

Student Code of Conduct

2021-2022



August 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The Natomas Unified School District welcomes you and your family to the 2021-2022 school year. The Natomas Unified School District encourages the involvement of parents and guardians in their students' education, and to that end, enclosed please find a copy of the Student Code of Conduct.

Please review the Student Code of Conduct with your student, and let your school administrator know if you have any questions about it. The Student Code of Conduct describes expectations supportive of our students, staff and schools designed to ensure productive educational environments. We want every student to be aware of, and to understand expected behavior.

Natomas Unified School District has high academic and behavioral expectations for all of our learners. It is important for our students to be proud of their academic accomplishments and their school. It is equally important that our students respect their teachers, classmates and themselves by demonstrating responsible behavior.

A safe, secure and desirable learning environment that promotes the success of every student remains our top priority.

We are very proud of our vision and our core beliefs, and with your help we strive every day to meet the goal that all students graduate as college and career ready, productive, responsible and engaged global citizens. Please contact me if you have any questions about this letter or enclosed notice prior to signing to acknowledge receipt and returning it to your student's school.

Sincerely,

Carol Swanson

Carol Swanson
Associate Superintendent
Student Services and Support
(916) 567-5400



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Parent and Family Responsibilities

To facilitate maintaining a safe and productive educational environment at our schools, Parents and Student Families are responsible to:

- Maintain standards of behavior described in the Code of Conduct
- Review Parent Rights & Responsibilities and the District Student Code of Conduct
- Ensure Student arrives on time to school every day
- Ensure Student returns home or to other supervised location after school and school events
- Prioritize learning, including providing quiet space and materials to study at home
- Encourage and celebrate your child's academic progress and success at school

To foster this responsibility, Parents have rights to:

- Be informed of Student's academic and social achievement, behavior at school and attendance
- Safe and non-threatening schools that promote educational success
- Information about all school rules, regulations, and expectations
- Visit Student's schools to promote a visible involvement in your child's education

Parents may observe classrooms and school activities in which their students are enrolled, in accordance with District policy regarding campus visitors. (BP/AR 1250). To observe classroom instruction or enter campus, Parents must make a written request. Visits will be scheduled in a reasonable timeframe and in accordance with procedures determined by the governing board of the school district. (E.C. 49091.10(b))

To ensure the safety of students and staff and to minimize interruption of the instructional program, the Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures which facilitate visits during regular school days. When a visit involves a conference with a teacher or the principal, an appointment should be scheduled during non-instructional time. (BP 1250(a).)

The Board encourages maintaining a safe and secure school environment by behaving in an orderly manner while on school grounds and by utilizing the district's complaint processes if concerns arise with any district program or employee during campus visits. In accordance with Penal Code 626.7, the principal or designee may request that any individual who is causing a disruption including exhibiting volatile, hostile, aggressive, or offensive behavior, immediately leave school grounds. (BP 1250(a))

Student Responsibilities

To facilitate maintaining a safe and positive environment at school, every Student is responsible to respect the rights of others and themselves by:

- Demonstrating respect for teachers, principals, all school staff and each other
- Understanding and abiding by the Student Code of Conduct
- Arriving on time to school every day, prepared to learn with necessary books and materials
- Attending and engaging in respectful behavior throughout the day
- Completing class assignments and homework on time
- Enjoying the opportunities that school and staff bring to their own development.

As a student, you have the right to:

- A safe learning environment
- Be treated with respect
- Attend campuses which are safe, secure and peaceful
- Discuss your concerns with any school site staff or the principal if you believe your school is not providing a safe environment. Student concerns will be treated with respect

School Staff Responsibilities

To facilitate maintaining a safe and productive educational environment at our schools, the administration, teachers and staff of Natomas Unified School District are responsible to:

- Establish a safe and positive learning environment where students are able to access academic standards and develop appropriate social skills
- Communicate regularly with students and their families about their student's academic progress, school success and behavior
- Involve students in an ongoing process of self-evaluation
- Communicate the school district's standards of behavior
- Enforce district policy and school rules consistently
- Model appropriate dress and behavior
- Support students by involving them in constructive activities that support academic, social and emotional growth

