

EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT CONDUCT AND ATTENDANCE

The primary purpose of discipline in the educational environment must be education and not punishment. Each person administering discipline must make discipline a part of the educational process. Good discipline originates in the home because the parent is the first teacher of the child, and it is the parents' obligation, by teaching and by example, to develop in their children good habits of behavior as well as proper attitudes toward school. The home and school must work together toward the ultimate goal of educating a child to become a mature person capable of self-control. The South Sioux City Community School District expects parents and guardians of students to recognize their responsibilities and to cooperate with the school in implementing effective discipline.

Areas where Discipline Control is to be exercised:

1. While on school property.
2. While on or in school owned, leased or chartered vehicles.
3. While engaged in or attending a school related, sponsored, or approved activity.
4. While away from the school grounds if the conduct of pupils directly affects the good order, efficiency, management, or welfare of the school.

Drugs

Students who sell or distribute counterfeit drugs, controlled substances, or other illegal drugs on school property, including school buildings, grounds, athletic fields, school transportation vehicles, or at any school activity, home or away, shall be subject to disciplinary action according to Level III of the Student Support Policy:

- A. Student shall be reported to the local police authorities.
- B. Parents will be contacted.
- C. Student shall be excluded and referred to Administrative Staff for review and disciplinary action. Disciplinary action can include recommendation for expulsion.

Alcohol

Students who have possession of alcohol, distribution of alcohol, or students who show evidence of having consumed alcohol prior to school, a school activity, or on school property, including school buildings, grounds, athletic fields, school transportation vehicles, or at any school activity, home or away, shall be subject to Level I thru Level II of the Student Support Policy disciplinary action.

First Offense: Level I or II

- A. The school administrator will notify by telephone and/or in written form the following persons:
 1. Parents/guardians.
 2. Police Liaison Officer
- B. There will be a conference between the student, a parent/guardian, and a school administrator before the student is readmitted to classes.

Second Offense: Level II

- A. The school administrator will notify by telephone and/or in written form the following persons:
 1. Parents/guardians.
 2. Police Liaison Officer.
- B. There will be a conference between the student, parent/guardian, and a school administrator before the student is readmitted to classes.
- C. The second offense penalty will also include successful completion of Insight Classes at South Sioux City High School. A chemical use evaluation and/or assessment may also be required.

Third Offense: Level II and Level III

- A. The school administrator will notify by telephone and/or in written form, the following persons.
 1. Parents/guardians.
 2. Police liaison officer.
- B. There will be a conference between the student, parent/guardian, and a school administrator before the student is readmitted to classes.
- C. Chemical evaluation will be required.
- D. Any recommendation for expulsion will be handled by the policy for expulsion, including all due process provisions.

GUN FREE SCHOOLS

Federal, state and local law requires that a student be expelled for a period of one calendar year for possession of a gun on school property subject only to due process and any other existing law.

THREATS OF VIOLENCE

Any student who makes threats of violence toward another student, group of students, or the school in general will be subject to Level III intervention.

TOBACCO

Smoking or possession of tobacco on school property, including school buildings, grounds, and athletic fields, on school transportation vehicles, or at any school activity, home or away, is subject to appropriate action as outlined in the Student Support Policy. The situation will determine the degree of action taken.

TRUANCY

Truancy is defined as a student's absence for a period without justifiable cause as determined by school officials. Any student who leaves the building without permission from the office will be considered truant. Repeated truancy will result in a Level II and Level III intervention as indicated by the Student Support Policy.

FIGHTING

The use of violence, force, coercion, threat or similar conduct will be dealt with in the same manner as fighting. In the case of physical assault, legal action may be taken. Fighting and/or similar behavior will result in appropriate Level II and Level III action as outlined by the Student Support Policy.

WEAPONS

Possessing a weapon, dangerous instrument, or imitation thereof, will result in an intervention at the most serious level III of the Student Support Policy.

HARASSMENT

No person shall annoy, torment, or use derogatory words or statements offensive to one's self-esteem, pertaining to or as a result of one's race, sex, national origin, religion, creed, or disability. Violation of this will result in appropriate action as indicated by the Student Support Policy.

Bullying

Bullying of any individual or group of individuals is not tolerated in the South Sioux City School District. Bullying is defined as any ongoing pattern of physical, verbal, or electronic abuse on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or his or her designee, or at school sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events. Bullying is defined as any action intended to ridicule, demean, or humiliate others as determined by school officials. Bullying and/or similar behavior will result in consequences at Level II or Level III as outlined by the Student Support Policy.

