



# Good Foundations Academy

5101 South, 1050 West, Riverdale, Utah 84405

Main: 801.393.2950 FAX: 385.333.7245

Website: <http://gfautah.org> For info: [askgfa@gfautah.org](mailto:askgfa@gfautah.org)

## STUDENT DISCIPLINE POLICY

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### 1. PURPOSE

At GFA, character education is woven into our vision, mission, charter, lessons, daily routines, and behavior systems. GFA has identified seven fundamental character traits (Foundation Stones) that we teach and celebrate: Respect, Self-control, Citizenship, Responsibility, Cooperation, Integrity, and Perseverance.

Our character education includes, but is not limited to:

- Monthly Assemblies for each Foundation Stone
- Stepping Stone awards for students at each assembly
- Bi-weekly 45 minute character lessons
- Foundation Stones Reports provided with academic report cards each quarter
- Lessons in literature, math, science, and history that celebrate character
- Hero projects and writing activities at many grade levels
- Classroom management systems that use the character traits
- Discipline referrals to the office that reinforce and review character traits

A. At Good Foundations Academy, plans and policies have been developed for classroom and student environment and management which include:

1. General Classroom Structure
2. Physical Artifacts that Support Classroom Management
3. Routines and Transitions
4. Positive Behavioral Management
5. Negative Behavior Management
6. Daily Schedule

B. On-going staff development and mentoring is provided for all staff regarding:

1. Effective instructional practices for teaching and reinforcing behavior expectations.
2. Effective intervention strategies.
3. Effective strategies for evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of interventions.

C. Good Foundations Academy shall determine the range of student behaviors and establish a continuum of administrative procedures that may be used by school personnel to address student behavior, including:

1. Classroom level strategies
2. School level strategies
3. Strategies unique to some students with special needs

## D. Training

Good Foundations Academy provides training and strategies for students and staff in the following topics:

- School-wide discipline procedures and expectations
- Bullying prevention
- Each of our GFA Foundation Stones
- Adult supervision of students (staff only)
- Give parent and student surveys relating to school culture
- Appropriate restraint procedures for key personnel

## 2. RANGE OF BEHAVIORS - MISCONDUCT

GFA reserves the right to judge the severity of misconduct or behavioral infractions, as well as the persistence of patterns of behavior that are disruptive to the learning environment. Student misconduct can be divided into two general types of infractions: major and minor. Neither minor nor major infractions are permissible at GFA.

- Minor infractions are those violations of school rules that are usually handled by teachers or staff without the need to involve school administration. Minor infractions may result in a loss of privileges (including recess), phone calls home, and/or referral to administration. If chronic or excessive minor infractions are referred to school administration, they may be viewed as major infractions.
  - Minor infractions are defined as a situation where physical, emotional, or social safety of students or staff is not seriously threatened but where there is a problem to be resolved.
  - Examples of minor infractions include, but are not limited to,
    - rough play, disputes between students, leaving messes, name calling, yelling, class disruptions or disrespect.
- Major infractions are acts that threaten the physical, emotional, or social safety of students or staff, or that constitute willful or wanton acts of disrespect toward GFA staff members, parents, students, or property.
  - Examples of major infractions include, but are not limited to,
    - fighting; acts of defiance, gross insubordination, or disrespect; harassment/intimidation; possession, distribution, or accessing of pornography (printed, electronic, or otherwise); blatant use of profane language; willful destruction of GFA property; possession or use of alcohol, drugs, or weapons; violations of civil law; or where persistent disobedience in minor misconduct areas become chronic.

## 3. PROHIBITED CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

Prohibited conduct is forbidden at school, on school property, including school vehicles, and at any school activity. Prohibited conduct is defined as a serious violation that threatens or harms the learning environment, school property, a person connected with school, or members of school staff, student body, administration, or the board. Removal from school means that the student is suspended from instruction and activities at Good Foundations Academy for a temporary period of time up to ten 10 days.

Removal longer than ten days may result in expulsion or change of placement.

