

## STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- I. Students have certain inalienable rights, such as the right to safety, the right to fairness, the right to basic educational opportunities, the right to an education that is free from interference from those who would disrupt the learning process, and the right to grow into adults at an appropriate pace.

On the other hand, students have the responsibility to develop common courtesy and decency to others, responsibility for their own actions, honesty, the ability to get along with others, and respect for legitimate authority.

Within the constraints of a student's inalienable rights, the rights of the student body outweigh the rights of an individual.

Parental support of a child's pursuit of an education is key to achieving success. Schools and parents must work in cooperation to promote educational, emotional, and social growth in children.

The following statements summarize student rights and responsibilities. They help explain the relationship between and among students. In exercising their rights, students may not infringe on the rights of other students by disrupting the education process.

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| <p>A. <b><u>Education Right</u></b><br/>Students have a right to a public education.</p>   | <p><b><u>Responsibility</u></b><br/>Students have the responsibility to avoid actions or activities, individually or in groups, which shall interfere with the right of any person to a public education.</p>   |
| <p>B. <b><u>Learning Environment Right</u></b><br/>Students have the right to an orderly school and classroom environment, which promotes learning for all students.</p> | <p><b><u>Responsibility</u></b><br/>Students have the responsibility to ensure that their actions do not disrupt the classroom environment or school activities. Students have the responsibility to complete homework assignments.</p>   |
| <p>C. <b><u>Safety Right</u></b><br/>Students have the right to an educational environment that is safe and free of threats and harassment.</p>                          | <p><b><u>Responsibility</u></b><br/>Students have the responsibility to refrain from violence and unsafe actions and from threatening or harassing others. Students also have a responsibility to inform school authorities of any problem or potential problem concerning a student or school employee's safety.</p> |

**D. Attendance Right**  
Students have the right to attend school within boundaries of the law and school policies.

**Responsibility**  
Students have the responsibility to attend school every day all day unless there is an approved reason for being absent.

**E. School Communication Right**  
Students have the right to be informed about the rules, regulations, and requirements that regulate their activities at school or school-related events.

**Responsibility**  
Students have the responsibility to bring home any and all communication concerning school information, rules, regulations and requirements including any disciplinary notification.

**F. Religion Right**  
Students have the right to their own religious beliefs and to their own religious practices within boundaries of the law and school policies.

**Responsibility**  
Students have the responsibility to ensure that in exercising their own religious freedom, they do not violate other students' religious freedom or disrupt the educational process.

**G. Expression Right**  
Students have the right to express themselves in speech, writing or symbolism within boundaries of the law and school policies.

**Responsibility**  
Students have the responsibility to ensure that such expression does not disrupt the educational process, present health or safety hazards, damage property, infringe on the rights of others, violate the law or the LPSS policies.

**H. Peaceful Assembly Right**  
Students have the right to peaceful assembly.

**Responsibility**  
Students have the responsibility to secure approval for using school facilities for assembly, to discuss with an administrator the appropriateness of the facility for the functions, and to ensure that such assembly does not disrupt the educational process. Non-availability of adequate supervision shall constitute grounds for disapproval of such assembly.

**I. Privacy Right**  
Students have the right to protection from unlawful searches and seizures of their personal possession(s) without reasonable cause.

**Responsibility**  
Students have the responsibility to refrain from the possession of material or objects that are potentially hazardous and/or prohibited by law or other LPSS policies.

**J. Transportation Right**

Students have a right to safe and orderly transportation to and from school or a school activity when such transportation is provided within the transportation guidelines of the Lafayette Parish School System.

**Responsibility**

Students have the responsibility to ensure that their conduct contributes to a safe and orderly atmosphere while being transported, to refrain from hazardous actions and to refrain from actions prohibited by law or the Requirements of the Student-Parent Handbook and other Lafayette Parish School System policies.

**II. Parental Rights and Responsibilities**

Parents have certain rights regarding the education of their children. They have the right to have their children educated in a safe, orderly public school that is conducive to learning. Parents have the right to be informed of board policies and regulations, school rules, and the procedure for addressing grievances. Furthermore, they have the right to participate in educational decisions concerning their children such as, but not limited to, placement in leveled classes, classification as 504 and evaluations for special education.

Parents have the responsibility of instilling in their children that discipline is not punishment. It is a way of helping children to learn common rules to live by, think and act in an orderly manner, learn the values that are held by their family and community and understand the consequences of their actions. Additionally, parents should not blame others for their children's actions and resulting consequences.

Louisiana Law (R.S. 17:235.2) further states that parent(s)/guardian(s) are responsible for:

- Ensuring that his or her child attend school except for reasons due to illness or other legal exceptions.
- Ensuring that his or her child arrives at school on time each day and/or each class.
- Ensuring that his or her child completes all required homework assignments.
- Attending all required parent/guardian and teacher or parent/guardian and principal conferences.
- Providing the school with documents verifying residency and school zone as required by law.

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Lafayette Parish Public Schools, Louisiana