



Arizona School for the Arts

Student Code of Conduct 2025-2026

Approved by the Board of Directors 05/19/2025

INTRODUCTION

The Student Code of Conduct (SCC) supports Arizona School for the Arts in maintaining safe, nurturing, participatory and productive learning environments. This SCC serves as a supplement to the Community Handbook in order to provide additional information regarding specific violations, interventions, and consequences. It works in tandem with the Community Handbook to provide clarity on policies related to student behavior.

In order to maximize learning time and promote positive behaviors, our school facilitates a multi-tiered system of support for students' social, emotional and behavioral needs. This includes articulated expectations, teaching social-emotional competencies, and fostering positive relationships among all members of the school community. ASA is committed to an instructive, corrective, and restorative approach to behavior; the goal is to minimize the impact of the incident, repair harm, and address the underlying needs behind student behaviors. If behavior incidents arise that threaten student and staff safety or severely disrupt the educational process, the response warrants exclusionary discipline either on a short term or a long term basis depending on the severity and impact of the behavior. In accordance with the SCC, all disciplinary responses must be applied respectfully, fairly, consistently, and protect students' rights to instructional time whenever possible. A safe, welcoming, and productive school requires the support of all staff, students, and families.

STUDENT BEHAVIORS COVERED BY THE SCC

This section identifies the specific inappropriate behaviors for which students will receive interventions and/or consequences. The behaviors are listed in five different groups, according to the severity and degree of disruption to the learning environment.

Group 1 lists behaviors that are inappropriate.

Group 2 lists behaviors that disrupt.

Group 3 lists behaviors that are harmful.

Group 4 lists behaviors that are seriously disruptive and harmful.

Group 5 lists behaviors that are critical and seriously harmful.

The inappropriate behaviors and range of possible consequences and interventions listed in this policy are consistent with the Arizona Department of Education, Board Rules and Policies, negotiated agreements, and all other applicable state and federal laws.

This document serves as a guide for the school administration; consequences and interventions are at the discretion of the school administration based on the severity and impact of the incident or repeated incidents.

Group 1 Behaviors | Inappropriate

Excessive Tardiness: Repeated and/or prolonged tardiness from school and/or class without a valid, documented, and excused reason.

Ditching: Intentionally avoiding class and/or leaving campus without permission or authorization from a faculty member in the front office.

Truancy: Repeated and/or prolonged absence from school and/or class without a valid, documented, and excused reason.

Violation of Lunch Privileges (Seniors)¹: Violating the policy or procedure related to off campus lunch.

Inappropriate Public Display of Affection: Inappropriately displaying affection or intimate behaviors. (Only hand-holding and short, consensual hugs allowed.)

Selling: Collecting money in exchange for school appropriate items such as food, candy, stickers, pencils, jewelry, etc.

Lying: Making an untrue statement with intent to deceive or create a false or misleading impression.

Unauthorized Cell Phone Use²: Use of a cell phone or other telecommunication device that is not aligned with the school's current policy/procedure.

Dress Code: A violation of the dress code policy after a warning from a staff member.

Traffic/Motor Vehicle: Operating a motor vehicle on campus or at a school event, in a manner that does not adhere to school and public traffic rules or that is not in a safe and prudent manner.

Parking Rules: Violating the parking policies of ASA which requires students to follow the parking procedures (including lottery process), pay the required fee, display appropriate decal, and park in designated spaces. (Additional details regarding student parking are available in the main office.)

Use of Inappropriate Language: The use of inappropriate language in verbal, written or visual form that is not permitted in the school environment.

Group 1 Behaviors | School Response

- Restorative Conversation
- Family Notification or Meeting
- Intervention Plan, if applicable
- Administrator Assigned Consequences:
 - Detention
 - Loss of privilege to participate in curricular/extra-curricular activities
 - In School Suspension (1-3 days)

¹ Ladder of consequences for a violation of Senior lunch procedure are noted on the permission form related to the procedure.

² Ladder of consequences for unauthorized cell phone use are noted in the school's procedure regarding cell phones/telecommunication devices.

Group 2 Behaviors | Disruptive

Classroom Disruption (minor): Engaging in behavior that causes an interruption or interference in a class or activity. (e.g., sustained loud talk, yelling, screaming; horseplay or roughhousing; sustained out-of-seat behavior; unauthorized use of cell phone in any capacity).

Defiance of Authority: Open or bold resistance or disregard of school staff, failing to follow a reasonable request/ directions from school staff or presenting a challenging attitude or behavior.

