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Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

On behalf of our district staff, administration and Board of Education, it is with great pleasure that I welcome your children to our schools! In the School District of La Crosse, we strive to ensure that our students experience an environment that is optimal for learning so that each child can **dream** about their future, **believe** in their capacity to succeed and **achieve** at high levels.

Our commitment to educating every child every day requires positive collaboration with you. Included herein are the rights and responsibilities we share as partners in your child's education to support positive schools and positive student behavior. I ask that you take some time to talk with your child about their role as a learner and help them understand how they can help contribute to being part of a great school.

It is the commitment of our staff in the School District of La Crosse to build positive relationships with students, ensuring that every day every child is acknowledged with the dignified treatment that should be afforded to any human being. Each child matters. Every day.

Thank you for choosing the School District of La Crosse, where we believe that when it comes to educating children, one size does not fit all.



Randy Nelson
Superintendent of Schools



Introduction of the Code of Rights and Responsibilities

If you would like to receive this information in another language, please contact your school.

Yog koj xav tau cov ntaub ntawv no ua lus Hmoob, thov tiv tauj koj lub tsev kawm ntawv.

Si usted desea recibir esta información en español, por favor contáctese con su escuela.

This document outlines the rights and responsibilities of students and stakeholders as it relates to the effective and safe operation of our schools. This Code of Rights and Responsibilities applies to all students enrolled in the School District of La Crosse. While the legal authority of school officials does not usually extend beyond the physical boundaries of the school campus, except in cases of school sponsored activities off campus, the responsibility for the supervision of students shall be shared jointly by school personnel and parents/guardians.

If you have questions about anything you read in the Student Code of Rights and Responsibilities, please contact your child(ren)'s teacher or principal. To review the code online, please visit www.lacrosseschools.org.

Persons with visual impairments may request a copy of this summary in an alternate format, such as large print or audio version, by contacting the Student Services Department at 608-789-7688.

Acknowledgements

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- Student groups from Central High School and Logan High School
- Southside Moms United
- District-wide Parents Committee
- School District of La Crosse staff members
- Saint Paul Public Schools for sharing and giving permission to use portions of their code.

Equal Opportunity/Non-Discrimination Policy

It is the policy of the School District of La Crosse, pursuant to §118.13 Wisconsin Statutes and PI 9 that no person on the basis of actual or perceived: sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, socio-economic status, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, gender nonconformity or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability, may be denied admission to any public school in this district or be denied participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be discriminated against in any curricular, co/extra-curricular, pupil services, recreational, or other program or activity.

To report discrimination, harassment or other violations:

- Please start by contacting the principal of the school and/or the supervisor of the program.
- To report discrimination, including Title IX (sexual discrimination) violations or violations of student human rights, please contact the Student Services Department at 608-789-7688.

Shared Rights and Responsibilities

Honoring the Rights of Others by Increasing Respect, Responsibility and Safety

The School District of La Crosse honors the rights of its students, parents, guardians, and staff and strives to create a safe and welcoming place for all students. All of us help create this positive and respectful learning environment and the tables below offer a summary of the rights and responsibilities we share to create a positive culture in our schools and district.

Students

Rights	Responsibilities
Attend school and receive a free and appropriate education	Attend and engage in school regularly
Be taught in a safe learning environment	Behave in ways that are safe to you and others
Be treated courteously, fairly and respectfully by other students and school staff	Respect yourself, the learning environment, other students, their parents/guardians, families and all staff
Receive access to district and school policies and procedures	Learn and follow school expectations and procedures
Bring complaints or concerns to the school principal or staff without judgement	Bring complaints or concerns to the school principal or staff
Receive your education records	Request or challenge in writing an explanation of anything in your education records
Be told the reason(s) for any disciplinary decisions	Learn and follow expectations and procedures
Have a parent or guardian attend applicable disciplinary conferences and hearings	Respectfully be a part of applicable disciplinary conferences and hearings

Parents/Guardians

Rights	Responsibilities
For your child(ren) to attend school and be successful	Support your child(ren)'s education
Be treated courteously, fairly and respectfully by all school and district staff	Build and maintain a positive relationship with staff at your child(ren)'s school
Receive access to district and school policies and procedures	Learn and talk with your child(ren) about the expectations and procedures at their school. Encourage your child(ren) to be safe, respectful and responsible
Receive regular reports, written or oral, from school staff regarding your child(ren)'s progress	Respect and support the learning environment and emphasize the importance of being prepared for school
Receive prompt notifications from school staff about academic or behavior concerns, as well as regarding disciplinary action	Partner with school staff to receive information about ways to improve your child(ren)'s academic or behavioral progress; including available interventions, supports, services and/or programs
Receive information and communications in an understandable format	Ask for help when you need assistance. Advocate for your child(ren) through regular communication with school staff
For your concerns to be heard and discussed	Bring concerns to the school principal or staff

All School District Staff

Rights	Responsibilities
Teach and work in a safe learning environment	Create a welcoming environment. Have high expectations for all students. Create and monitor safe conditions in the school environment
Be treated courteously, fairly and respectfully by students, parents, guardians and colleagues	Build and maintain positive relationships with all students, their families and colleagues
Receive access to district and school policies and procedures	Teach, model and reinforce school expectations and procedures. Follow the school-wide behavior support framework
Bring concerns to the school principal or administration	Communicate regularly with school principal or administration
Provide honest feedback to students and families about a student's progress	Communicate regularly with students and families. Support them when they ask for assistance
Seek assistance to support the academic or behavioral needs of a student	Believe staff have the capacity to support students in being their best selves and achieving their hopes and dreams
Receive the appropriate professional development and guidance to be effective in your work	Provide personalized, engaging, and academically appropriate instruction, including culturally responsive teaching that represents and invites student's identities into the classroom

Positive School Culture

The School District of La Crosse recognizes the importance of having positive school cultures and providing quality supports to students and staff across the district to mitigate barriers to learning. Below is a summary of the proactive approaches used to create a welcoming environment and positive cultures in our schools.

