

5.008 STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

I. Policy Overview

Riverside Leadership Academy requires respect and responsibility for self and others, which includes respect for property, honesty, punctuality, and reliability, and accountability. RLA views student conduct as the responsibility of all students, staff, parents/guardians, and community participants. Vital to creating this climate is our social/emotional curriculum delivered as outlined in the Student-Family Handbook, specifically through our daily morning meetings/sessions, afternoon closing circles, and throughout the school day utilizing Responsive Classroom practices and techniques. It is Riverside Leadership Academy's intention to use positive reinforcement and to promote ethical responsibility.

Riverside Leadership Academy's expectations for student behavior are based upon the following governing principles:

- Students will act with courtesy, consideration, tolerance, and patience in all interactions with others both at school and during school-sponsored activities.
- Students shall treat school property and facilities with care and respect.
- Students shall treat the property of others with care and respect.
- Students will follow Riverside Leadership Academy Student Code of Conduct and be honest in all academic and social situations.
- Student behavior will reflect positively upon Riverside Leadership Academy.

Maintaining clear disciplinary philosophies and practices is imperative to the success of our school. In doing so, Riverside Leadership Academy will help students adjust to the requirements of their environment rather than punish them for not having adjusted. RLA's disciplinary system is meant to be responsive and not humiliating or embarrassing. The ultimate, unique achievement of good discipline is self-discipline on the part of the student. Each teacher/team is responsible for managing student behavior in a manner that incorporates effective strategies consistent with the purpose and principles established by Board policies regarding student behavior. Teachers are encouraged to seek positive, innovative, and constructive methods of correcting and managing student behavior in an effort to avoid repeated misbehavior and suspension.

II. Overview of Consequences

Consequences for violating the policies in this handbook, teacher/team standards, or rules may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Parental/Guardian contact
- Loss of privileges
- Behavior improvement agreements (contracts)
- Individual or small group sessions with an administrator

- Detention during lunch or before/after school
- Exclusion from extracurricular activities
- Suspension or exclusion from Riverside Leadership Academy

Riverside Leadership Academy is not required to engage in progressive discipline. Some offenses are so serious that they warrant more severe consequences including, but not limited to, immediate suspension and/or recommendation for longer-term consequences.

The behaviors listed in our Student Code of Conduct are not to be construed as all-inclusive. The administration reserves the right to amend or add to these lists as unique situations arise. The administration further reserves the right to deviate from the stated disciplinary action(s) based on unique or aggravating factors.

Failure to follow the instruction of a teacher, administrator, or other school official and any conduct in violation of any written rule, policy, procedure, or code of Riverside Leadership Academy will result in appropriate disciplinary measures.

III. Code of Conduct Definitions

- **Behavior Referral** - A behavior referral is a specific written record of the student's act of misconduct. It documents the date, nature of the offense, and the disciplinary action taken by the teacher, School Leader, and/or dean.
- **Behavior Support Plan (BSP)/Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP)** - A behavior support plan (BSP), also known as a Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP), is a written document that identifies the motivation for chronic misbehavior and what steps will be taken in order to help a student overcome inappropriate behavior. It will be signed by school administration and offered to the student and parent(s) for signature.
- **Behavior Contract** - A behavior contract is a written document that outlines specific behavior expectations, strategies for teaching the appropriate behavior(s), and disciplinary action(s) for a student.
- **Exclusion** - Permanent removal of the student from school, school activities and school grounds. A charter school student who has been excluded may return to his local educational agency pursuant to North Carolina law.
- **Expulsion** - Permanent termination of the student-school relationship. This applies only to students 14 years of age or older whose continued presence constitutes a clear threat to the safety of other students or school staff.
- **Long-Term Suspension** - Suspension from school, school activities and school grounds for more than ten (10) school days, but less than exclusion.
- **Short-Term Suspension** - Suspension from school, school activities and school grounds for a period of up to ten (10) school days.

IV. Level 1 Behaviors

Level 1 Behaviors are those behaviors that may distract others and/or disrupt the academic environment:

- Tardiness
- Use of profanity and/or an obscene gestures
- Inappropriate public displays of affection
- Dress Code violations
- Littering on school property
- Repeatedly refusing to complete school assignments
- Violation of the Technology Use Agreement
- Repeatedly neglecting to bring computer, notebook, pencil and/or other learning materials to class

V. Level 2 Behaviors

Level 2 Behaviors are those behaviors that significantly distract others and/or significantly disrupt the academic environment:

- Repeatedly committing Level 1 behaviors.
- Failure to comply with Level 1 assigned consequences.
- Deliberately disrupting the normal educational process in the classroom.
- Failure to attend an assigned class without a valid excuse, skipping school, or cutting classes.
- Lying to or deliberately deceiving a teacher or a staff member.
- Willfully leaving the classroom or school grounds without permission.
- Failure to follow instructions of school staff.
- Unauthorized or inappropriate use of any electronic device while on school property not associated with the educational process during normal school hours.
- Throwing objects in the classroom or on school grounds.
- Insubordination.
- Violations of the Honor Code such as cheating and/or plagiarism.
- Bullying/harassing behaviors as defined by Board policy 1.008, Prohibition Against Discrimination, Harassment, and Bullying.
- Any conduct committed off-campus that (a) if committed on campus would constitute a Level 2 offense and (b) has a reasonable relationship to school operations.