Obscenity: Engaging in the use of profanity or defamatory, obscene, racial, or sexual language or gestures in oral, visual, or written form.

Unauthorized Use of School Facilities: Utilizing a school facility for disruptive behavior (congregating, planned private meet-ups, kissing, etc)

Trespassing/Unauthorized Visit: A student who is present on a school campus or at a school event without authorization.. In addition, a student shall not be present at partner organization's campuses (such as Ballet AZ, First Church UCC Phoenix, Burton Barr Library) without administrator approval except to attend appropriate extracurricular or public events.

Graffiti: Inappropriate or unkind drawings or messages written or drawn on school property with a non-permanent instrument.

Peer Conflict: Continuously engaging in conflict with a peer or peers after mediation, agreements or behavioral contract is in place.

Roughhousing/Horseplay: Participating in mutual roughhousing or horse play without the intent to harm others.

Aggressive Act (minor): Engaging in inappropriate physical contact, i.e., hitting, poking, pulling or pushing or other behaviors.

Harmful Language: The use of inappropriate and/or profane language in verbal, written or visual form with intent to cause harm or potential harm to others.

Group 2 Behaviors | School Response

- Restorative Conversation
- Family Notification or Meeting
- Intervention Plan and/or Behavior Agreements
- Mediation and/or Restorative Circle, as appropriate
- Administrator Assigned Consequences:
 - Loss of privilege to participate in curricular/extra-curricular activities
 - In School Suspension (1-3 days)
 - Short Term Suspension (1-3 days)¹

¹ Based on the severity and impact of the incident OR repeated incidents of behaviors in Group 1 and 2 OR the breach in agreements may result in a short-term suspension.

Group 3 Behaviors | Harmful

Bullying: Engaging in repeated acts, over time, that involve a real or perceived imbalance of power with the more powerful child or group attacking those who are less powerful. Bullying can be physical in form (e.g., pushing, hitting, kicking, spitting, stealing); verbal (e.g., making threats, taunting, teasing, spreading rumors, name-calling); or psychological (e.g., social exclusion spreading rumors, manipulating social relationships).

Cyber Bullying: Bullying committed via text or online platforms and mediums. (See Bullying definition above).

Gossip/Rumor Spreading: Passing along unconfirmed information about a student, staff or situation, etc that causes intentional or unintentional harm to the person/people named in said rumor.

Vandalism/Destroying Property: Defacing or damaging property of another person or tampering with property of another person so as to substantially impair its function or value.

Theft: Taking or attempting to take money or property belonging to another person or the school with the intent to permanently deprive the victim of their possessions.

Gambling: Playing games of chance for money; betting a sum of money or other items to which value has been assigned.

Cheating: An act of dishonesty or unfairness in order to gain an advantage, specifically in a school related or examination or to misrepresent one's actual knowledge or abilities.

Forgery: Falsely and fraudulently making or altering a document with the intent to defraud.

Plagiarism: Failure to properly acknowledge the source(s) of data, an idea, or language with the intent to misrepresent information or words of another as one's own. This includes inappropriate use of Artificial Intelligence.

Harassment: Intentional behavior by a student or group of students that is unwelcome, disturbing or threatening to another student or group of students. Intentional behaviors that characterize harassment include, but are not limited to, stalking, hazing, social exclusion (examples: purposeful isolation, telling someone to exclude others), name-calling, unwanted physical contact and unwelcome verbal or written comments, photographs and graphics. Harassment may be related, but not limited to, race, religious orientation, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, cultural background, economic status, body image, or personal appearance. Harassing behaviors can be direct or indirect and by use of social media.

Recklessness: The unintentional engagement of careless behavior that may pose a safety or health risk for others or cause damage to property.

Aggressive Act: Engaging in inappropriate physical contact with the intent to harm others or that demonstrates hostile behaviors.

Dangerous Item³ Possession: Possessing a dangerous item on campus or at a school event.

Over-the-Counter (OTC) Possession¹: The possession of OTC medications without authorization of a school administrator.

Over-the-Counter (OTC) Use¹: The use of OTC medications at school or a school event without authorization of a school administrator.

Prescription Medication Possession¹: The possession of prescription medications without authorization of a school administrator.

Prescription Medication Use¹: The use of prescription medications at school or a school event without authorization of a school administrator.

