

# DISCIPLINE POLICY

## Vista School Discipline Policy

### Behavior Guidelines

Vista School is committed to providing all students with a challenging, innovative, and results-oriented education through quality methods: emphasizing academic excellence, accountability, character development, and respect for the individual. Students at Vista School should be examples and leaders in what they do and say. This includes making choices according to the school discipline policy, taking responsibility for their actions, and making sure these choices and actions do not cause a problem for others. We believe that our students are future leaders, and we try to help them learn healthy, positive interactions with peers and adults – skills that will serve them throughout life.

### MINOR INFRACTIONS

**When a student does not follow one of the above stated expectations (including - tardies, uniform infraction, preparation, misconduct), the behavior is considered a minor infraction and the following will occur:**

1st Infraction - Written warning

2nd Infraction - Detention\*

3rd Infraction - Detention\*

4th Infraction - Office Referral/Parent meeting with administration/Detention\*

5th Infraction - Office Referral/Detention\*

6th Infraction - Suspension

\*Vista discipline and the administration team will determine the type of detention that is to be served. Types of detention include lunch, after school, and Saturday morning.

### MAJOR INFRACTIONS

**The following behaviors are considered major infractions and will result in an immediate office referral. Behaviors, which are or exhibit:**

- Physically Dangerous (fighting, hazing, etc.)
- Ethnic, Gender, and/or Religious Slandering or Teasing
- Harassment (physical, sexual, written, or verbal)
- Bullying (including physical and emotional)
- Gross Insubordination (Student refuses to comply with a teacher or administrator, including following procedures and rules established in the classroom and/or by Vista School)
- Inappropriate Computer Usage

### **Procedures and Consequences for Major Infractions:**

- First major infraction: 1-3 days of detention, or at-home suspension, depending on severity.
- Second major infraction: 3-5 days of detention, or at home suspension depending on severity.
- Third major infraction: 5-10 days of detention, or at home suspension depending on severity.
- Fourth major infraction: Suspension indefinite/recommendation of expulsion to Board, depending on severity.

(Students with IEPs will be treated according to the state guidelines for students with IEPs.)

### **Expulsion may occur for the following:**

The following may result in the expulsion from Vista: Students carrying, bringing, using, or possessing a deadly weapon, or possession or use of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs. A deadly weapon includes, but is not limited to, a firearm, loaded or unloaded, knife, bludgeon, or any other weapon or instrument which in the manner used or intended to be used is capable of causing death or serious bodily injury. In addition, the possession, control, or actual or threatened use of a real weapon, explosive, or noxious or flammable material is prohibited. A facsimile weapon will be treated as a weapon.

### **Questioning Students at School**

As school officials, we have the right to question your child about his or her own conduct at school and, in the investigation of alleged misconduct by other students, to question him or her about the conduct of others. We expect students to cooperate in this process, and the refusal to cooperate will be treated as insubordination. We will not ordinarily contact you before questioning your child about his or her own conduct or about the conduct of other students, but certainly will contact you promptly if our investigation shows that your child has violated school behavior guidelines. Our investigation of possible violations of Vista's behavior guidelines is not a criminal proceeding, and there is no such thing as "Taking the Fifth" or a student's right not to incriminate himself or herself in a school discipline investigation. Sometimes law enforcement officials or investigators from Child Protective Services (CPS) ask to interview students at school. In the case of an investigator from Child Protective Services conducting a child abuse or neglect investigation, we are required by state law to permit the investigator to talk to the child at school. We will also make every effort to cooperate with law enforcement officials conducting an investigation that requires talking to students.