	<p>Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS): A Framework for All Schools</p> <p>Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is an educational, preventive, and restorative approach to behavior. This approach helps schools create and sustain effective and culturally-inclusive environments that support academic and social success for all students. All of our schools use a PBIS framework to teach school-wide expectations to all students and recognize students who meet those expectations. Small group and individualized supports are also provided in this approach. Each school designs its own three-tiered system:</p> <p>Tier 1: All students learn the behavior expectations at school. Staff members teach, model and reinforce these expectations throughout the school year.</p> <p>Tier 2: Some students receive small-group interventions to practice the behavior taught in Tier 1.</p> <p>Tier 3: A few students receive individualized interventions and support.</p> <p>At each tier, students learn and practice the social-emotional and behavioral skills they need to do well in school and throughout their lives. Supports provided at each tier involve the integration and alignment of practices, programs and supports listed below.</p>
	<p>Restorative Practices</p> <p>Restorative Practices are ways for a school community to build relationships, problem solve and learn. In this approach, relationships are the most important way we learn about the world and ourselves. Some schools are implementing Restorative Practices school-wide as a way to proactively build community among stakeholders and to use restorative strategies to repair harm, when needed.</p>
	<p>Social-Emotional Learning</p> <p>Social and Emotional Learning is how children and adults learn how to manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. Schools and departments across the district work collaboratively to support social-emotional learning. A school may choose to implement a specific social-emotional learning program(s) to support academic and social success.</p>
	<p>Mental Health and Wellness</p> <p>Mental Health and Wellness refers to the continuum of emotional supports available to students and staff. These supports strive to create a safe learning environment, maximize collaboration between students and adults, provide students with choices, create trusting relationships, and empower students to do their best.</p>

Key District Policies, Rights, and Responsibilities

Students who attend the School District of La Crosse are responsible for learning and following various policies and procedures. The policies referenced in this summary are not all-inclusive and do not cover every policy in effect. In alphabetical order, this section describes key policies, student rights, opportunities and responsibilities in the School District of La Crosse. All administrative policies can be reviewed at <https://www.lacrosseschools.org/administrative-policies/>

Aggressive Behavior (including verbal aggression)

Rights/Opportunities

- Students have the right to feel safe in school which means they should be able to attend school without fear of threat, harm, harassment or bullying.

Responsibilities

- Students have the responsibility to conduct themselves in such a way that respects the safety, rights and dignity of all individuals.
- Students have the responsibility to express their thoughts and feelings in a manner that does not endanger, offend, slander, ridicule, harass or bully others.
- It is the responsibility of all students, school staff members, and concerned individuals who observe or become aware of acts of threat, harm or bullying to report these acts directly to school staff.
- For more details, see Administrative Policy 4430.71 at [La Crosse Schools Administrative Policies](#)

Anti-Bullying/Harassment

Rights/Opportunities

- Students have the right to feel safe in school which means they should be able to attend school without fear of harassment or bullying.
- The School District of La Crosse views bullying as exposure to negative behavior exhibited repeatedly and over time by one or more people. This includes:
 1. Physical (e.g. assault, hitting or punching, kicking, theft)
 2. Verbal (e.g. threatening or intimidating language, teasing or name-calling, racist remarks)
 3. Indirect (e.g. spreading cruel rumors, intimidation through gestures, social exclusion, and sending insulting messages or pictures by mobile phone or using an internet connected device, such as a tablet, lab computer, or laptop - also known as cyber bullying.)
 4. Between students and students, students and adults, or adults and adults.
- There shall be no retaliation against individuals filing complaints. Individuals engaging in retaliatory behavior will be subject to disciplinary action.
- The District shall keep complaints confidential, where possible, to the extent required by law for both the accused and the accuser.

Responsibilities

- Students have the responsibility to conduct themselves in such a way that respects the safety, rights and dignity of all individuals.
- Students have the responsibility to express their thoughts and feelings in a manner that does not harass or bully others.
- It is the responsibility of all students, school staff and concerned individuals who observe or become aware of acts of harassment, harm or bullying to report these acts to school staff or by completing a reporting form available at any school or at the end of this document.
- For more details, see Administrative Policy 4430.71 at [La Crosse Schools Administrative Policies](#).

Attendance and Tardiness

Rights/Opportunities

- Students have the right to a free public education according to state and federal law.
- Each student has the right, as determined by school personnel, to make up school work missed through absence.

Responsibilities

- Under Wisconsin Statutes, parents and guardians are responsible to ensure regular school attendance by their child(ren).
- Students and parents/guardians are responsible for following the school's attendance and tardiness rules and procedures outlined in the individual school's handbook and for notifying the school (e.g., a written note, phone call) before an absence or upon returning to school after an absence.
- Students have the responsibility to be in class or assigned areas, except during pass periods, or while carrying a hall pass, if required.
- For more details, see Administrative Policy 4310 at [La Crosse Schools Administrative Policies](#)

Curricular Concerns

Rights/Opportunities

- Students and parents/guardians have the right to bring concerns about curriculum and/or materials to the attention of school staff.

