

Tenaflly Public Schools Student Code of Conduct

The Tenaflly Public Schools values a community of students who work together to create a productive learning environment in which all students feel safe, secure and comfortable. To this end students are expected to act responsibly in demonstrating mutual respect, trust, and compassion. The faculty and staff work together to create a nurturing environment as they strive to meet our children's needs, instill in our children a love for learning, and develop in them an understanding of others. Students have a right to a good education, to receive respect, to be treated with kindness, and to be trusted. In turn, children are expected to study and participate actively in their learning, work cooperatively and to follow directions, to seek help in solving problems, to settle differences in an appropriate manner, to accept responsibility for their actions, to report instances of violations of which they are aware with the expectation of no retaliation for such reporting, to respect others' person and property, to use appropriate language, to dress appropriately, to be sensitive to others' feelings, and to help others.

In accordance with New Jersey Administrative Codes, 6A: 16-5.1 and 18A: 25-2, the district has developed guidelines for a code of student conduct. These guidelines address any violations of the code and specific areas of misconduct. These include fighting, physical contact (both that considered a danger and that not considered a danger), non-sexual harassment and bullying (both verbal and written—including notes and hit lists), internet in-school violation (inappropriate use), internet out-of-school violation (in appropriate use, e.g., slander or threats), sexual harassment and bullying (verbal—both mild and severe—physical—exposing oneself or sexual assault including exposing another), vandalism (both minor and major). Disciplinary sanctions include a number of responses to such disruptive behaviors ranging from a student and/or parent conferences to detention or suspension. The degree of sanction is contingent upon grade level (i.e., primary, intermediate, middle or high school) and whether or not the misconduct is a first or second offense. Violations regarding weapons or substance abuse are addressed in accordance with Board policies #5611 and #5530. Violations involving HIB will be addressed in accordance with the New Jersey Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights, P.L. 2010, Chapter 122 and the Board policies #5512, #5600, #8461 and #0144.

Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB)

The Tenaflly School District prohibits any written, verbal or physical acts of any electronic communication whether it is a single incident or a series of incidents motivated by harassment, intimidation or bullying (HIB) based on real or perceived characteristics such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, a mental, physical or sensory disability or any other distinguishing characteristic that takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function or on a school bus or off-school grounds as provided for in section 16 of P.L. 2010, Chapter 122 (New Jersey Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights), that substantially disrupts or interferes with the orderly operation of the school or the rights of other students and that a) a reasonable person should know, under the circumstances, will have the effect of physically or emotionally harming a student or damaging the student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm to his person or damage to his property; or (b) has the effect of insulting or demeaning any student or group of students in such a way as to cause substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school or c) creates a hostile educational environment for the student by

interfering with the student's education or by severely or pervasively causing physical or emotional harm to the student.

Additional information regarding the New Jersey Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights and our district policy may be found on the district website at www.tenafly.k12.nj.us.

The Tenafly Elementary Schools are committed to a proactive approach to student conduct where programs, policies, and interventions are designed to help students make appropriate choices. To this end, deliberate efforts are made at each grade level to instill positive behaviors in students. Administration and school counselors maintain a current list of community-based health and social service provider agencies that can be shared with families, as appropriate, as well as a list of legal resources available to serve the community.