

Document Status: Draft Update

7:240 Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities

The Superintendent or designee, using input from coaches and sponsors of extracurricular activities, shall develop a conduct code for all participants in extracurricular activities consistent with Board of Education policy and the rules adopted by any association in which the School District maintains a membership. The conduct code shall: (1) require participants in extracurricular activities to conduct themselves as good citizens and exemplars of their school at all times, including after school, on days when school is not in session, and whether on or off school property; (2) emphasize that hazing and bullying activities are strictly prohibited; and (3) notify participants that failure to abide by it could result in discipline, up to and including removal from the activity. Participants who violate the conduct code will be allowed to give an explanation before being progressively disciplined. **PRESSPlus1** The conduct code shall be reviewed by the Building Principal periodically at his or her discretion and presented to the Board.

Participants in extracurricular activities must abide by the conduct code for the activity and Board policy 7:190, *Student Behavior*. All coaches and sponsors of extracurricular activities shall annually review the conduct code with participants and provide participants with a copy. In addition, coaches and sponsors of interscholastic athletic programs shall provide instruction on steroid abuse prevention to students in grades 7 through 8 participating in these programs.

LEGAL REF.:

Mahanoy Area Sch. Dist. v. B.L., 141 S.Ct. 2038 (2021).

Board of Education of Independent School Dist. No. 92 v. Earls, 536 U.S. 822 122 S.Ct. 2559 (2002).

Vernonia Sch. Dist. 475 v. Acton, 515 U.S. 646 (1995).

Clements v. Board of Education of Decatur, 133 Ill.App.3d 531 (4th Dist. 1985) 478 N.E.2d 1209 (Ill.App.4, 1985).

Kevin Jordan v. O'Fallon THSD 203, 302 Ill.App.3d 1070 (5th Dist. 1999) 706 N.E.2d 137 (Ill.App.5, 1999).

Todd v. Rush County Schools, 133 F.3d 984 (7th Cir., 1998).

Vernonia School Dist. 475 v. Acton, 515 U.S. 646 (1995).

105 ILCS 5/24-24, 5/27-23.3, and 25/2.

CROSS REF.: 5:280 (Duties and Qualifications), 6:190 (Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:300 (Extracurricular Athletics)

ADOPTED: May 11, 2016

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. Updated in response to U.S. Supreme Court's 2021 decision in Mahanoy Area Sch. Dist. v. B.L., 141 S.Ct. 2038 (2021), which involved a student suspended from the cheerleading squad for one year after she posted two vulgar *snaps* on Snapchat while off campus during the weekend. The U.S. Supreme Court held that while schools may have a special interest in regulating some off-campus student speech, e.g., teaching good manners and preventing disruption, here the school's interests were insufficient to overcome the student's interest in free expression, and the one-year suspension violated the student's First Amendment rights. The Court noted that the school's interest in regulation was diminished by the fact that the student's speech did not identify the school, did not target any member of the school community, and was transmitted through a personal cell phone to an audience consisting of her private circle of Snapchat friends. Comments during oral argument suggest the Court was particularly struck by the severity of the discipline issued as well. Careful factual analysis, in consultation with the board attorney, should occur when considering discipline of participants for off-campus activity. See 7:240-AP1, *Code of Conduct for Extracurricular Activities*, available at **PRESS** Online by logging in at www.iasb.com. **Issue 108, November 2021**