

CODE OF CONDUCT INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

2024-2025



The Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District is committed to providing a safe environment for students, staff, and visitors. Responsible behavior by students, teachers, support staff, other district personnel, parents, guardians and visitors is essential to achieving this goal. The District has a long-standing set of expectations for conduct on school property and at school functions. These expectations are based on the principles of civility, mutual respect, citizenship, character, tolerance, honesty and integrity. The Code of Conduct defines these expectations for acceptable conduct on school property, and identifies the possible consequences of unacceptable behavior to be administered promptly and fairly.

This document provides a general outline for families of The District's Code of Conduct. The complete text is available for review on The District's website or can be accessed directly by scanning the QR code above.

Some other areas addressed in the Code of Conduct but not highlighted in this document are the following: Prohibited Student Conduct, Electronic Communication Device Code, Alternative Instruction/Programs, Bus Rules, Corporal Punishment, Student Searches and Interrogation, Disciplinary Procedures, Penalties and Referrals, Discipline of Students with Disabilities.

The Ken-Ton District will continue to prioritize a strong partnership with families to ensure the best learning experience for all students. We look forward to another successful school year.



Our District is Committed to Using a Restorative Approach to Discipline

Restorative Practices encompass an approach based on fostering relationships, strengthening understanding, repairing harm, and building strong communities. This is accomplished by identifying and addressing the needs and harms that occur when there is conflict in the school community through the process of cultivating empathy and modeling conflict resolution skills. The purpose is to create meaningful relationships, which are central to building thriving communities. The goal of the Restorative Practices approach is to shift the focus to repairing harm and restoring the relationship hurt by the action, rather than attending to a predetermined consequence assigned to the rule that was broken. The principles of Restorative Practices are:

- Voluntary participation
- Respect for all involved
- Inclusion and equal voice of all involved
- A focus on harms, needs, and causes
- Consensus-based decision making to repair harm and prevent future harm
- Expanding the capacity of the community to create a just, fair, and meaningful response



Approaches to Discipline	
Traditional Justice	Restorative Justice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School rules are broken • Justice focuses on establishing guilt • Accountability=punishment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People and relationships are harmed • Justice focuses on needs and responsibility • Accountability=understanding impact and repairing harmed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justice directed at the offender; focus is not on the victim 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offender, victim and school have direct roles in the process
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rules and intent outweigh whether the outcome is positive or negative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offender is responsible for harmful behavior, repairing harm and working towards a positive outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited opportunity for expressing remorse or repairing harm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity given to express remorse and repair harm

Dignity for All Students Act

Each school building has a designated Dignity Act Coordinator whose responsibility will be to coordinate and enforce the Commissioner of Education's regulations set forth as a result of the Dignity for All Students Act. In order to implement this program, selected school personnel will assist the administration in developing and implementing specific prevention activities, including early identification of bullying and other strategies. In addition, the program will include reporting, investigating, remedying and tracking allegations of bullying. Please contact your child's school directly for the name and contact information of the Dignity Act Coordinator.



Students Rights and Responsibilities

Student Rights

1. To attend school in the district in which one's parent or legal guardian resides.
2. To expect that school will be a safe, orderly and purposeful place for all students to gain an education and to be treated fairly.
3. To be respected as an individual.
4. To express one's opinions verbally or in writing.
5. To dress in such a way as to express one's personality.
6. To be afforded equal and appropriate educational opportunities.
7. To take part in all school activities, including extracurricular events, on an equal basis regardless of race, color creed, religion, religious practice, sex, sexual orientation, gender/gender identity, national origin, ethnic group, political affiliation, age, marital status, or disability.
8. To have access to relevant and objective information concerning drug and alcohol abuse, as well as access to individuals or agencies capable of providing direct assistance to students with serious personal problems.
9. To be protected from intimidation, harassment, or discrimination based on actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, or religious practice, sex, gender/gender identity/gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability, by employees or students on school property or at a school-sponsored event, function or activity.

