

**SUBJECT: CIVILITY AND DECORUM****Standards of Civility:**

All schools should be places where mutual respect is practiced and reinforced. It is the policy of the Greenwood Lake Union Free School District to promote an environment in which all members of the school community treat each other civilly, with courtesy and respect in all contacts, whether direct or indirect.

The District does not intend this policy to deprive any person of his/her First Amendment right to freedom of speech or expression. Rather, it seeks to maintain an environment in which people can feel safe, secure and mutually respected.

**Expected Behavior:**

The Board of Education expects a standard of civility in words and actions whereby all administrative, professional and support staff, all students, parents, Board members, visitors and other members of the school community interact in a courteous, respectful manner. The Board recognizes that disagreements may occur, and members of the school community remain free to express their views. Rather, this expectation relates to the manner in which people communicate and interact with each other. Disrespectful, rude, abusive or intolerant behavior or language erodes education, is unacceptable and such behavior shall be addressed when it occurs.

**Unacceptable Behavior:**

Unacceptable behavior includes, but is not limited to, disruptive, demeaning or antagonistic behavior at school, at school-related meetings or at school-sponsored events and activities that interferes with such meetings or events or the participation at such meetings and events. The following are examples of such behavior:

- Using loud and/or offensive language, displays of temper, speaking in an insulting or demeaning manner, through personal actions, spoken words, graphic representations or in writing.
- Threatening or intimidating administrative, professional and support staff, students, parents, Board members, visitors and other members of the school community.
- Behaving in a physically or verbally intimidating manner.
- Damaging or destroying school property.
- Sending abusive, threatening or obscene letters, e-mails or other electronic messages or voice messages.
- Discussing confidential student and/or personnel matters outside the appropriate school channels.

Adoption Date: 10/16/13