

Fairfax County Public Schools

**AUGUST 2018**

ELEMENTARY



GUIDE

to Student Rights and Responsibilities

**Department of Special Services**

Office of Intervention and Prevention Services

Student Safety and Wellness Office

# Elementary Quick Guide to Student Rights and Responsibilities

Schools are communities of people working and learning together. Everyone should be treated with respect and kindness. We need to take care of each other, and get help if we see something dangerous. This booklet helps you to remember the important things that you need to do to help build a strong, happy, and creative school community.



## Rights



You have a right to be treated with respect. If you feel that this is not happening, talk to your teacher, or another adult you trust.



You have a right to learn and study in a calm, safe school. No one is allowed to hit, kick, hurt you, or touch you in any way that makes you feel bad.



You have a right to expect that your belongings are safe at school, but don't bring things that are expensive or especially important to you. You don't want them to get lost or accidentally broken.



If you don't agree with a rule, you have a right to express your feelings and opinions, respectfully, without being interrupted or punished. If you feel that an adult has made a decision which is not fair, you can make an appointment to talk to the teacher or the principal, and he or she will meet with you.



You have a right to say the Pledge of Allegiance and observe a moment of silence without being interrupted by others.



If you break a rule or hurt someone, you have a right to explain what happened. You might be asked to write down what happened, but you do not have to if you would rather just talk about it.

## Responsibilities

- ❖ Everyone has to work together and think about how your behavior affects the rights and feelings of others, so we can all get along in the school community.
- ❖ Unless you are sick, come to school every day. Students should come to class on time. Listen carefully, follow directions, and complete your work.
- ❖ You have a responsibility to help keep school safe. Keep your hands and feet to yourself. Never hit someone or touch someone in a way that makes that person uncomfortable. Don't bring anything to school that could hurt someone, but especially not matches or lighters, drugs, tobacco, alcohol, guns, ammunition, firecrackers, knives, or any kind of weapon. If you see anything that looks dangerous, tell a teacher right away.
- ❖ If you need to take medicine at school, an adult needs to bring it in to the health room to make sure you get the right amount at the right time, and no one else takes it by mistake.
- ❖ Respect yourself and others. Use proper language and do not curse or say things that hurt people.
- ❖ Be courteous and honest. Do your own work and don't copy from someone else. Treat others fairly. Take turns. Stop, turn, and listen when an adult calls to you.
- ❖ You can bring a computer, cell phone, tablet, or other electronic device to school. Listen to your teacher and only use it when he or she says that you can. Take care of it, because the school can't pay for it if you lose it or it gets broken. On the bus you can text or play games with your electronic device, but don't talk on the phone.
- ❖ When you make a mistake, work to make it right. Ask for help if you need it. If you break something, tell the teacher and together you can figure out a way to fix it or replace it. If you hurt someone, apologize and ask how you can make things better.



## ➤ **Dress Code**

- ✓ Students should wear clothes that are appropriate for school. You will be studying and playing, and some days you might be building, drawing, painting, or taking part in PE.
- ✓ Don't wear clothes that have words or pictures on them that support illegal actions, gangs, weapons, drugs, alcohol, or that contain threats.
- ✓ Don't wear clothes that have curse words on them, or pictures that are vulgar or obscene.
- ✓ Your school may have additional rules about dress code.

## ➤ **At the Bus Stop, on the Bus, on Field Trips, or Other School-Sponsored Activities**

Follow the same rules that you follow at school, but pay special attention to keeping safe. Stay with the group. Stand on the sidewalk, or on the grass, and do not stand in the street. On the bus keep your hands inside, stay in your seat, and talk in a quiet voice. Never bring anything dangerous with you on the bus, to a school activity, or on a field trip-no matches, lighters, tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or weapons.



## ➤ **Bullying, Harassment, and Mistreating Others**

People in our school are all different. They come from many countries and speak many languages. They are different sizes, shapes, and colors. They have different religions and they come from many types of families. Never tease or bully someone because he or she is different, because you are mad at him or her, or because you want to make him or her do something. If you see someone who is being teased or bullied, either in person or online, say something. Tell the person who is acting like a bully to stop. Let the person who is being bullied know that you can be a friend and tell him or her to walk away with you. Tell an adult if it does not stop.

If someone is bullying you, tell him or her to stop. If he or she does not stop, walk away. If he or she still does not stop, tell an adult right away. Hurting people, scaring them, or making fun of them is not allowed.

This *Quick Guide* is intended for use as a brief overview for students. All student behavior is governed by the detailed information found in the current version of Regulation 2601.