¹ Medications, prescription or nonprescription, may not be carried by students. Prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) medication must be delivered to the school office and be accompanied by the Medication Release form listing the specific medications and instructions for administration. Page 33 of Community Handbook.

³ Dangerous Items include, but are not limited to: Knife with blade length less than 2.5 inches, Laser Pointer, Letter Opener, Mace, Razor Blade or Box Cutter, Chains, Clubs, Needles, Brass Knuckles, Toy/Simulated Weapon ⁴

⁴ Toy/Simulated Weapons that appear as a weapon without the risk of causing physical injury used as props for curricular reasons must be approved by the administration and used only under supervision by the appropriate faculty member.

Group 3 Behaviors | School Response

- Restorative Conversation
- Family Notification or Meeting
- Intervention Plan and/or Behavior Agreements
- Mediation and/or Restorative Circle, as appropriate
- Administrator Assigned Consequences:
 - Loss of privilege to participate in curricular/extra-curricular activities
 - Academic Sanctions ¹
 - In School Suspension (1-3 days)
 - Short Term Suspension (2-5 days)²

Upon return from suspension (if applicable):

- Re-Entry Meeting with Student, Family and Administrator
- Mandatory Intervention Plan/Agreements
- Safety Plan, as appropriate
- Mediation and/or Re-Entry Circle, as appropriate
- Loss of privilege to participate in curricular/ extra-curricular activities, as appropriate

¹ Based on the severity and impact of the incident, students may face academic sanctions. These may include but are not limited to receiving a zero on an assignment or obtaining a grade of "NCE" for a class.

² Based on the severity and impact of the incident OR repeated incidents of behaviors in Group 1-3 OR the breach in agreements may result in a short-term suspension.

Group 4 Behaviors | Seriously Disruptive and Harmful

Emergency/Fire Alarm¹: Activating or using a fire alarm or emergency control device unless the student reasonably believes that an emergency exists and warrants use of the device.

Improper Use of Technology²: Improperly using computers, network infraction, telecommunication device or any other technology may include, but is not limited to, any of the following:

- ◁ Using a school computer in any way to gain access to obscene materials
- ◁ Allowing obscene material to remain on computer system without immediate notification to appropriate school personnel
- ◁ Providing or using another student's computer identification number and password
- ◁ Inappropriately using a school computer identification number and password while off school premises
- ◁ Entering into school's computer directories, files or programs without written authorization from appropriate school personnel
- ◁ Copying computer software from the school's computer system.
- ◁ Sharing suggestive shortcuts or links that breaches sensitive information or intentionally compromises the security of district network(s) or servers.
- ◁ Using a school or personal device to document and distribute inappropriate images and videos of staff or students

Obscene Materials²: The use or presentation of physical or digital materials that are highly inappropriate in a school setting.

Sexting²: Sending sexually explicit messages or photos electronically, primarily between cell phones and other mobile devices. This includes consensual and non-consensual.

¹As appropriate, notification to the Law Enforcement and Fire Department if the incident involved the arson of an occupied structure.

² Consequences for Improper Use of Technology align with the ASA's Technology Agreement and/or other behaviors within this Student Code of Conduct. Such behaviors include, but may not be limited to the following: Threats, Cyberbullying, Sexting, Obscene materials, Campus/Classroom Disruption.

Defamation: Using words or materials that are false, risk a person or institution's reputation and expose them to hatred, contempt, ridicule, disgust, or an equivalent reaction.

Hate Speech: Speaking to or about another person or group of people in verbal or written form that expresses insensitivity, hate, disrespect or disapproval regarding their race, religion, sex or sexual orientation with intent to harm.

Vandalism of Personal Property: Willful destruction or defacement of personal property including but not limited to racial epithets, hate speech, and gang related symbols.

Vandalism of School Property: Willful destruction or defacement of school property including but not limited to racial epithets, hate speech, and gang related symbols.

Hazing: Any humiliating or dangerous activity expected of a student to belong to a group, regardless of their willingness to participate. The state definition and potential consequences for hazing can be found in [Arizona Legislature Chapter 202, House Bill 2322](#).

Dating Abuse: Engaging in behavior in which one person uses or threatens to use physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional mistreatment to control their former or present dating partner.

Sexual Harassment: Non-consensual conduct of a sexual nature that disrupts the student's ability to participate in their learning and school experience. It can include unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Sexual harassment

may include, but is not limited to touching, pinching, grabbing, impeding or blocking movement, and lewd gestures, continuing to express sexual interest after being informed that the interest is unwelcome. These interactions could be student to student, student to staff or staff to student.