GANG AND/OR GANG ACTIVITY OR DRESS

No person shall be involved with gang activity including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Dress as identified by the South Sioux City Community Schools as gang-related apparel is not allowed.
2. Writing gang graffiti, possessing items containing gang graffiti, possessing pagers, beepers, or the display of gang hand signs are an indication of gang involvement and are not allowed.

Any violation of these rules will result in appropriate intervention as indicated by the Student Support Policy.

STUDENT DRESS AND GROOMING

Parents are encouraged to take a keen interest in the appearance of their students. The school reserves the right to restrict the dress of students around shop machinery, physical education class, or in other situations where the student's health or safety is directly related to the manner of dress. Clothing judged by the school to be inappropriate is not allowed and will result in appropriate intervention as indicated by the Student Support Policy. Examples of appropriate dress attire are shown on the middle school home website.

INSUBORDINATION

Insubordination is defined as a refusal to obey a school rule, regulation, or request of a teacher or school official. The situation will dictate the degree of action as outlined by Level I through Level III of the Student Support Policy.

VULGAR AND/OR OBSCENE LANGUAGE

Vulgar and/or obscene language by any student may be subject to appropriate action as per the Student Support Policy.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

The school has the legal right and obligation to search student property and person when there is reasonable cause to believe a student is in possession of an object or substance in violation of school policy. Such material will be seized.

OTHER

The purpose of the South Sioux City Community Schools is to aid the students of this community in becoming educated persons. Any behavior which disrupts that purpose will be dealt with as a matter of discipline and will result in appropriate action as outlined in the Student Support Policy.

TARDIES

A student who enters the building 5 minutes after the start of his/her regular school day is to report to the office before going to class. Tardies before this time and between classes will be handled by the individual teacher. Tardies may result in appropriate intervention and/or loss of privilege as per the Student Support Policy.

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is essential in order to benefit from our educational program. Merely making up homework does not adequately compensate for what has been missed during the class presentation. The give and take between teacher and student, as well as student discussion, is an essential part of the class. Therefore, student attendance will be reviewed periodically and students whose attendance appears to be causing them academic problems may be subject to intervention as outlined in the Student Support Policy. When a student must be absent, the school is to be informed by 10:30 a.m. If the school has not been informed by the parent within 24 hours of the absence, the student will be subject to discipline procedures according to the loss of privilege system or the Student Support System. Students who know in advance that they are going to be absent should have their parents call the school or send written notification at least two (2) days in advance for a pre-excused make-up slip.

Regular attendance is valued and expected. Frequent absences will result in interventions as indicated by the district attendance support plan.

MAKE-UP WORK

Students will make up class work missed due to absences according to the following procedures:

1. Pre-excused absences – when possible, all assigned work shall be completed and submitted to the appropriate teacher(s) or arrangements made for its completion prior to the impending absences.
2. Regular absences (not prearranged) – unless special arrangements are made with the teacher(s), students will have one day for make-up work for each day absent plus one additional day (e.g. two days absent-three school days for make-up work).
3. Unexcused absences (truancy or suspension) Students can make up work that was missed during this time but credit will be awarded at teacher's discretion.

SKIP-DAY POLICY

The South Sioux City Community School District does not authorize a skip day for any student or group of students. Should it become evident that such a day is being taken, the administration will call each student suspected and speak to that student personally, both in the morning and in the afternoon. Should the student claim to be out-of-town, he/she will be excused only if prearranged and if the student personally calls the school from the out-of-town location. The administrator will then replace the call and must speak directly to the student. Any absence declared to be unexcused by the administration will result in the following:

1. The student will be required to return for a period of time not less than one full school day after classmates have been dismissed.
2. During such time, the student will be required to make up all work missed and/or complete special assignments or examinations.
3. The make-up work, special assignments, and/or examinations must be satisfactorily completed and will be graded by the teacher in charge.
4. The student's semester grade will be considered "incomplete" until all work has been satisfactorily completed.

STUDENT SUPPORT POLICY

It is the intent of the South Sioux City Schools to provide all students with the necessary instructional and/or behavioral support to successfully complete their educational goals. For the educational process to function as efficiently as possible and for students to achieve their maximum potential, students must be in class regularly and should contribute to a positive classroom environment. Students are expected to attend school everyday that school is in session unless ill or specific arrangements have been made with the principal in advance. Students are also expected to abide by school rules and regulations and not create disturbances which will detract from the learning environment or overall school climate, in the classroom, building, or at school sponsored activities.

Building principals and the Dean of Students will be charged with the responsibility of determining appropriate interventions for students not meeting the expectations of the school in terms of attendance, academic performance, and/or behavior. Students must understand that the consequence for behavior will be based on their previous disciplinary record. Students demonstrating poor academic performance (below ability level), excessive school absences, or involvement in minor behavioral incidents beyond those that can be handled or corrected by the classroom teacher, will be assigned a Level 1 Intervention.