Responsibilities

- Any concerns related to curriculum and/materials should be directed to your child(ren)'s teacher or building principal.
- For more details, see Administrative Policy 3610.1 at [La Crosse Schools Administrative Policies](#)

Equal Educational Opportunity

Rights/Opportunities

- Students have the right of equal opportunity, as allowed by law, to participate in all school activities and school education programs for which they are eligible.

Responsibilities

- Students are responsible for following the rules and procedures of the school-sponsored activity in which they, or others, participate. Students may not discourage the participation of other students.
- For more details, see Administrative Policy 4110 at [La Crosse Schools Administrative Policies](#)

Equity in Education

Rights/Opportunities

- Educational equity benefits all of our students and our entire community. Students shall graduate from the School District of La Crosse ready to succeed in a diverse local, national, and global community.
- The concept of educational equity goes beyond formal equality – where all students are treated the same – to fostering a barrier-free environment where every student has the opportunity to benefit regardless of their race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, socioeconomic status, marital or parental status, pregnancy, sex, sexuality, gender identity/gender expression, physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability, citizenship, political affiliation, genetic information, or any other factor prohibited by state or federal law.

Responsibilities

- Every student has the potential to achieve and it is the responsibility of school district personnel to give each student the opportunity and support to meet their highest potential.
- For more details, see Administrative Policy 4110.5 at [La Crosse Schools Administrative Policies](#)

Free Speech and Expression

Rights/Opportunities

- Students have the right to free speech so long as their speech does not violate the rights of others.

Responsibilities

- Students are responsible for expressing opinions, publishing written materials and distributing literature in such a manner that is not libelous, obscene, discriminatory or sexually explicit; that does not contain references to alcohol, chemicals, tobacco, or other products that are illegal for use by minors; that does not interfere with the rights of others; that does not disrupt the atmosphere of learning in the school; and that follows school rules and procedures regarding time, place and manner.
- Students are responsible for using language that is school appropriate and free from profanity and vulgarity.
- Permission of the school principal is required for distribution or posting of written materials.

Gender Identity

Rights/Opportunities

- Students have the right to be identified by their preferred name, pronoun, and asserted gender in school records, learning spaces, facilities, and extracurricular activities consistent with administrative procedures.

Responsibilities

- Students must communicate with school staff if their school information system records are not reflective of their preferred name, pronoun, and/or gender identity.
- Information system changes connected to gender identity require submitting updates to the district office in accordance with administrative procedures.

Homeless Services

Rights/Opportunities

- Children and youth who are homeless lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence and are eligible for services through the school district to ensure equal access to an education.
- These services can include transportation, school supplies, school meals, and referrals to community agencies.
- School counselors and social workers serve as school-based liaisons for students who are homeless.
- For more details, see Administrative Policy 4110.6 at [La Crosse Schools Administrative Policies](#)

Identification

Rights/Opportunities

- Students have the right to attend a school where all persons are known or will accurately identify themselves.

Responsibilities

- Students have a responsibility to accurately identify themselves when requested to do so by authorized school personnel or monitors.
- All visitors (students or adult) during the school day, must report immediately to the office and accurately identify themselves for permission to remain in the school or on the school grounds.

Illegal Substances: Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco and Vaping

Rights/Opportunities

- Students have the right to attend school in an environment that is free from the presence and use of alcohol and non-medical controlled substances and free from the influences or related problems associated with the uses of illegal substances and drugs.
- Students have the right to be free from the influence or related problems associated with the use of tobacco or other nicotine products, including liquid nicotine, e-cigarettes, vaper pens, or any other electronic smoking device.

Responsibilities

- Students have the responsibility to develop and maintain a healthy lifestyle free from the use or possession of illegal substances or drugs, especially on school property or at school sponsored functions.
- Students have the responsibility to abstain from the use of tobacco or other nicotine products on school property or at school sponsored functions.
- For more details, see Administrative Policy 4430.3 and 4430.4 at [La Crosse Schools Administrative Policies](#)

Interscholastic Athletes

Rights/Opportunities

- Students benefit and are able to grow physically and intellectually through their experience in self-discipline and their contribution to team effort made possible through interscholastic athletics.

Responsibilities

- Student athletes must follow the rules and regulations outlined in the District Co-Curricular Activities Code.
- Student athletes and their parents/guardians must read and sign the District Co-Curricular Activities Code before participation is allowed.
- For more details, see Administrative Policy 3770 at [La Crosse Schools Administrative Policies](#)

Medications

Rights/Opportunities

- Students have the right to receive medications and medical procedures that must be administered during the school day in order for a student to attend school.

Responsibilities

- Families are responsible to communicate with the school nurse or other school staff about changes in medications or medical procedures when they must be administered during the school day.
- Students are responsible for cooperating with school staff regarding medications and medical procedures to be administered during the school day.
- Only authorized school personnel shall administer prescription and non-prescription medications to students. The District cannot administer medications to students unless their parent or guardian provides the District with written consent and instructions for administering medications.
- For more details, see Administrative Policy 4530.4 at [La Crosse Schools Administrative Policies](#)

Non-Discrimination/Harassment-Free Environment

Rights/Opportunities

- Students have the right to a learning environment free from discrimination, harassment and violence based on an individual's actual or perceived: sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, socio-economic status, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, gender nonconformity or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability.
- Students have a right not to be retaliated against for making good faith reports of discrimination, harassment, or violence.