As representatives of the school and District, administrators will:

- Provide support to students, families and staff
- Communicate school rules to students, families and staff
- Establish and enforce school rules fairly and consistently to ensure a safe educational environment

Consequences of Inappropriate Behavior

Citizenship

It is the District's expectation that students will be good citizens. Students are expected to:

- Follow all rules and laws
- Respect authority, property and the rights of others
- Maintain standards of integrity and responsibility
- Show respect for themselves and others

In addition to this Student Code of Conduct, please review the specific school's handbook regarding behavior, dress codes, discipline policies and specific school rules.

The administrator and teacher have authority to prescribe appropriate consequences short of suspension or expulsion for offenses that do not require mandatory suspension or expulsion recommendations.

Suspension, or recommendation for expulsion, shall be determined by the Superintendent, site principal, or a designee when the Student violated Education Code section 48900 subdivision(s):

- While on school grounds
- While going to, or coming from, school
- During the lunch period whether on or off campus
- During, or while going to or coming from, a school-sponsored activity

Please Note:

1. This guide is for general discipline information for families and students. For specific consequences for violations, please refer to the discipline policy for each individual school.
2. The District uses progressive discipline even when a student requires expulsion (e.g. in possession of a firearm, brandishing a knife, selling drugs or committing sexual battery or sexual assault)
3. Law enforcement will be notified of suspected violations of the California Penal Code or Health and Safety Code

Expulsion is the removal of a student from all schools in the Natomas Unified School District for violations of the California Education Code as ordered by the Board of Trustees. An expulsion is for a defined period, but an application for reentry must be considered within a specified period. State law provides for full due process and rights to appeal any order of expulsion.

Natomas Unified School District has long maintained a strong position against offenses committed by students that involve the possession of weapons, acts of violence, or the sale or distribution of controlled substances. Violations of E.C. 48915(c) mandates that the Board of Trustees expel

students for:

- Possessing, selling or furnishing a firearm
- Brandishing a knife at another person
- Unlawfully selling a controlled substance
- Committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault/sexual battery
- Possession of an explosive

E.C. 48915(a)(1) requires the principal or designee recommend expulsion when a student:

- Causes serious physical injury to another person except in self-defense
- Possesses of any knife or other dangerous object of no reasonable use to the student
- Unlawfully possesses a controlled substance
- Commits robbery or extortion
- Assaults or causes battery upon any school employee

*Unless the Principal or Superintendent determines that expulsion should not be recommended under the circumstances or that an alternative means of correction would address the conduct.

Suspension is the removal of a student from the classroom for disciplinary reasons for a defined period of time by a teacher or school administrator. A principal or designee may suspend for up to five consecutive days. A teacher may suspend a student from their class for the day of the suspension and the day following, and as soon as possible, the teacher shall ask the parent or guardian of the pupil to attend a parent-teacher conference regarding the suspension (E.C. 48910). When a student is suspended, the parent or legal guardian responsible for the student will be contacted as soon as possible.

- There are two kinds of suspension: "on-campus" and "home" suspension. Students placed on home suspension are not allowed on or near any school campus in the NUSD.
- Students are not allowed to participate in any school activities during "on campus" or "home" suspensions. Students placed on "on campus" suspension are removed from the class for one or more classes and assigned to a supervised area for a specified time. The teacher of any class from which a student is suspended may require the suspended student to complete any assignments and tests missed during the suspension.

Detention is the assignment of a student to a supervised area for a specified time before or after school, at lunch, or during Saturday school.

School Attendance Review Board (SARB) reviews student attendance and disruptive behavior. Students may be referred to SARB for habitual truancy, irregular attendance, habitual insubordination, or disorderly conduct at school.

