

NEW SALEM/WENDELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The students of Swift River School have the rights afforded them by the federal and state constitutions and statutes, including MGL Chapter 71, Section 82. It is the School Committee's belief that as part of the educational process students should be made aware of their legal rights and of the legal authority of the School Committee to make and delegate authority to its staff to make rules regarding the orderly operation of the schools so as to create a positive educational environment.

Students have the following rights as defined by law:

1. The right to equal educational opportunity and freedom from discrimination and harassment;
2. The right to due process of law with respect to disciplinary measures;
3. The right to free inquiry and expression; and
4. The right to a free and appropriate public education.

In addition to these rights, there are responsibilities that the school expects students to assume so as not to infringe the rights of other students' access to a free and appropriate education, including the following:

1. To refrain from infringing the civil rights of other students;
2. To observe school rules essential for permitting others to learn at school;
3. To attend school regularly and on time.

In regards to school rules and discipline, students have the right to know and shall be expected to understand the standards of behavior that are expected of them, and the consequences of misbehavior. Students also have the right to be informed of procedures for appeals.

The rights and responsibilities of students, including standards of conduct and relevant policies and procedures, will be made available to students and their parents/guardians through the annual school handbooks, and as practical, through other means such as the school website, classroom discussion or materials.

SOURCE: MASC

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 71:37H; 71:82 through 71:86

MGL Chpt 71, Sec. 82, paragraph 1

The right of students to freedom of expression in the public schools of the commonwealth shall not be abridged, provided that such right shall not cause any disruption or disorder within the school. Freedom of expression shall include without limitation, the rights and responsibilities of students, collectively and individually, (a) to express their views through speech and symbols, (b) to write, publish and disseminate their views, (c) to assemble peaceably on school property for the purpose of expressing their opinions. Any assembly planned by students during regularly scheduled school hours shall be held only at a time and place approved in advance by the school principal or his designee.

AS AMENDED 5/5/08

First reading: 06-05-08

Second reading, first vote: 09-04-08

Final Vote: 10-02-08