

# Fairfax County Public Schools

## August 2024



### **Elementary Quick Guide to Student Rights and Responsibilities**

**Chief Equity Office  
Equity and Student Conduct**

Your school is a community 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 will help you to remember the important things that you need to do to build a strong, happy, and creative school community at your school.

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 at [www.fcps.edu/srr](http://www.fcps.edu/srr).

<b>Rights</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>
<p>You have the right to learn.</p>	<p>You have a responsibility to work with your classmates, teachers, and the staff at your school to create a caring learning environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Think about how your actions and behaviors affect others.</li> <li>● Come to school every day (unless sick).</li> <li>● Come to school on time.</li> <li>● Listen carefully to teachers and each other.</li> <li>● Follow directions.</li> <li>● Complete your work on time.</li> <li>● Dress appropriately for school in accordance with Regulation 2613.</li> </ul>
<p>You have the right to feel safe while at school and on school property.</p>	<p>You have a responsibility to help keep your school safe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Keep your hands and feet to yourself.</li> <li>● Never hit someone or touch someone in a way that makes them feel uncomfortable.</li> <li>● If you hurt someone, you should apologize and ask how to make things better.</li> <li>● Do not bring anything to school that could hurt someone else, such as matches, lighters, drugs, tobacco, alcohol, guns, knives, or firecrackers.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● If you see anything that looks dangerous, tell a teacher or trusted adult right away.</li> <li>● Resolve disputes peacefully.</li> <li>● Advocate for yourself and/or others if there is a need for social, emotional, or behavioral support.</li> </ul>
<p>You have the right to privacy and to receive reasonable non-stigmatizing accommodations, regardless of underlying reasons.</p>	<p>You have the responsibility to respect the privacy of everyone in your school community as well as all property of the school community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Respect the rights of others asking for privacy for any reason.</li> <li>● If you need to take medicine at school, an adult needs to bring it to school for you - you should not bring medicine to school. Be sure to have the medicine brought to the Health Room so that the school can make sure you get the medicine when you need it and they can also make sure you take the correct amount of the medicine.</li> </ul>
<p>You have the right to feel respected and to be treated with respect at school, in the classroom, on the school bus, and on school trips.</p> <p>If you feel you have not been respected in any way while at school or at school events, you have the right to meet with a trusted adult in the school (i.e., principal, counselor, teacher, etc.)</p>	<p>You have the responsibility to respect everyone in your school community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Respect everyone’s culture, religion, ethnicity, and gender identity.</li> <li>● When someone is sharing thoughts or feelings, allow them to finish without interrupting and be a respectful listener.</li> <li>● Use kind language; do not curse or say things that hurt people.</li> <li>● Be courteous and honest.</li> <li>● Do your own work; do not copy work from somewhere else.</li> <li>● Treat others fairly.</li> <li>● Take turns.</li> <li>● When a trusted adult speaks to you at school, be attentive and listen.</li> </ul>

<p>You have the right to use school facilities and equipment.</p>	<p>You have the responsibility to use the equipment and property of the school according to the school rules. All school property should be treated with care and respect.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● If you accidentally break a piece of school equipment, tell a teacher and together you can figure out a way to fix it or replace it.</li> <li>● Respect all school property such as laptops or tablets and use them correctly. Do not access websites that are not approved by your teacher.</li> <li>● Be a good digital citizen and use all electronic devices responsibly.</li> <li>● You may bring a personal electronic device to school, such as a cell phone, computer, tablet, etc.; however, these items can only be used before or after school. These items should be left in your backpack during the day, if you do bring them to school. If something happens to any of your personal devices while at school - if it gets lost or broken - the school cannot replace the item so it may be best to leave the devices at home.</li> </ul>
<p>You have the right to receive support to ensure the safe and equitable access to all school division facilities and activities, in accordance with Regulation 2603.</p>	<p>You have the responsibility to respect the privacy of all students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Respect anyone who has a need or desire to access restrooms for reasons as defined in <a href="#">Regulation 2603</a>.</li> </ul>
<p>You have the right to equitable access to the learning environment, educational materials, and extracurricular activities.</p>	<p>You have the responsibility to support students and staff as we work together to ensure educational equity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Help staff establish inclusive environments by being friendly and welcoming.</li> <li>● Encourage classmates to become involved in the classroom learning</li> </ul>