- SARB may direct the parent(s)/guardian(s) to escort/attend school with the child as directed. (Ed. Code 48900.1 and 48910)
- SARB may direct that a student take part in community services
- SARB may involve the district attorney or the county probation department in a student's case
- SARB may transfer the student to another school or to an alternate education program
- SARB may require a parent to complete a District approved Parenting Education course

The Search and Seizure Policy governs the District's authority to search individual students and their property when reasonable suspicion exists. Under Board Policy 5145.12(a) school officials may search when there is a reasonable suspicion the student has or may violate the Code of Conduct.

- General inspections of school properties such as lockers and desks may be conducted on a regular, unannounced basis. Any items in a locker shall be considered the property of the student to whom the locker was assigned
- To ensure the safety of students and staff, schools may conduct random searches for weapons using metal detectors when reasonable suspicion exists
- The District may use specially trained, non-aggressive dogs to detect the presence of substances prohibited by law or district policy when reasonable suspicion exists. Dogs may be used in the inspection of lockers, vehicles or personal property, but may not be used in the search of a person.

Bullying. According to the California Department of Education's publication titled, *Bullying at School*, bullying is defined as exposing a person to abusive actions repeatedly over time. If your child is being bullied, the best decision is to tell a school administrator. You can also report bullying via our website: <https://natomasunified.org/bully-prevention/>

The Governing Board recognizes the harmful effects of bullying on student learning and school attendance and desires to provide safe school environments that protect students from physical and emotional harm. District employees shall establish student safety as a high priority and shall not tolerate bullying of any student. No student or group of students shall, through physical, written, verbal, or other means, harass, sexually harass, threaten, intimidate, cyber-bully, cause bodily injury to, or commit hate violence against any other student or school personnel. (Ed. Code, §§ 234.1; 48900(r)) (BP 5131.2).

Discipline Matrix

This Discipline Matrix lists the acts subjecting students to suspension and/or expulsion for violating California Education Codes pertaining to student conduct.

	INTERVENTION	SUSPENSION (OR ALTERNATIVE)	EXPULSION	ARREST
I. ACTS OF VIOLENCE (E.C. 48900(a1)(a2)(q), 48915(a)(1)(A), (a)(1)(E)) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hazing resulting in injury ● Threatening to cause harm <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To a student 2. To school personnel ● Fighting -- mutual combat ● Aids or Abets ● Inflict or attempts to inflict physical injury to another ● Use of force or violence (battery/attack) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Upon a student 2. Upon school personnel 	X X X X	X X X X X	X X X X X	X X X X X
II. WEAPONS AND DANGEROUS OBJECTS (E.C. 48900(b), 48915(a)(1)(B), 48915(c1)(c2)(c5)) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Possession, sale, or furnishing of weapons (knife, gun, sharp objects, club, look-alike weapons, or an object that could inflict injury). A look-alike weapon, if used in a threatening manner, is considered a weapon. ● Explosives--use or possession. 		X X	X X	X X
III. DRUGS AND ALCOHOL (E.C. 48900(c)(p), 48915(a)(1)(C), 48915 (c3)) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Possession, use, sale or otherwise furnishing, or being under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Sale of drugs or alcohol will result in expulsion. 		X	X	X
IV. SALE OF "LOOK-ALIKE" DRUGS AND ALCOHOL (E.C. 48900(d)) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Offering, arranging, or negotiating to sell prescription drug soma, or furnish drugs or alcohol, and then substituting a look-alike substance intended to represent illegal drugs or alcohol. 		X	X	X
V. ROBBERY OR EXTORTION (E.C. 48900(e), 48915(a)(1)(D))		X	X	X

(EXAMPLES OF ALTERNATIVES TO SUSPENSION (ED. CODE 48900V) ARE: COMMUNITY SERVICE, COUNSELING TREATMENT PROGRAMS, RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND ALTERNATIVE PLACEMENTS)

Discipline Matrix (cont.)

