDENTS AND PARENTS/GUARDIANS

All corrective strategies used by school-site administrators must be in compliance with School Board rules and policies. Inherent in these rules and policies is the philosophy of fairness and consideration for actions that are in the best interest of students.

When confronted with an act that may require the imposition of corrective strategies by the school, the student and all other appropriate persons should be given the opportunity to explain the circumstances of the incident.

Students shall not be subjected to any corrective strategies for using a language other than English or because of a disability.

School administrators should communicate with parents/guardians when corrective strategies must be taken against a student.

Parents/guardians and students who disagree with certain strategies and decisions made at the school level have the right to the following formal complaint procedures:

- a school-level hearing;
- appeal of school-level decisions to the regional center office; and
- for expulsions, a hearing before an impartial hearing officer.

VITAL ALERTS FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS/GUARDIANS

ALERT: ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY	<p>ABF Academy enforces the Florida Department of Education Zero Tolerance Policy on school violence, crime, and the use of weapons. As an approach to reducing school violence, the intent of the policy is to provide a safe school climate that is drug-free and protects student health, safety, and civil rights.</p> <p>This policy requires the school district to impose the most severe consequences provided for in the Code of Student Conduct in dealing with students who engage in violent criminal acts, such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • homicide; • sexual battery; • aggravated battery on non-school personnel; • assault or battery on a teacher or other school personnel; • kidnapping or abduction; • arson; • possession, use, or sale of any firearm; and • possession, use, or sale of any explosive device on school property, on school-sponsored transportation, or during school-sponsored activities. <p>The State of Florida Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 1965 requires the School District to link juvenile violent incidents to the action taken by the student's school and the District. The District is required to collect data about violent incidents involving students during each school year and transmit a report to the state. Certain infractions in the Code of Student Conduct may result in criminal penalties as well as utilization of administrative corrective strategies.</p>
ALERT: OFF-CAMPUS FELONY OFFENSES	<p>To minimize off-campus acts that might have an adverse impact on the school environment, the police department will send to schools notifications for those students who have been taken into custody for and/or are formally charged with an off-campus felony or delinquent act that would be a felony if committed by an adult. The principal has the jurisdiction to impose administrative action against those students who are formally charged if, after an administrative hearing with notice provided to the parent/guardian of the student, it is shown that the incident has an adverse impact on the educational program, discipline, or welfare of the school.</p> <p>Students and parents/guardians should be aware that felony offenses can have a serious impact on an individual's future, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • criminal penalties; • loss of scholarship eligibility; • loss of voting privileges; • loss of employment opportunities; and/or • loss of driving privileges.
ALERT: IMPLICATION FOR CERTAIN SEX OFFENSES	<p>Minors convicted or adjudicated delinquent for certain sex offenses may be required to register with the State of Florida as a sexual predator or sex offender and will suffer the restrictions and embarrassment of this requirement as defined in Florida Statutes 943.0435, 943.04354, 943.0515, 985.481, 985.4815, and 775.21.</p>
ALERT: WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICES	<p>Wireless communication devices include two-way communication devices, such as cellular phones, mobile phones, MP3 players, electronic games, beepers, pagers, portable computers, personal organizers, and similar wireless devices. Possessing a wireless communication device is not a violation of the Code of Student Conduct. However, a student should not disrupt the educational process or interfere with the safety-to-life issues of students by using a wireless communication device.</p> <p>The following rules must be followed regarding the possession, use, and display of wireless communication devices:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students may possess, display and use wireless communication devices before or after the instructional day. • Students shall avoid classroom disruptions, by not displaying, using, or activating wireless communication devices during the instructional day. This includes during class, in the library, during lunch breaks, during class changes and during any other structured activity. • Students must ensure that devices are turned off during the instructional day. • Students shall not use wireless communication devices while being transported on a school bus. • Students must conceal wireless communication devices in a backpack, pocket, purse or other container during the instructional day. • The school is not responsible if a student's wireless communication device is lost or stolen. <p>The sole possession of a cellular telephone is not a violation of the Code of Student Conduct. However, the possession of a cellular telephone that disrupts the educational process, the use of the cellular telephone during school hours, use of a cellular phone to commit a crime, and the possession or use of a cellular telephone that disrupts or interferes with the safety-to-life issue for students being transported on an ABF Academy bus, are infractions of the Code of Student Conduct.</p>
ALERT: UTILIZATION OF THE INTERNET AND INAPPROPRIATE USE OF COMPUTERS	<p>Over the past few years, computers have become common household devices and popular in our schools and media centers. Students are encouraged to use computers, networks, and online telecommunication such as the Internet and electronic mail (e-mail). While exercising the right to use available technology, students must be aware of their responsibility as users. Advancement of technology has enabled many students with the access and opportunity to commit offenses that violate the Code of Student Conduct.</p> <p>The following are examples of improper uses of technology and are violations of the Code of Student Conduct:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using the network to send or receive obscene or lewd material; • Using the network to make threats against anyone or the school; • Sending electronic mail that threatens to do bodily harm to another student that might be considered assault or cyber-bullying; • Downloading pirated software (is comparable to stealing); • Willfully and knowingly obtaining an unauthorized access to or "hacking" into the school's computer system (constitutes vandalism); • Using, without authorization, school property, a school computer or other electronic device, and damaging a school's computer system or causing the computer to "crash" (constitutes a "computer-related" crime leading to criminal charges). <p>These are only a few examples of violations committed through electronic means. The school administration will evaluate and determine the appropriate level infraction under the Code of Student Conduct.</p>
ALERT: CORPORAL PUNISHMENT	<p>The use of corporal punishment is prohibited at ABF Academy. This prohibition extends to parents/guardians on school grounds.</p>

