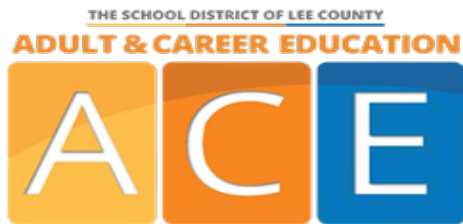


THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ADULT STUDENTS

2025 – 2026



Lee County Public Education Center
2855 Colonial Boulevard
Fort Myers, Florida 33966
The School Board of Lee County, Florida

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Table of Contents

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ADULT STUDENTS	4
SCOPE OF AUTHORITY	4
STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY	5
DIVERSITY	6
FEDERAL DRUG-FREE SCHOOL ACT	6
DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS	6
TOBACCO-FREE CAMPUS RULE	6
SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY	6
ANTI-BULLYING INFORMATION	7
FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT OF 1974 (FERPA) RELEASE	7
STUDENT DRESS CODE REQUIREMENTS	7
DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS/CONSEQUENCES	7
DISCIPLINE INFRACTIONS AND CONSEQUENCES	8
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR	8
ADJUDICATED VIOLATIONS OF STATE OR FEDERAL LAW	8
ALCOHOL	8
ARSON	8
BATTERY	8
BREAKING/ENTERING	8
BULLYING/HARASSMENT	8
CELL PHONE USE	8
CHEATING	8
COMPUTER MISUSE	9
DISRUPTION ON CAMPUS	9
DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR	9
DRESS CODE VIOLATION	9
DRUG SALE/DISTRIBUTION	9
DRUG USE/POSSESSION	9
FALSIFICATION OR FORGERY	9
FIGHTING	9
GAMBLING	9
HATE CRIMES	9
HAZING	10
INSUBORDINATION/DISRESPECT	10
LARCENY/THEFT	10
OFF-CAMPUS FELONY	10
OTHER MAJOR DISRUPTION	10
OTHER RULE VIOLATIONS	10
PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIAL	10
PROFANITY	10
SAFETY VIOLATION	10
SEXUAL HARASSMENT	10
THREAT/INTIMIDATION	10
TOBACCO/VAPING	11
TRESPASSING	11
UNAUTHORIZED AREA	11
UNAUTHORIZED AREA: (Restroom)	11

VANDALISM.....	11
WEAPONS POSSESSION.....	11
RESPONSIBILITY TO CARRY OUT DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES	12
DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES.....	12
DISCIPLINARY APPEALS	12
SCHOOL/PROGRAM ACCESS DURING DISCIPLINARY SUSPENSION.....	13
READMISSION AFTER DISCIPLINARY SUSPENSION.....	13

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ADULT STUDENTS

By applying and registering at a Lee County Technical College or a Lee County Adult Education Program, all students agree to abide by The School District of Lee County's Policies, all regulations, as published in the school catalog, the student handbook, and other school publications, as well as federal, state, and local laws.

As a post-secondary and adult education institution, the college or school expects students to be mature and responsible citizens at all times and places. Any student whose conduct or dress violates the law, is a public nuisance or is deemed improper and detrimental to the school, and/or does not abide by the policies of a program may be subject to disciplinary action, including probation, suspension, withdrawal, or denial of re-enrollment.

All high school students that attend an Adult Education Program at the Lee Technical Colleges or any other Adult Education site are subject to the School District of Lee County Code of Conduct for Students – Grade 6 to Grade 12. Students under the age of 18 who terminate their enrollment in a traditional school setting to enroll in an Adult Education Program are expected to adhere to the School District of Lee County Adult Code of Conduct.

The School Board of Lee County has clearly defined standards of performance for ethical conduct to preserve the trust in elected officials and appointed officers, in accordance with Board Policy [1210.01 Ethics in Education](#). The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students who are 18 years of age or older (eligible students) certain rights with respect to your student's education records.

SCOPE OF AUTHORITY

The Director or his/her designee has the right to determine the appropriate response for the misconduct and the corresponding level of the offense based on the facts and circumstances of the incident in accordance with Florida statutes sections 1003.31 or 1006.61.