	INTERVENTION	SUSPENSION (OR ALTERNATIVE)	EXPULSION	ARREST
VI. DAMAGE TO PROPERTY (E.C. 48900(f)) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cause, or attempt to cause, damage to school or private property • Arson 		X X	X X	X X
VII. THEFT OR STEALING (E.C. 48900(g)) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stealing or attempting to steal school or private property 		X	X	X
VIII. TOBACCO (E.C. 48900(h)) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possession of tobacco or nicotine products • Use of tobacco • Students' possession or use of electronic cigarettes, electronic hookahs, and other vapor-emitting devices, with or without nicotine content, that mimic the use of tobacco products is prohibited (BP 5131.62(a))(Discipline under 48900(k)) 	X X	X X X		
IX. PROFANITY, OBSCENE ACTS, DEMEANING RACIAL STATEMENTS, VULGARITY (E.C. 48900(i)) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directed at peers • Directed at school personnel 	X	X X	X X	X X
X. DRUG PARAPHERNALIA (E.C. 48900(j)) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possession • Offer, arrange, or negotiate to sell 		X X	X X	X X
XI. WILLFUL DEFIANCE (E.C. 48900 (k)) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to follow school rules • Failure to follow directives or instruction of staff or teachers • Failure to follow conduct code for school bus passengers <p>*Students enrolled in kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 8, shall not be suspended solely (independently) for any of the acts listed under 48900k</p>	X X X	X X X		
XII. POSSESSION OF STOLEN PROPERTY (E.C. 48900(l))	X	X	X	X
XIII. POSSESSION OF IMITATION FIREARM (E.C. 48900(m)) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replica of a firearm that is so substantially similar in physical properties to an existing firearm as to lead a reasonable person to conclude that the replica is a firearm. 		X	X	
XIV. SEXUAL ASSAULT OR BATTERY (E.C. 48900(n))		X	X	X

Discipline Matrix (cont.)

	INTERVENTION	SUSPENSION (OR ALTERNATIVE)	EXPULSION	ARREST
<p>XV. HARASSMENT, THREATS, OR INTIMIDATION OF A WITNESS (E.C. 48900(o))</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Related to disciplinary proceedings. 	X	X	X	X
<p>XVI. BULLYING (E.C. 48900(r))</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act • Cyberbullying including posts on Social Networks • Creating a burn page • Creating a credible impersonation of another 	X X X X	X X X X	X X X X	
<p>XVII. SEXUAL HARASSMENT (E.C. 212.5 & 48900.2; A.R. 5145.7)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibited sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature. (Applies to grades 4-12.) • Note: Harassment of any type is not tolerated. Students in grades K-3 will be dealt with appropriately in cases of harassment. 	X	X	X	X
<p>XVIII. ACTS OF HATE VIOLENCE (E.C. 48900.3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students in grades 4-12 may be suspended or recommended for expulsion for causing, threatening or attempting to cause, or participating in an act of hate violence, defined as willfully interfering with or threatening another person's personal or property rights because of race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, disability, or sexual orientation. Speech that threatens violence, when the perpetrator has the apparent ability to carry out the threat, may be considered an act of violence. 	X	X	X	X
<p>XIX. OTHER HARASSMENT (E.C. 48900.4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students in grades 4-12 may be suspended or recommended for expulsion for intentionally engaging in harassment, threats, or intimidation against a student or group of students when the harassment is severe and pervasive and disrupts classes or creates disorder or an intimidating or hostile educational environment. 		X	X	X
<p>XX. TERRORIST THREATS (E.C. 48900.7)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Against School officials, school property, or both. "Terrorist Threat" shall include any statement, whether written or oral, by a person who willfully threatens to commit a crime which will result in death, great bodily injury to another person or property. 		X	X	X

NATOMAS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

2021-2022 Student Code of Conduct

Parent Acknowledgement of Receipt

_____	_____
Student Name	Grade
_____	_____
School Name	Teacher

I have received, reviewed and discussed the Student Code of Conduct handbook with my child.

_____	_____	_____
Parent/Guardian Name	Signature	Date

Please print or remove this page and have your child return this to their school's office.