

OUT-OF-SCHOOL MISCONDUCT

Students in Ledyard Public Schools are subject to discipline, up to and including suspension and expulsion, for misconduct that is seriously disruptive of the educational process and is a violation of a publicized policy of the Ledyard Board of Education, even if such conduct occurs off school property and/or outside normal school hours.

In compliance with judicial decisions, the Board considers conduct that is “severely disruptive of the educational process” to mean conduct that “markedly interrupts or severely impedes the day-to-day operations of a school” in addition to such conduct also being a violation of publicized school policy.

In addition, in making the determination as to whether conduct is “seriously disruptive of the educational process,” the administration may take into consideration such factors as whether:

1. The incident occurred within close proximity of a school;
2. Other students from the school, or other District schools, were involved;
3. There was any gang involvement;
4. The conduct involved violence, threats of violence, or the unlawful use of a weapon, as defined in section 29-38 of the Connecticut General Statutes, and whether any injuries occurred; or
5. The conduct involved the use of alcohol and/or illegal drugs.

Even if the incident occurred or was initiated off school grounds and outside normal school hours, students may be disciplined, including being suspended and/or expelled, if after the occurrence of the incident there was a reasonable likelihood that return of the student or students involved in the incident to the school would contribute to a disruptive effect on the educational process, markedly interrupting or severely impeding the day-to-day operation of the school by threatening:

1. The school’s orderly operations,
2. The safety of school property’ or
3. The welfare of one or more individuals who work or study in the school.

Examples of the type of out-of-school misconduct that may result in such discipline include, but are not limited to – (1) use, possession, sale or distribution of dangerous weapons, as defined in sections 29-35, 53a-3, and 53-206 of the Connecticut General Statutes; (2) use, possession, sale or distribution of illegal drugs; (3) violent conduct; (4) making a bomb threat; or (5) threatening to harm or kill another student or school staff member – where any such activity has the reasonable likelihood of threatening the health, safety or welfare of individuals on school property, disrupting the educational process, or damaging school property.

Related Policy: 5114 – Suspension, Expulsion and Due Process

Policy adopted: December 15, 2010