Responsibilities

- Students are responsible for treating other students and district employees respectfully and in a manner that does not discriminate or harass an individual based on protected class.
- Students are responsible for reporting to staff (i.e., teacher or principal) incidents of bullying, discrimination, harassment, violence or retaliation that they have experienced or of which they are aware.
- For more details, see Administrative Policies 4110.1, 4110.2 and 4110.4 at [La Crosse Schools Administrative Policies](#)

Personal Property, Privacy, and Searches

Rights/Opportunities

- Students generally have a right to privacy of their persons and their personal property on school district property and at school-sponsored or -associated events.
- According to Wisconsin law, students have the right to use school-owned property (e.g., lockers, desks, laptops, iPads) for storing appropriate items of personal property with the understanding that all school-owned property is within the exclusive control of the school district and may be searched by school authorities for any reason, at any time, without permission, consent or requirement for a search warrant. For more details, see Wis. Stat. § 118.325 at <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/118/325>.

Responsibilities

- Students must not bring, any item or material that violates school district policy, school rules, or state or federal law, or that would cause, or tend to cause, a disruption or endanger the health or safety of students or other people. Items prohibited include, but are not limited to, stolen goods, weapons and lookalike weapons, and other illegal items onto school district property, or to school-sponsored or -associated events.
- When reasonable suspicion exists to believe a student possesses prohibited items or that a search will uncover evidence of a violation of a school rule or of the law, school officials may conduct a reasonable search of a student's person including personal belongings and vehicles.
- Students are responsible for keeping their lockers/desks in good condition and free of any items that are illegal or prohibited.
- The personal possessions of students within a school locker may be searched only when school authorities have a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover evidence of a violation of law or school rules.

Police Interviews/Interviews by Outside Agencies

Rights/Opportunities

- The District is committed to maintaining the educational atmosphere of the schools and restricting non-essential access to students by individuals not part of the school system.
- The District also recognizes its responsibility to cooperate with non-school entities in certain situations and make students available for interviews with outside agencies when necessary.
- For more details, see Administrative Policy 4450 at [La Crosse Schools Administrative Policies](#)

Pledge of Allegiance

Rights/Opportunities

- Wisconsin law requires all public schools to offer the Pledge of Allegiance or National Anthem every day.

Responsibilities

- Anyone who does not wish to participate for any personal reasons may elect not to do so, and students and staff must respect another person's right to make that choice. For more details, see Wis. Stat. § 118.06 at <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/118/06>

Student Discipline

Rights/Opportunities

- Students have the right to due process when involved in a violation of district rules. Included is the opportunity to hear the nature of the violation and to give their account of the situation.
- Students have the right to be informed of all applicable classroom and school rules, expectations and procedures.
- Students have the right to be treated respectfully by district employees and other students.
- Students have the right to be free from unreasonable physical contact from school staff and other students.

Responsibilities

- Students are responsible for responding to all directions or questions from staff and for following all laws, policies, rules and expectations that apply to them.
- Students are responsible for knowing and following all applicable classroom rules, expectations, and procedures.
- Students are responsible for treating all persons respectfully.
- Students are responsible for respecting the space and freedom of those around them.
- Students are expected to treat the property of others and the district responsibly.
- Students are responsible for refraining from using force or physical contact to inflict harm on another.
- Students are also responsible for not engaging in conduct that threatens to physically or mentally injure themselves, other persons or property.
- For more details, see Administrative Policy 4470 at [La Crosse Schools Administrative Policies](#)

Student Dress

Rights/Opportunities

- Students have the right to choose their manner of dress and personal grooming and hygiene unless it presents a clear danger to the student's health or safety, causes an interference with school work or creates classroom or school disorder.

Responsibilities

- Students are responsible for wearing clothes that are appropriate for school. To maintain a safe learning environment, student dress cannot be a health and/or safety hazard, obscene, sexually explicit or discriminatory. Clothing that displays words or images that communicate a message that is racist, sexist, or otherwise derogatory is not permitted. Clothing that displays references to alcohol, chemicals, tobacco or other products that are illegal for use by minors is not permitted.
- For more details, see Administrative Policy 4430.1 at [La Crosse Schools Administrative Policies](#)

Student Records

Rights/Opportunities

- Students' parents/guardians and eligible students under federal law have the right to view their school records according to state and federal laws.
- Students have the right to privacy regarding their school records. Any disclosure of information from student records will be consistent with legal requirements and policy established by the school district.
- As allowed by law, the District does maintain and release directory data which includes a student's name, address, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, photographs, degrees and awards received, and the name of school most recently attended by the student. In addition, a student's address and phone number information shall be provided to military recruiters and to institutions of higher learning upon request, as required under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

Responsibilities

- Parents/guardians or adult students can restrict the release of student directory data at any time by contacting the District's administration or submitting a restriction statement in writing to their child(ren)'s school.
- Eligible students are responsible for following established building and district procedures regarding access to their school records.
- For more details, see Administrative Policy 3470 at [La Crosse Schools Administrative Policies](#)

Technology Usage and Safety (District-Owned)

Rights/Opportunities

- Students have the opportunity to access a variety of district technology resources in support of personalized learning.