Intimidation: Intentional behavior by a student or group of students that places another student or group of students in fear of harm. (Intimidation can be manifested emotionally or physically, either directly or indirectly and by use of social media).

Verbal Provocation: Using gestures or language including rumors that may incite other student(s) to fight or cause harm.

Threat of Harm: Making a verbal or written threat to cause harm to others or engage in physically harmful behaviors.

Campus Disruption: Any disruption that occurs before, during, or after school that interferes in a significant way with the opportunity of other students to learn or participate in standard, productive functions of the school environment.

Fights: Mutual participation in an incident involving physical violence, where there is no major injury. Verbal confrontation alone does not constitute fighting.

Assault: Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causing physical injury to another person or intentionally placing another person, without their participation, in reasonable apprehension of imminent physical injury, or knowingly touching another person with intent to injure, insult, or provoke such a person.

Threat: Indicating, by word and/or conduct the intent to cause physical injury or serious damage to a person or their property.

Extortion: Attempting to obtain or obtaining money or property by threat, force, or in return for protection.

Over-the-Counter (OTC) Abuse¹: The abuse or misuse of OTC medications for the purpose of intoxication in or before school or at a school-related function.

Prescription Medication Abuse¹: The abuse or misuse of prescription medications for the purpose of intoxication in or before school or a school-related function.

Prescription or OTC Medication Sharing⁴ or Distribution⁵: The sharing of, sale, distribution, or intent to sell or distribute prescription or OTC Medication.

Tobacco/Inhalant Use and Possession: Using/ possessing tobacco or vaping nicotine products on school grounds, at school-sponsored events and/or on school-sponsored transportation.

Tobacco Distribution⁵ and Selling: The sale, distribution, or intent to sell or distribute tobacco or vaping nicotine products on school grounds, at school-sponsored events and on school-sponsored transportation.

Alcohol Use and Possession: Using or possessing alcohol in school or at, before, or after a school related function.

Drug/Vape Paraphernalia: Possessing equipment, products, and materials of any kind, which are used and/or intended for vaping or use of illegal drugs.

Marijuana/Inhalant Use and Possession: Using or possessing marijuana, “look-alikes”² of such substances, or use of inhalant/vaping marijuana/THC substance for the purpose of intoxication in or before school or a school-related function.

Drug³ Use and Possession: Using or possessing illegal drugs, narcotics, controlled substances, “look-alikes”² of such substances, or use of any other substance for the purpose of intoxication in or before school or a school- related function.

Alcohol and Drug ³ Sharing⁴: The sharing of illegal drugs, narcotics, controlled substances, “look-alikes”², or any other substance used for the purpose of intoxication.

¹ Medications, prescription or nonprescription, may not be carried by students. Prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) medication must be delivered to the school office and be accompanied by the Medication Release form listing the specific medications and instructions for administration. Page 33 of Community Handbook.

² “Look-alike” means any substance, which by appearance, representation, or manner of distribution would lead a reasonable person to believe that the substance is an illegal drug or other controlled substance.

³ For the purpose of this regulation, drugs are defined as narcotic drugs, dangerous drugs, toxic substances, marijuana, and peyote as those terms are defined in A.R.S. §13-3401, and imitation controlled substances as defined by A.R.S. §13-3451.

⁴ Providing the substance to one individual.

⁵ Providing the substance to multiple individuals.

Group 4 Behaviors | School Response

- Immediate removal from class and/or school
- Backpack and locker search, as appropriate
- Confiscation of items, as appropriate
- Family Notification
- Threat Assessment¹, as appropriate
- Law Enforcement Notification, as applicable
- Administrator Assigned Consequences:
 - Short term suspension (5-10 days), or
 - Disciplinary Hearing with possible long term suspension (11 or more days) or expulsion ²

Upon return from suspension (if applicable):

- Re-Entry Meeting with Student, Family and Administrator
- Mandatory Intervention Plan/Agreements
- Safety Plan, as appropriate
- Mediation and/or Re-Entry Circle, as appropriate
- Loss of privilege to participate in curricular/ extra-curricular activities, as appropriate

¹ Students may be required to participate in an individual threat assessment. Reasons that a student would be required to participate in a threat assessment include, but are not limited to, the following: verbal or written threats; Assault; Intimidation or Harassment; violent behavior; or any situation deemed by administration to be a disruption to the learning environment.