VI. Level 3 Behaviors

Level 3 Behaviors are those behaviors that cause significant disruption to the academic environment or cause harm to self or others. Level 3 behaviors may result in a short-term suspension (less than 10 days) either on-site or off-site:

- Stealing from a teacher or a student.
- Defacing school, classroom, or student property.
- Threatening a student or teacher.
- Fighting/inappropriate physical contact (Non-Sexual).
- Extreme or persistent incidents of bullying/harassment.

VII. Level 4 Behaviors

Riverside Leadership Academy scholars will be taught that level 4 behaviors cause extreme breaches in the security, growth, and development of our community. These breaches are often difficult to repair because they disrupt relationships and break down trust:

- Committing a combination of or repeated Level 1 and/or Level 2 offenses.
- Trafficking, possessing and/or using tobacco/nicotine products on school property or at a school-sponsored event including the use or possession of electronic cigarettes or paraphernalia.
- Stealing or possessing stolen property.
- Threatening to physically harm or attack another student, staff member or adult on school property or at a school-sponsored event.
- Physically striking or attacking a student, staff member or adult whether as an individual act or with the assistance of others.

- Possessing, handling, transferring or bringing a weapon or ammunition (including a toy weapon; example – toy gun, toy knife) on school property or at a school-sponsored event*.
- Creating or encouraging other students to join in a disturbance, so as to cause the disruption of normal school operations.
- Possessing, selling, exchanging, distributing, attempting to purchase, using or being under the influence of alcohol, illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, or any substance purported to be an illegal drug, prescription medicine or alcohol on school property or at a school-sponsored event. This includes distribution of or purposely taking more than the prescribed amount of medically necessary prescription medication.
- Touching or conduct perceived as sexual or inappropriate in nature.
- Damage/destruction/vandalism/arson of or trespassing on school property.
- Hazing.
- Bomb threat/hoax, false alarms.
- Possession or use of explosives, fireworks, sparklers, smoke/stink bombs on school grounds or at a school-sponsored event.
- Any conduct committed off-campus that (a) if committed on campus would constitute a Level 3 offense and (b) has a reasonable relationship to school operations.
- Creating or encouraging other students to join in a disturbance, so as to cause the disruption of normal school operations.

A. Additional behaviors that can result in long-term suspension (greater than 10 days) include the following:

- Repeated fighting
- Setting off the fire alarm without cause
- Possession of tobacco, drugs/alcohol, and/or weapons
- Sexual activity/assault
- Gang-related activity
- Extreme harm to self or others
- Possession and/or distribution of pornography
- Taking unauthorized or inappropriate photos or videos of another individual

*Any student who inadvertently possesses or finds a weapon or illegal substance or stolen property, which may subject the student to exclusion, may or may not be recommended for these sanctions if the student voluntarily surrenders the property to a school staff person prior to discovery by another person. This should be done as soon as the student realizes that he/she is in possession of the weapon, substance, or stolen property.

Level 4 behaviors require that severe steps be taken to restore a sense of safety and trust. The Executive Director shall have the authority to suspend a student for up to ten (10) school days at a time (i.e., a Short-Term Suspension). There are no appeals for short-term suspensions of 10 days or less. Any student who has been given out-of-school suspension three or more times in the same academic year may be recommended for exclusion. Riverside Leadership Academy will not expel any scholars under the age of 14 in accordance with state law.

For Level 4 offenses, the Executive Director may recommend a Long-Term Suspension, and/or Exclusion, and/or participation in a Behavioral Contract. Decisions as to Long-Term Suspensions and/or Exclusion shall be made by the Executive Director after appropriate written notice to the involved parties and a hearing, if one is requested. In the

absence of the Executive Director, the Board Chair shall appoint a hearing officer. Student appeals from the decision of the Executive Director or hearing officer shall be heard by a panel of three Board members who shall be appointed by the Board Chair. Appeals must be made in writing to the Board Chair within ten (10) days of the decision of the Executive Director or hearing officer. The hearing of the panel will occur at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting date, unless the family is otherwise notified. Decisions of the Board panel shall be final, and there will be no further appeal to the full Board of Directors.

VIII. Bullying or Harassing Behavior

See RLA Guidance: [☰ 1.008 Prohibition Against Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying Policy - RLA](#)

IX. Rights for Students with Disabilities

See RLA Guidance: [☰ 5.007 Discipline for Exceptional Children's Students - RLA](#)