Responsibilities

- Students are responsible for the proper care and use of district technology resources as well as following all district and school rules and procedures.
- Students are responsible for respecting the privacy of other users, and not intentionally seeking information on, obtaining copies of, or modifying files, other data or passwords belonging to other users without permission.
- Students are responsible for maintaining the security of the district technology resources and recognizing and honoring the intellectual property rights of others.
- Students are responsible for immediately disclosing access of unacceptable materials or an unacceptable Internet site to an appropriate school district administrator.
- Students are responsible for using district technology resources without making changes to device operating systems and security profiles or installing any apps other than those authorized by the School District of La Crosse.
- Students are responsible for ensuring that any digital content on district technology resources is school-appropriate.
- Students are prohibited from intentionally publishing any images, videos, or other media, which contains content captured while at school, at a school event, or otherwise under the supervision of school staff, and that reflects students violating a provision(s) of the Student Code of Rights and Responsibilities. Such content includes, but is not limited to, incidences of bullying, harassment, or fighting. Students may record such content for the purpose of documenting the violation(s) and immediately reporting the violation(s) to school administration.
- For more details, see Administrative Policy 3630.2 at [La Crosse Schools Administrative Policies](#)

Technology Usage and Safety (Personal-Owned)

Rights/Opportunities

- Student use of personal electronic devices may be allowed during the school day in school buildings based on district and building student handbooks.

Responsibilities

- Students are responsible for using personal technology resources properly and following all district and school rules and procedures.
- Personal devices must be used with permission and must not:
 - disrupt the educational process or learning of the student or others;
 - endanger the health and safety of the student or others;
 - invade the rights of others at school;
 - involve illegal or prohibited conduct of any kind.
- Students are prohibited from intentionally publishing any images, videos, or other media, which contains content captured while at school, at a school event, or otherwise under the supervision of school staff, and that reflects students violating a provision(s) of the Student Code of Rights and Responsibilities. Such content includes, but is not limited to, incidences of bullying, harassment, or fighting. Students may record such content for the purpose of documenting the violation(s) and immediately reporting the violation(s) to school administration.
- For more details, see Administrative Policy 4430.5 at [La Crosse Schools Administrative Policies](#)

Transportation

Rights/Opportunities

- Students have the right to a safe ride that is free from intimidation, threat, or harassment on any district provided transportation.
- In accordance with Wis. Statute § 121.54, students have the right to district provided transportation when eligible and contingent upon appropriate behavior.

Responsibilities

- Students are responsible to adhere to the expected behaviors, set by the Board of Education, while on the school bus and while in school bus loading and unloading areas. Problem behaviors occurring on the school bus will be managed in accordance with this handbook.
- Parents/Guardians of transported students are responsible for supervising their child(ren) until their child(ren) board the school bus in the morning and after their child(ren) leave the bus at the end of the school day.
- Students who are involved in serious or repeated incidents of unacceptable student conduct on the school bus or at the school bus stop may have their riding privileges suspended or revoked, including bus transportation for field trips.
- The parent or guardian of a student suspended from transportation is responsible for ensuring that the student travels safely to and from school on time.
- Bus drivers and school staff are responsible to teach, model and reinforce positive behavioral expectations to all students.
- For more details, see Administrative Policy 4430.2 at [La Crosse Schools Administrative Policies](#)

Weapons

Rights/Opportunities

- Students have the right to feel safe in school without fear of threat or harm from weapons or items that could be used as weapons.

Responsibilities

- Students have the responsibility to conduct themselves in such a way that respects the safety, rights and dignity of all individuals.
- It is the responsibility of all students, staff members and concerned individuals who observe or become aware of threatening acts to report these acts immediately to a school administrator, school staff member, or school resource officer.
- Students are prohibited from having weapons on school grounds.
- For more details, see Administrative Policy 8320 at [La Crosse Schools Administrative Policies](#)

Standards of Student Behavior and Staff Responses

A safe and positive environment is essential for learning. Knowing and following expectations and procedures will support students in making positive choices and academic progress. To assist in this, each school develops clear expectations for student conduct and works to teach those expectations to students throughout the school year. Those expectations are posted throughout our schools and typically resemble the matrix below:

	Be Respectful	Be Responsible	Be Safe
All Settings	Use kind and appropriate language.	Be where you are supposed to be.	Honor the personal space of others.
	Treat yourself and others with dignity and respect.	Be engaged in what you are supposed to do.	Resolve problems peacefully.

When students engage in behaviors that do not follow their school’s expectations, school staff members are expected to respond appropriately and consistently:

- School staff may inform the parents/guardians when their student’s behavior is in conflict with established expectations and procedures.
- School staff are expected to document, in the student’s behavior record, incidents of behaviors when a student is removed from the classroom.
- Students, their parents/guardians and school staff are responsible for working collaboratively to support the expectations and procedures outlined in this handbook and the school handbook.
- For more details, see Administrative Policy 4470 at [La Crosse Schools Administrative Policies](#)

Unexpected behaviors generally fall into one of the categories listed in the table on page 17. The table also shows some examples of interventions and disciplinary responses that may be used depending on the type of the behavior.

- **Interventions and restorative responses** hold students accountable by correcting and teaching positive behavior so students can learn the social, emotional, and behavioral skills to be successful at school.
- **Disciplinary responses** may also be used to hold students accountable. Every reasonable effort should be made to repair harm and change behavior using interventions and restorative responses. Disciplinary responses should reflect the most appropriate and proportionate response that effectively influences the behavior of the student.