Proceedings of the investigation of each case and the action taken will be officially recorded. Students are expected to respect the rights and welfare of other members of the school community and its guests. This district recognizes that a thoughtful and reasoned search for truth can be conducted only in an atmosphere that is free of intimidation and coercion. As such, violence, the threat of violence, disruption to the learning process, and intimidation are unacceptable to the adult learning community. Students are expected to assume full responsibility and will be held accountable for their individual or collective actions.

Certain conduct and actions while on campus shall be considered improper conduct and shall be subject to disciplinary action, which may include suspension or withdrawal. Each case will be reviewed on an individual basis by the Director or his/her designee giving each student the fundamental right of procedural due process. The degree of formality associated with a conference or hearing in the determination of a suspension or withdrawal will depend upon the nature of the offense and the severity of the sanctions that may be imposed as a result. Only the Director or his/her designee has the authority to suspend or withdraw a student.

STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The School Board of Lee County, Florida does not discriminate nor tolerate discrimination on the basis of race (including anti-Semitism), color, ethnicity, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identification, gender expression, disability (physical or mental), pregnancy, marital status, age (except as authorized by law), religion, military status, socioeconomic status, linguistic preference, genetic information, ancestry, or any other reason protected under applicable federal, state, or local law in the provision of educational programs, activities or employment policies as required by Title II, Title VI, and Title VII Civil Rights Act of 1964 including, Title IX of the United States Education Amendments of 1972, Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (ADEA), Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992, Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and the Amendment Act of 2008 (ADAAA), and the Florida Educational Equity Act of 1984. The School Board also provides equal access to its facilities to youth groups, as required by the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act. Any sections of the District's collectively bargained, negotiated agreements dealing with hiring, promotion, and tenure will contain a statement of nondiscrimination similar to that in the Board's statement above. As required by Florida's Educational Equity Act, the Superintendent shall submit an annual equity report addressing the District's educational and employment practices. The School Board of Lee County, Florida, prohibits retaliation by any District personnel against a person for reporting, filing or being a witness in a discrimination (including harassment) charge, complaint, investigation, or lawsuit associated or in connection with this policy. Established grievance procedures and appropriate discrimination complaint forms are available from the Office of Civil Rights & Equity, Academic and Student Support Services, or the Equity Coordinator at each school. Complaints/Inquiries regarding compliance with these regulations may be submitted in writing to:

All Equity-Related Issues and Complaints (Students and Adults)

General Equity Discrimination, Title IX, and Section 504

Jennifer Fuller,
Government Compliance and Investigations Coordinator

Office of Legal Services
The School District of Lee County
2855 Colonial Boulevard
Fort Myers, FL 33966
(239) 337-8512
CivilRightsEquity@leeschools.net
TTD/TTY (239) 335-1512

DIVERSITY

The School District of Lee County is committed to building and maintaining a diverse, accessible, civil, and supportive learning community. It fosters respect and understanding among all cultures and all individuals who work, study, live, and teach within this community. Bigotry, expressions of hatred or prejudice, behaviors that infringe upon the freedom and respect that every individual deserves, and harassment of any kind transgress the school's purposes and values. Just as learning benefits from the interplay of teaching and scholarship in a variety of disciplines, so does the school community learn and profit from diverse cultures and perspectives.

FEDERAL DRUG-FREE SCHOOL ACT

Federal legislation has been passed as part of the war on drugs. This legislation is intended to convey to students of any institution receiving federal funds (contracts, grants, student financial aid, etc.) the health risks that exist for those who abuse alcohol or drugs. In addition, penalties for those who violate school standards are in place and consistently enforced.

DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS

The unlawful manufacture, distribution, possession, or use of a controlled substance or the unlawful possession and use of alcohol is wrong, harmful, and prohibited in or on The School District of Lee County owned and controlled property or as part of any of its activities.