Level 1 Intervention will be selected from the following (may be more than one or combination thereof):

Academic detention	Before/after school study
Student support programs	Loss of in-school privileges
Parent conference	Limitation of curricular and/or extracurricular activities
Detention	Community service
Contract with teacher	Teacher advisor
Guidance Intervention	Apology
Plan of Success	Other

Students whose attendance or classroom performance does not improve after Level 1 Intervention and students who are involved in minor behavioral problems on a continuing basis or are involved in more serious behaviors will be assigned a Level II Intervention.

Level II Intervention, if at all possible, will include parent notification and/or involvement and will be selected from the following (may be more than one or combinations thereof):

Probationary contract	Assignment monitoring
Night School/ Saturday School	Daily homework schedule
Special classes (study skills)	Before/after school study
Alternate Classroom	Out-of-school suspension
In-School Suspension	Other

Student behavior that continually disrupts the educational program and/or is of a dangerous nature to the student himself/herself or others cannot and will not be tolerated. Students exhibiting these behaviors will be assigned a Level III Intervention.

Level III Intervention will be selected from the following (may be more than one or combination thereof):

Expulsion	Out-of-school treatment program
Alternative school program	Special work for credit program
Long term suspension	Teacher advisor
Out-of-school assessment/ Counseling	Other

A student who is making little or no progress toward completion of his/her academic program may be considered a candidate for an alternative program.

DETENTION

When a student is placed on detention, he/she will have up to one additional school day to make arrangements to stay. All detentions will be served consecutively. Students who are involved in activities, work release, or senior release will also be required to serve detention. Failure to serve detention as scheduled will result in further disciplinary action. Teachers may require students to report to their room that night for academic purposes.

NIGHT SCHOOL

Night school will be scheduled at night from 3:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. Students are to report where assigned. Failure to report will result in further disciplinary action. (Complete description and rules of Night School are available.)

IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

In-school suspension will be available and students may be placed in the In-school suspension classroom as a result of inappropriate behavior or as a condition of the Student Support Policy. Successful completion of the In-school suspension assignment is required before being readmitted to the regular classroom.

DUE PROCESS

Due Process can be simply defined as observing all regulations as prescribed by law to ensure that the student's rights and privileges are protected when disciplinary action is deemed necessary. Listed below is the procedure to be followed in matters of short term and long term suspension as well as expulsion.

- I. Short Term Suspension:
Informal hearing between administrator and student.
 - A. Student must be informed of charges.
 - B. Student must be given opportunity to tell his/her version of the situation.
 - C. Administrator makes determination.
 - D. Administrator shall send a written statement to the student's parent or guardian, describing the student's conduct, and the reason for the suspension. The statement will include guidelines regarding the student's opportunity to make up missed work.
 - E. The Administrator will make a reasonable effort to fold a conference with the student's parent or guardian before or at the time the student returns to school.

- II. Long Term Suspension or Expulsion:
 - A. (Same as short term suspension) and the following,
 - B. If long term suspension or expulsion is recommended,
 1. Superintendent will be informed of action in writing.
 2. Superintendent will inform parent/guardian of suspension or expulsion.
 3. Parent/guardian has five (5) school days to request a formal hearing if so desired.
 4. After five (5) school days, if no request is received in the superintendent's office, the punishment goes into effect. A student may be excluded from school prior to the five (5) days if deemed necessary.
 5. If a hearing is requested, arrangements will be made by the Superintendent and the student will remain in school pending the decision of the hearing examiner.
 6. If a hearing is not requested, the student is removed from school after five (5) days though he/she may still request a formal hearing within thirty (30) days of the formal notification of the parents. The student must remain out of school, however, until the hearing and notification of the hearing examiner.

ACTIVITY RULES

All students who take part in activities will be subject to the rules given them by the activity program director.

PARKING

The following rules pertain to all Middle School and High School students.

1. No student may park between the Middle School and High School buildings.
2. Student parking for Middle School students is restricted to the area south of the Middle School building.
3. Student parking for High School students is restricted to the area west of the High School building.
4. Consequences may occur for improperly parked cars and inappropriate driving.
5. Students may be requested to register their vehicles.

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

On matters other than school attendance, problems should be resolved by following proper channels of authority, i.e., building administrator, superintendent, and ultimately the Board of Education.

TITLE IX

Except for contact sports and/or any other area as set forth by law, the SSCCS will make its educational program available to all students without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or marital status.