The following factors must be considered prior to developing interventions or assigning disciplinary responses:

- The student’s age, maturity and understanding of the impact of their behavior
- The student’s ability and willingness to repair harm caused by their behavior
- The student’s disciplinary record including the nature of prior behavior, the number of prior instances of behavior, and the interventions and disciplinary response applied
- The nature, severity, and scope of the behavior
- The circumstances and context in which the behavior occurred, including its impact on the learning environment
- The student’s Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan, if applicable

Behavior Levels and Possible Responses

Behavior Level	Description	Interventions and Restorative Responses	Disciplinary Responses
Brief Unexpected Behavior	Unexpected behaviors that only affect the student (unprepared, off-task, but not disruptive)	Re-teaching expected behavior, verbal or non-verbal redirection, teacher/student conference, Collaborative Problem Solving	These behaviors are often addressed by school staff as a classroom-based intervention. The staff response is to teach and practice the expected behavior, so students learn and demonstrate respectful, responsible and safe behaviors.
Minor Unexpected Behavior	Behaviors that begin to affect others, minor disruptions (talking with student next to him or her)	Planned discussion, proximity control, expected compliance, student/teacher conference, in-class break, contact with parent/guardian, behavior contract, mentoring	These behaviors are often addressed by school staff as a classroom-based intervention. The staff response is to teach and practice the expected behavior, so students learn and demonstrate respectful, responsible and safe behaviors.
Moderate Unexpected Behavior	Behaviors that are disruptive to classroom teaching and learning	Calm and intentional responses, planned discussion, expected compliance, proximity control, Collaborative Problem Solving, behavior skills re-teaching, student/teacher conference, referral to community supports, parent/guardian notification, conflict resolution, restorative practices, removal from class, communication with collaborative team, referral to Student Management Team (SMT)	These behaviors may result in interventions and/or disciplinary responses that involve the school administration as office-based interventions. These actions aim to correct behavior by stressing the seriousness of the behavior while keeping students in school. School discipline may include loss of privileges, time-owed consequences, detention, in-school suspension, restitution, in-school monitoring, etc.
Major Unexpected Behavior	Behaviors that disrupt school operations, are disorderly in nature and are non-responsive to staff intervention	Calm and intentional responses, emergency Collaborative Problem Solving, crisis response, restorative practice, referral to PBIS Tier 2 and/or 3 supports, CPI de-escalation, parent/guardian notification, safety plan, referral to community supports, communication with collaborative team, referral to Student Management Team (SMT)	These behaviors may result in a short-term removal from school. These disciplinary responses aim to disrupt the behavior, stress the seriousness of the behavior, and engage the student and/or parent/guardian on a plan for improved behavior. School discipline may include time-owed consequences, detention, in-school suspension, restitution, in-school monitoring, disciplinary hearing, etc.
Extreme Unexpected Behavior	Behaviors that are unsafe to self or others (self-harm, harm to others)	Calm and intentional responses, emergency Collaborative Problem Solving, classroom removal, CPI to de-escalate, parent/guardian notification, referral to community supports, communication with collaborative team, referral to Student Management Team (SMT)	These behaviors may result in a long-term removal of the student with a re-entry meeting to be held with parent/guardian and school team. Depending on the seriousness of the behavior, consultation with district administration may be needed to consider disciplinary responses leading up to and including expulsion.

Please Note:

1. These policies apply to student conduct while at school, or under the supervision of a school authority, or in some circumstances, conduct while not at school, or while not under the supervision of school authority, which endangers the property, health or safety of others at school or under the supervision of a school authority or endangers the property, health or safety of any employee or school board member in the district.
2. Please refer to the Common Terms (page 20) for additional terms, definitions and other information.

Special Education and Section 504 Protections

The Code of Rights and Responsibilities applies to all students including students with disabilities or students receiving special education. Students with disabilities have additional protections under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 as described below. Special education is specially designed instruction, at no cost to parents, to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability. The School District of La Crosse offers many special educational services for children from early childhood (age 3 years) to age 21. The School District of La Crosse believes all educational environments should be accessible, inclusive and equitable to achieve social justice. We also believe that everyone brings valuable perspectives that deserve representation when developing and implementing policies and best practices.

For more details, please see Administrative Policy 3420.1 at [La Crosse Schools Administrative Policies](#)

Discipline of Students with Disabilities

The School District of La Crosse is committed to eliminating the disparate impact of discipline on students with disabilities. Additional steps must be taken when students with disabilities, including those with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and Section 504 Plans, are disciplined. Principals and school staff are required to follow Board policies, administrative regulations, and state and federal laws concerning the discipline of students with disabilities, including procedures for determining manifestation (that is, whether the behavior is linked to a student's disability), conducting Functional Behavioral Assessments (FBA), and developing Behavioral Intervention Plans (BIP).

If a student with an IEP or 504 Plan has a pattern of school removals (suspension or expulsion) for more than 10 school days in one school year, the IEP or Section 504 team must meet for a manifestation meeting. At the manifestation meeting, the IEP or Section 504 team will determine whether the student's conduct was a manifestation of the student's disability. If the team determines that the behavior is a manifestation and the incident did not involve a weapon, drugs, or serious bodily injury, then the student will be permitted to return to school and their plan will be reviewed and updated as appropriate. The student will also be returned to school if the team determines that the behavior is a direct result of his or her IEP not being properly implemented. Inappropriate behaviors related to a student's disability will be addressed through the IEP and Section 504 process to ensure that the student receives services and modifications designed to prevent the behavior's recurrence. Students with IEPs who are not returned to the school building are entitled to the services necessary to allow them to progress in the general curriculum and advance toward achieving their IEP goals. Any questions related to the discipline of students with disabilities should be directed to the Director of Student Services at 608-789-7688.