A. A student MAY be removed from school for the following:

1. Actual or threatened use of a look-alike weapon with intent to intimidate or cause disruption
2. Willful disobedience or violating a school rule
3. Defying authority
4. Disruptive behavior
5. Foul, profane, vulgar, or abusive language
6. Defacing or destroying school property
7. Truancy
8. Theft
9. Posing a significant threat to the welfare, safety or morals of a student, school personnel, or the operation of the school
10. Fighting
11. Bullying (including, but not limited to, behavior intended to cause harm or distress in a relationship with an imbalance of power, especially if repeated over time)
12. Possessing a drug, an imitation drug, drug paraphernalia, or misusing any substance
13. Possessing or using tobacco
14. Hazing, demeaning, or assaulting someone, or forcing someone to ingest a substance
15. Inappropriate exposure of body parts
16. Sexual or other harassment
17. Gang-related attire or activity
18. Any other serious violation that threatens or harms the learning environment, school property, a person connected with school, or members of school staff, student body, administration, or the board.

B. A student SHALL be removed from school for any of the following reasons:

1. Any serious violation affecting another student or a staff member, or any serious violation occurring in a school building, in or on school property, or in conjunction with any school activity, including:

- the possession, control, or actual or threatened use of a real weapon, explosive, or noxious or flammable material;
- the actual or threatened use of a look-alike weapon with intent to intimidate another person or to disrupt normal school activities; or
- the sale, control, or distribution of a drug or controlled substance as defined in Section 58-37-2, an imitation controlled substance defined in Section 58-37b-2, or drug paraphernalia as defined in Section 58-37a-3; or

2. The commission of an act involving the use of force or the threatened use of force which if committed by an adult would be a felony or class A misdemeanor or felony

C. The type and length of discipline for prohibited conduct is based on factors such as previous violations, severity of conduct, and other relevant educational concerns.

D. The decision to remove or to discipline in some other way is made by the Executive Director based on all the circumstances.

E. If needed, students may be placed on behavior intervention plans or remedial discipline plans.

- F. School personnel may use reasonable physical restraint, if necessary, to protect a person or property from physical injury or to remove a violent or disruptive student.
- G. If damage or loss of school property occurs, official report cards, diploma, and transcripts may be withheld until payment for the damage is received or the lost property is recovered.

#### **4. CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

Students will have the opportunity to discuss with a trained adult issues pertaining to a conflict with peers.

Students will engage in active communication and be coached through appropriate problem solving skills. Based on the evidence collected, these conversations may result in a minor or major infraction.

#### **5. SEARCHES**

- A. School personnel may search students, lockers, personal property, or desks, without the permission of parents, if there is reasonable suspicion of wrongdoing.
- B. School personnel may also conduct random searches that might include all lockers or other school property.

#### **6. SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION DEFINED**

- A. Suspension is disciplinary removal from school with an offer of educational services.
- B. Expulsion is a disciplinary removal from school by the Executive Director and the Board of Directors for more than 10 school days without an offer of alternative educational service.

#### **7. READMISSION AND ADMISSION**

- A. If a student is removed from school under the section above titled, Prohibited Conduct and Related Discipline, readmission depends upon satisfactory evidence that the student will not be a danger to self, others, or school property.
- B. The school may deny admission to a student who has been expelled from any school in the last twelve months.

#### **8. DUE PROCESS**

- A. If a student is removed from school or otherwise disciplined under this policy, the student has the right to meet with a school administrator or director to tell his/her side of the story.
- B. If the Executive Director recommends removal for more than 10 school days, a Board Member or designee will hear the case at the school with the student, the parent or guardian, the Executive Director, and others as necessary.
  - This hearing will be held within 10 school days of removal from school.
- C. If a student is removed from school for more than 10 school days, an appeal of the decision may be

made in writing to the Board President within 10 school days of the decision. The parent or guardian is responsible to plan and to pay for any educational services not provided by the school during the suspension.

## **9. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

If a student has a qualified disability, the Executive Director will explain the separate procedures that may apply based on the procedural safeguards under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (if applicable).

## **10. PARENT NOTIFICATION**

Parents will be notified by teachers and/or administration in disciplinary circumstances as per state law.

Parents have the right to request an appointment with administration in regard to any disciplinary action taken by staff or administration.