Student Responsibilities

1. To attend school daily, regularly and on time, perform assignments, and strive to do the highest quality work possible and be granted the opportunity to receive a good education.
2. To be aware of all rules and expectations regulating student's behavior and conduct oneself in accordance with these guidelines.
3. To respect one another and to treat others in the manner that one would want to be treated.
4. To express opinions and ideas in a respectful manner so as not to offend, slander, or restrict, the rights and privileges of others.
5. To dress appropriately in accordance with the dress code, so as not to endanger physical health, safety, limit participation in school activities or be unduly distracting.
6. To seek support and information about the available educational programs in order to use and develop one's capabilities to their maximum.
7. To work to the best of one's ability in all academic and extracurricular activities, as well as being fair and supportive of others.
8. To seek support and information about the services available and to seek assistance in dealing with personal problems, when appropriate.
9. To respect one another and treat others fairly in accordance with the District Code of Conduct and the provisions of the Dignity Act. To conduct themselves in a manner that fosters an environment that is free from intimidation, harassment, or discrimination. To report and encourage others to report, any incidents of intimidation, harassment or discrimination.

Student rights are protected by the United States Constitution, the Constitution of New York State, laws promulgated by the federal and state governments, the regulations of the Board of Regents and the regulations and policies of the BOE of the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District, as well as decisions of federal and state courts. In addition, there are rights that have to do with an orderly educational process.

Student Dress Code (revised this year)

Students, parents and guardians have the primary responsibility for understanding and upholding acceptable standards for student dress and appearance, and therefore, will give proper attention and appropriate dress for school and all school related activities. Teachers, administrators, and other District personnel will exemplify and reinforce acceptable dress standards and assist students in developing an understanding of the standards for appropriate appearance as stated in the Student Dress Code.

The following standards support a safe and positive learning environment in classes. Established by a representative committee of students, parents, guardians, teachers, support staff, and administrators they apply to all Kenmore-Tonawanda UFSD students independent of age, grade level, or location.

1. **Basic Principle:** Certain body parts must be covered for *all* students at *all* times. Clothes must be worn in a way such that genitals, buttocks, breasts, and undergarments are fully covered (non-see through).
2. **Students MUST wear the following:**
 - a. Shirt (Non-See Through)
 - b. Bottom: pants/sweatpants/shorts/skirt/dress/leggings
 - c. Shoes; activity-specific shoe requirements are permitted (for example for sports)
3. **Students are NOT PERMITTED to wear the following:**
 - a. Bathing suits unless activity specific permitted
 - b. Clothing that visibly shows undergarments
 - c. Helmets or headgear that obscures the face (except as a religious observance)
 - d. Hoods overhead while wearing a hoodie sweatshirt (the hoodie sweatshirt is allowed)
 - e. Backpacks and gym bags in the hallways and classrooms for students in grades K-7, exception made for use of cubbies.
 - f. Any article depicting language, images, or themes that denigrate others on account of race, color, weight, religion, religious practice, ethnic group, national origin, gender/gender identity, sex, sexual orientation, or disability.
 - g. Any article with controversial symbols or messages that can be reasonably forecast to cause disruption in the school environment and/or to the school's operation or that are lewd, vulgar or indecent
 - h. Any article that poses (or may pose) a threat to the health, safety, and wellbeing of others
 - i. Any article that advertises, displays, or represents themes/symbols related to violence; alcohol or drugs; illegal activities; or drug and alcohol use or abuse, gang related activities, or that are suggestive (of a sexual nature)
 - j. Any article of clothing or device that interferes with the integrity of an exam or test

Nothing in this policy will be construed to limit the ability of students to wear clothing that allows them to express their gender identity, or to discipline students for doing so. The determination as to whether or not a student is in violation of any portion of this Code will be at the sole discretion of building administration.

The District Code of Conduct will be distributed and interpreted to all staff and reviewed with all students each year as school reopens. Students will receive an abbreviated pamphlet that summarizes the Code of Conduct and highlights the dress code, student rights and responsibilities, prohibited conduct, and disciplinary options. *Please discuss the code of conduct with your child as partners in this work.*