Assistance and Resources

School District of La Crosse Resources

- Please start by contacting your student's case manager or the school psychologist at your child's school.
- District Special Education and Student Services Department: 608-789-7688

Other Resources (Please also visit <https://dpi.wi.gov/sped/families/agency>)

- Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction: 608-266-1781
- CESA 4: WI Statewide Parent Educator Initiative: 608-786-4848
- WI Family Assistance Center for Education, Training, and Support: 877-374-0511
- Disability Rights Wisconsin: 800-928-8778
- Wisconsin Family Ties: 800-422-7145 (parents only) or 608-267-6888

Concerns and Grievances

Concerns and Grievances

Rights/Opportunities

- Students have the right to share their concerns and maintain due process in the application of the rights and responsibilities of this code.

Responsibilities

- Students and parents/guardians have a responsibility to attempt to resolve concerns beginning with staff at the building level which may include:
 - Teachers and Staff: classroom teacher, special education teacher, student services staff.
 - Administration: building principals, associate principals, deans of students.
- Any student or parent/guardian who thinks this code has been wrongfully interpreted or applied may request a conference with the school building administrator to discuss a grievance.
- The building administration has the responsibility of deciding as it relates to the grievance conference and informing the student and parent/guardian of that decision.

Grievance Appeal

Rights/Opportunities

- A student has the right to appeal the decision of a grievance conference.

Responsibilities

- The School District of La Crosse Administrative Team has the responsibility to help students, parents and community members resolve school issues if they are unable to reach a satisfactory solution working with school administrators and staff members. Please contact one of our district administrators who can help:
 - Communicate more effectively and negotiate a solution with a teacher or administrator
 - Understand a school policy, regulation or procedure
 - Connect the person with the appropriate school district staff member or office
 - Gather general information about the school district.
- Grievance appeals should be directed to the following individuals:
 - Please contact the Director of Elementary Education (Grades PK-5) at 608-789-8942.
 - Please contact the Director of Secondary Education (Grades 6-12) at 608-789-7185.
- Final grievance appeals may be made to the Superintendent of the School District of La Crosse.

Common Terms

Authorized School Personnel – Personnel of the School District of La Crosse and student teachers.

Behavior Contract – A written behavior agreement signed by the student, teacher or administrator, and/or parent/guardian.

Classroom Based Interventions – Interventions that are administered by school staff in the classroom or another area of the school. Examples include planned ignoring, restating expectations, reteaching, planned discussion, time away, time-owed, buddy classroom and restorative practice.

Conflict Resolution – A way for two or more parties to find a peaceful solution and negotiate a resolution to a disagreement.

CPI Strategies – Non-violent crisis intervention techniques to safely deescalate behavior.

Collaborative Problem Solving (also Collaborative and Proactive Solutions) – Non-adversarial, trauma-informed problem-solving model that seeks to address a student’s lagging social-emotional skills.

Detention – The requirement that a student remain in school or attend school outside of normal class time or school hours.

Disciplinary Hearing – A meeting facilitated by district administration with the student, parents/guardians, and school staff to address serious behavioral incidents before they escalate to consideration for expulsion.

Due Process – The student must have had the opportunity to be informed of the provisions of the Code or of other school regulations or procedures. The student must be informed of how and when specific provisions were allegedly violated. During the expulsion process the student is entitled to the full protection of due process, including the right to legal counsel.

Expected Compliance – a behavioral strategy that limits student resistance and conflict by having a staff calmly restate an expectation and move on as though the student complied.

Expulsion – An expulsion by the Board of Education means a student cannot attend school, be on school property, or participate in any school activities. School progress, if any, will be determined by the school administration, with the possibility of the student returning to the same grade level at which he or she were expelled. The Board of Education of the School District of La Crosse will determine the length of time during which the student will not be permitted to be a part of school programs. An expulsion also precludes students from enrollment in any public school in the State of Wisconsin, unless another school board were to elect to enroll the student over our school board’s determination. Severe and/or repetitious violations of this Code of Rights and Responsibilities may cause a recommendation for expulsion to be brought to the Board of Education.

Grievance – Anyone claiming that one or more provisions of this code has been wrongfully interpreted and applied may file a grievance. A grievance is processed when the person to whom it is brought receives either verbal or written formal notice.

In-School Monitoring – A student may stay in school and be allowed to attend classes but must check in with designated staff at appropriate times. Staff may escort the student in the hall or to the restroom when appropriate.

In-School Suspension – An action taken by school administration to prohibit a student from attending classes for a period of time while remaining under the supervision of school staff during the school day.

Long-Term Removals – Out of school suspensions of three (3) to five (5) days which is designed to disrupt the target behavior and allow time to develop a plan for improved behavior with the student, parent(s), guardian(s), and other community stakeholders. Return to school often requires a conference with the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) to clarify behavioral expectations, establish boundaries, identify appropriate supports, and communicate future responses or consequences if the behavior does not improve.

Loss of Privilege – An action taken by school administration to prevent a student from participating in an activity, or the loss of privilege as a consequence of a violation.

Mentoring Program – With parent/guardian permission, a student may voluntarily meet with a trusted adult who is available to offer support and guidance. The mentor may be a school staff person or someone from the community. A number of schools have mentor programs.

Office Based Interventions – Interventions that are administered by the school administrator. Examples include planned discussion, conferencing with pupil services staff, parent/guardian meeting, restorative practices, System of Care referral, informal restitution, in-school suspension.