² Based on the severity and impact of the incident, repeated incidents of behaviors in Groups 1 through 4, may warrant a Disciplinary Hearing with possible long term suspension (11 or more days) or expulsion.

Group 5 Behaviors | Critical and Seriously Harmful

Alcohol and Drug ¹ Distribution⁴ or Selling: The sale, distribution, or intent to sell or distribute alcohol, illegal drugs, narcotics, controlled substances, “look-alikes” ², or any other substance used for the purpose of intoxication.

Sexual Assault: Sexual contact or behavior that occurs without explicit consent of the victim. Some forms of sexual assault include: Attempted rape, fondling or unwanted sexual touching, forcing a victim to perform sexual acts, such as oral sex.

Sexual Assault (Rape): The penetration, no matter how slight, without the consent of the victim.

Aggravated Assault: Assault as defined in section ARS 13-1203 under any of the following circumstances:

1. If the person causes serious physical injury to another.
2. If the person uses a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument.
3. If the person commits the assault after entering the private home of another with the intent to commit the assault.
4. If the person is eighteen years of age or older and commits the assault upon a child the age of fifteen years or under.
5. If the person commits the assault knowing or having reason to know that the victim is a peace officer, or a person summoned and directed by the officer while engaged in the execution of any official duties.
6. If the person commits the assault knowing or having reason to know the victim is a teacher or other person employed by any school and the teacher or other employee is upon the grounds of a school or grounds adjacent to the school or is in any part of a building or vehicle used for school purposes, or any teacher or school nurse visiting a private home in the course of the teacher’s or nurse’s professional duties, or any teacher engaged in any authorized and organized classroom activity held on other than school grounds.

Endangerment/Endanger Health: Recklessly endangering another person with a substantial risk of imminent death or physical injury.

Dangerous Item³ Possession with Intent to Cause Harm: Possessing and/ or attempting to use a dangerous item on campus or at a school event to cause bodily injury to, threaten, or intimidate another person.

Bomb Threat: Threatening to cause harm using a bomb, dynamite, explosive, or arson-causing device

Chemical Or Biological Threat: Threatening to cause harm using dangerous chemicals or biological agents

Threat to an Educational Institution: Presenting a threat (verbal, written, electronic or visual) to bomb or use other substances or devices for the purpose of exploding, burning, causing damage to a school building or school property, or to harm students or staff.

Gun/Firearm: Possessing and/or using a loaded or unloaded handgun, pistol, revolver, rifle, shotgun, ghost gun or other weapon that will expel, is designed to expel or may be readily converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive.

Threat of School Violence: Presenting a threat (verbal, written, electronic or visual) to school to cause harm to staff, students or other occupants on school grounds or at a school related function or event.

Knife: Possessing and/or using a blade having a length of at least 2.5 inches or more.

Other Weapon: Possessing and/or using a destructive device or dangerous instrument. (e.g., , Taser or Stun Gun, Tear Gas, Explosives, Ammunition, AirSoft Gun, B.B. Gun, Paintball Gun, Pellet Gun, Fireworks.

¹ For the purpose of this regulation, drugs are defined as narcotic drugs, dangerous drugs, toxic substances, marijuana, and peyote as those terms are defined in A.R.S. §13-3401, and imitation controlled substances as defined by A.R.S. §13-3451.

² "Look-alike" means any substance, which by appearance, representation, or manner of distribution would lead a reasonable person to believe that the substance is an illegal drug or other controlled substance.

³ Dangerous Items include, but are not limited to: Knife with blade length less than 2.5 inches, Laser Pointer, Letter Opener, Mace, Razor Blade or Box Cutter, Chains, Clubs, Needles, Brass Knuckles

⁴ Distribution Providing the substance to multiple individuals.

Group 5 Behaviors | School Response

- Immediate removal from class and/or school
- Backpack and locker search, as appropriate
- Confiscation of items, as appropriate
- Threat Assessment¹
- Safety Plan
- Immediate loss of privilege to participate in curricular/ extra-curricular activities
- Mandatory Law Enforcement Notification
- Administrator Assigned Consequences:
 - Disciplinary Hearing with possible long term suspension (11 or more days) or expulsion

¹ Students may be required to participate in an individual threat assessment. Reasons that a student would be required to participate in a threat assessment include, but are not limited to, the following: verbal or written threats; Assault; Intimidation or Harassment; violent behavior; or any situation deemed by administration to be a disruption to the learning environment.