	<p>process and after school activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Honor differences and similarities.</li> </ul>
<p>You have the right to a school and classroom environment that affirms the identity of all students and is responsive, caring, and inclusive.</p>	<p>You have the responsibility to treat students and staff with dignity and respect.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Please call others by their chosen name and use their chosen pronouns.</li> <li>● Students should be inclusive of all students and be welcoming of each other.</li> </ul>
<p>You have the right to have your personally identifiable information and citizenship or immigration status protected from unauthorized sharing.</p>	<p>You have the responsibility to respect the privacy of everyone in your school community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Respect the rights of others requesting privacy for any reason unless there is a safety issue.</li> </ul>

# Important Topics

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## **Dress Code:**

Your school respects your right to express yourself through what you wear. It is important to also understand that your clothes should be appropriate for your school day. For example, on days that you have PE, you should wear comfortable clothes in which you can exercise. Another example would be that on days with outdoor recess, you wear comfortable shoes in which you can run and play.

When choosing your clothes each day, remember to be respectful of your classmates and the other students by choosing to wear clothes that do not have words or pictures on them that are offensive or vulgar, or support things that are not permitted at school, such as drugs, guns, and alcohol.

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## **School Attendance:**

Your school attendance is very important to your academic success. Being “chronically absent” means that a student has missed 18 or more school days per year (including illness, family emergencies, suspensions, or unexcused absences).

- Studies show that regular attendance in elementary school improves the chances that students will read on grade level.
- Studies also show that students who attend school on a regular basis are more likely to graduate from high school on time.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to contact your child’s school if concerned about their child’s attendance record.

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### **At Bus Stop/On Bus/On Field Trips:**

Follow the same rules that you follow at school and pay special attention to keeping safe.

- At the bus stop:
  - Stay with your group.
  - Stand on the sidewalk or in the grass - do not stand in the street.
- On the bus:
  - Keep your hands inside the bus.
  - Stay in your seat.
  - Talk in a quiet voice.
- Do not bring anything dangerous on a field trip. For example, do not bring matches, lighters, tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or weapons.

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### **Supporting Safe School Communities:**

All students are expected to contribute to the development and maintenance of healthy, safe school communities. If you witness harmful or unsafe behaviors, you are expected to seek out a staff member and/or trusted adult as soon as possible, alerting them of the concerns. You should not participate in behavior that may serve to escalate harmful or unsafe situations. Examples of such behaviors include the instigation of bullying behaviors and videotaping altercations such as fights and arguments.

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

Never tease or bully anyone because they are different, because you are mad at them, or because you want to make them do something. Hurting people, scaring them, or making fun of them is not allowed.

Please remember that 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.

If you see someone 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 them to walk away with you. Tell a trusted adult if it does not stop.

If someone is bullying you, tell them to stop. If they do not stop, walk away. If they still do not stop, tell a trusted adult right away.

## **Discrimination and Harassment Reporting Process**

A Discrimination and Harassment Reporting system is available to allow you and your family to report incidents in which you feel you have experienced bias and/or discrimination. The tool is housed within the Let's Talk Platform and can be accessed by (a) launching the application from Student desktops; or (b) a [link on the FCPS Website](#).



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(Arabic) Please review the Student Rights and Responsibilities at [www.fcps.edu/srr](http://www.fcps.edu/srr), and sign and return page 3 of the SR&R booklet to your child's school by September 30, 2024. You may request a printed copy of the SR&R from the front office of your child's school at any time.

(Chinese) Please review the Student Rights and Responsibilities at [www.fcps.edu/srr](http://www.fcps.edu/srr), and sign and return page 3 of the SR&R booklet to your child's school by September 30, 2024. You may request a printed copy of the SR&R from the front office of your child's school at any time.

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