Parent/Guardian Conference/Notification – School staff discussion or communication with a parent or guardian to address student academic or behavioral issues.

PBIS – Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports is a framework for supporting positive student behavior and positive school climate. For more information, please see page 5.

Peer Mediation – School District of La Crosse youth, who are trained, empowered and supported as circle keepers and mediators, provide support to their peers to help students resolve their conflicts positively. Peer mediators do not offer advice, counseling, or resolve conflicts for people; rather, they support students in conflict to come to their own resolution with the support of the community.

Planned Discussion – One or more adults confer with a student about a particular concern and develop a plan for resolving it.

Pre-Expulsion Hearing (Expulsion Hearing Abeyance) – A meeting facilitated by district administration with the student, parents/guardians, and school staff to address and problem-solve serious behavioral incidents once they have escalated to be an expellable offense. Consensus must be achieved on a plan to address the concerns as a condition to withhold a recommendation for expulsion.

Removal from Class – Teachers may remove students to the office for certain student violations of the Code of Rights and Responsibilities. This may include chronic minor unexpected behaviors that students fail to correct despite the teacher's classroom-based efforts to intervene.

Restorative Practice Strategies – Ways to invite students, families, community members and staff together to build empathy, caring and communication skills. Restorative practices focus on building a sense of community and on the strengths and capacity of the participants. When restorative practices are successful, all feel safe in the school, because deep and lasting relationships are built among stakeholders. Repairing harm circles, restorative chats, peer mediation and family group conferencing are examples of restorative practice strategies.

Short-Term Removal – Out of school suspension for one (1) to three (3) days which is designed to disrupt the behavior. Return to school often includes a conference with the student to clarify behavioral expectations and future responses or consequences if the behavior does not improve.

Student Management Team (SMT) – A general education initiative that provides support for teachers in meeting the unique learning and behavioral challenges of their students. The goal of the SMT is to assist those students needing differentiated instruction, behavioral supports or other interventions to assure their success in the general education setting. The focus is on prevention of unexpected behavior and the teaching of new skills in the general education setting.

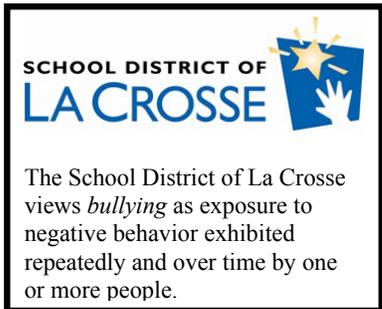
Student Conference – Discussion or communication with students to address their academic or behavioral issues.

Suspension – Temporary denial by the school administration of the right to attend class, be on school premises or attend school-related activities. Please also see In-School Suspension, Short-Term Removal, and Long-Term Removal.

Tardiness – Arriving late to school or to class.

Violation – Doing something prohibited by policy, law or Code of Rights and Responsibilities.

ALLEGATION OF BULLYING INCIDENT



This form is for use when reporting repeated bullying incidents. It may be used by school and police officials when investigating this or other related incidents.

Report Made By (PRINT): _____

Date: _____

Exact Location(s) of Incident: _____

Date of Incident: _____ Approximate Time of Incident: _____

Check those that apply:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> kicking | <input type="checkbox"/> teasing | <input type="checkbox"/> exclusion from game/activity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> hitting | <input type="checkbox"/> embarrassment | <input type="checkbox"/> name calling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> pushing | <input type="checkbox"/> tripping | <input type="checkbox"/> rude gestures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> spitting | <input type="checkbox"/> hate notes | <input type="checkbox"/> spreading rumors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> insulting | <input type="checkbox"/> discrimination | <input type="checkbox"/> cyber-bullying |
| <input type="checkbox"/> hazing | <input type="checkbox"/> put downs | <input type="checkbox"/> intimidation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other(s) _____ | | |

Please identify witnesses who can support your allegation.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Please describe in detail exactly what occurred, anyone who was involved, or anything else you believe might be of assistance. Details are very important.

(If necessary, please continue report on back.)

Has an incident with the same individual happened before? Yes No

If yes, please describe in detail exactly what occurred, anyone who was involved, or anything else you believe might be of assistance. Details are very important.

(If necessary, please continue report on back.)

I certify that all statements made above are true to the best of my knowledge. I understand that if I falsify this document, I can be held subject to consequences at school and by legal authorities (if applicable). I understand I should not interfere with any investigation by talking to witnesses or threatening any form of retaliation.

Signature

Date Submitted

This matter has been reviewed and has been found

substantiated unsubstantiated

Signature of Investigating Personnel

Date Completed

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LA CROSSE ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY - REGULATIONS
DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINT FORM

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____
(Street)

_____ (City/State/Zip)

Telephone _____ (Home) _____ (Work)

Status of person filing complaint:

Student

Employee

Parent

Other

_____ (Status if Other)

Filing complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of:

Statement of Complaint; include type of discrimination charged and the specific incident(s) in which it occurred. (Attach additional pages as needed.)

Signature of Complainant: _____

Date Complaint Filed: _____

Signature of Person Receiving Complaint: _____

Date Received: _____

.....
Submit this form to the administrator designated to receive this complaint or the immediate supervisor. The administrator receiving the complaint will sign receipt and date the complaint. A copy will be returned to the complainant; a copy will be sent to the school principal or department affected by the complaint; and a copy will be sent to the Complaint Investigation Officer (Associate Superintendent/Instruction, Director Student Services, or Director of Human Resources).