FORMAL CORRECTIVE STRATEGIES RECOGNIZED IN THE CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

TEMPORARY REMOVAL FROM CLASS	If a student is disruptive in class, the teacher may request assistance from a school administrator to have the student temporarily assigned elsewhere. The principal may utilize various Board-approved programs to address the student's behavior. The principal should consider the teacher's recommendations.
PERMANENT REMOVAL FROM CLASS	<p>A teacher may remove from class a student whose behavior the teacher determines interferes with the teacher's ability to communicate effectively with the students in the class or with the ability of the student's classmates to learn. This includes disobedient, violent, abusive, uncontrollable, or disruptive students. In such cases the principal shall be notified immediately, and the teacher shall be entitled to receive, prior to or upon return of the student to class, a copy of the Student Case Management Form (SCM) describing corrective strategies taken.</p> <p>Each school must establish a Placement Review Committee to determine appropriate placement of the student when the teacher has withheld consent for return to the teacher's class. The committee consists of at least two teachers, one selected by the faculty and one selected by the teacher who has removed the student, along with one member from the school's staff selected by the principal. The teacher who requested the removal may not serve on the committee. The parent/guardian of the student must be informed of the Placement Review Committee and be provided the opportunity to communicate with the committee on behalf of the student. The committee must decide within 5 days after the removal of the student from the classroom and may either: (1) place the student in another class, or (2) return the student to the teacher's class. The teacher may appeal the committee's decision to the Superintendent.</p> <p>In the case of a student with a disability, the Individual Educational Plan (IEP) committee may need to determine appropriate placement. Removal from a particular class should not effectuate a denial of IEP or Limited English Proficient (LEP) services.</p>
DENIAL OF BUS PRIVILEGES	Students can be denied the privilege of riding a school bus for persistent or serious violations of the Code of Student Conduct that occur on the bus or at the bus stop. The revocation of a student's bus privilege may or may not impact the student's educational participation. Such action may be taken by the school principal, who subsequently informs the student and parent/guardian of the denial of bus privileges and requests a parent/guardian conference. Such privileges may be restored by the principal following a conference with the parent/guardian and student when there is good reason to believe that the conduct in question will not recur.
DENIAL OF THE PRIVILEGE OF PARTICIPATING IN SOCIAL AND/OR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES	Students may be denied the privilege of participating in social and/or extracurricular activities if they have been disruptive in school or at social and/or extracurricular activities. They may also be denied this privilege if they have been convicted or found to have committed a felony or a delinquent act that would have been a felony if committed by an adult, and a determination has been made that the incident has an adverse impact on the educational program, discipline or welfare in the school. In addition, for senior high school students, any arrest will result in an immediate minimum 10-day prohibition from participation in interscholastic competitions or performance, including practices.
EXPULSION	<p>A principal may request that the Superintendent recommend to the School Board that a student be expelled. Principals may take this action when they have exhausted less severe administrative corrective strategies, or when they have considered those alternatives and rejected them as inappropriate in the given situation.</p> <p>If a student who is currently enrolled in an exceptional student education program or who has a Section 504 Plan commits a disruptive act of sufficient severity that warrants a recommendation for expulsion, the student must be referred immediately to the Regional Center Assistant Superintendent and the Regional Center Exceptional Student Placement Committee.</p>

BEHAVIORS THAT MAY RESULT IN CRIMINAL PENALTIES

The following behaviors are grounds for corrective strategies by the school and may also result in criminal penalties:

- Illegal use, possession, or sale of controlled substances while on school grounds or attending a school function;
- Use of a wireless communication device in the commission of a crime;
- Possession of a firearm or weapon while on school grounds or at a school function;
- Violence against any district School Board personnel;
- Disruptive behavior on a school bus, or at a bus stop, or other violation of the School Board's transportation policy;
- Violation of the School Board's sexual harassment policy; and
- Making a threat or false report involving destructive devices or explosives directed against a school, school personnel property, school transportation, or school-sponsored activity.

Notice of the potential for criminal charges for these offenses is required by Florida Statute 1006.07; however, students and parents/guardians should be aware that any criminal offense could result in criminal prosecution and penalties.