

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Students, like all citizens, have rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States. Most often, the First Amendment, which ensures the freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly and petition and the Fourteenth Amendment, which guarantees due process and equal protection, apply in school environments.

The rights of an individual are preserved only by the protection and preservation of the rights of others. A student is responsible for the way his/her rights are exercised and must accept the consequences of his/her action and recognize the boundaries of rights. Each exercise of an individual's rights must demonstrate respect for the rights of others.

These statements set forth the rights of students in the public schools of the District and the responsibilities which are inseparable from these rights:

1. civil rights, including the rights to equal educational opportunity and freedom from discrimination and the responsibility not to discriminate against others;
2. the right to attend free public schools; the responsibility to attend school regularly and to observe school rules essential for permitting others to learn at school;
3. the right to due process of law with respect to suspension and expulsion;
4. the right to free inquiry and expression and the responsibility to observe reasonable rules regarding these rights and
5. the right to privacy, which includes privacy in respect to the student's school records.

As part of the educational process, students should be made aware of their legal rights and of the legal authority of the Board to make rules and delegate authority to its staff to make rules necessary for the orderly operation of the schools.

A copy of the school discipline code will be posted in each of the schools and given to each student. This code describes in detail the offenses such as truancy, tardiness, property damage, etc., for which disciplinary action may be taken. Copies of the code are available to any parent in the principal's office.

[Adoption date: September 25, 1995]

LEGAL REFS.: U.S. CONST. amend. I
U.S. CONST. amend. XIV ° 1

CROSS REF.: ABC, Student Involvement in Decision Making (Also JFB)