TOBACCO-FREE CAMPUS RULE

To provide a safe and healthful environment for employees, students, and visitors and to minimize costs associated with health issues related to tobacco use, the use of tobacco products is prohibited on any property, including land, buildings, or vehicles, owned or operated by The School District of Lee County, whether indoors or outdoors, all day, every day, whether school is in or out of session. For purposes of this rule, "Use of Tobacco Products" means smoking, burning, chewing, snuffing, dipping, or otherwise ingesting or deriving the effects of tobacco and shall include the use of tobacco-like substances or products intended to provide or simulate the effects of tobacco including, but not limited to, electronic cigarettes or similar devices.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

Sexual harassment undermines the integrity of the academic and work environment and prevents its victims and their peers from achieving their full potential. All members of the school community are entitled to work and study in an atmosphere free from sexual overtures or innuendoes that are unsolicited and unwelcome. It is the particular responsibility of those members of the school community who hold positions of authority over others to avoid actions that are or can be considered sexually abusive or unprofessional. The school provides an Equity Coordinator to help with these matters.

ANTI-BULLYING INFORMATION

The Jeffrey Johnston Stand-Up-for-All-Students Act became law in June 2008. The School District of Lee County has approved a board policy that states their guidelines for identifying and reporting bullying, expectations for behavior, procedures, and consequences regarding bullying and harassment. In short, The School District of Lee County will not tolerate any form of bullying or harassment between students and/or adults on our school campuses. Our goal is to protect our students and provide a safe and nurturing educational environment for all of our students and staff.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT OF 1974 (FERPA)

RELEASE

For adult students, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) Release provides for the confidentiality of student education records. The technical colleges may not disclose educational information nor permit inspection of a student's education records without the written permission of the student unless such actions are covered by certain exceptions as stipulated in FERPA.

STUDENT DRESS CODE REQUIREMENTS

The dress and grooming of students shall contribute to the health and safety of the individual, promote a positive educational environment, and not disrupt the academic activities and processes of the school. These minimum standards of dress and grooming apply to all students in The School District of Lee County. Programs have specific dress code requirements. Student dress code guidelines can be found in the student handbook, program syllabi, or Master Plan of Instruction.

DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS/CONSEQUENCES

1. **Warning:** A written reprimand to the student indicates that repetition of said act will result in further disciplinary action, copies of which will be placed in student discipline files.
2. **Restitution:** Reimbursement or payment for damage to or misappropriation of property.
3. **Suspension:** Exclusion from classes and other privileges or activities, as outlined in the notice of suspension, for a defined period.
4. **Withdrawal:** Disenrollment of the student from school, terminating their status as an enrolled student. Following State Statute 1006.61, this is for a minimum of 2 years.
5. **Other:** Other types of discipline, as outlined in school regulations and consistent with the incident involved, such as a letter of apology to aggrieved parties, community service, repair of damages, mandatory attendance of an anger management seminar, etc.

DISCIPLINE INFRACTIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR: Students must be honest in their academic coursework and activities. Academic dishonesty, such as cheating on examinations, course assignments or projects, plagiarism, misrepresentation, and the unauthorized possession of examination or course-related materials, is prohibited. Intentional obstruction or disruption of teaching, research, or lab activities is prohibited.

Offense Consequences: Suspension and/or Administrative Review

ADJUDICATED VIOLATIONS OF STATE OR FEDERAL LAW: Any adjudicated violations of Florida or federal criminal statutes on school premises or at school-sponsored events held off campus will result in disciplinary action.

Offense Consequences: Suspension and/or Administrative Review

ALCOHOL: Possession, use, or under the influence of any alcoholic beverage.

Offense Consequences: Administrative Review

ARSON: Damaging, or attempting to damage, any real or personal property by fire or explosion; intentionally setting a fire on/with school property.

Offense Consequences: Withdrawal from school

BATTERY: Physical use of force or violence by an individual against another; uninvited physical contact with another person, including but not limited to pushing, shoving, and/or contact via an object.

Offense Consequences: Suspension and/or Administrative Review

BREAKING/ENTERING: Unlawful entry, attempted entry, unauthorized presence in a building or other structure, or conveyance with evidence of the intent to damage or remove property or harm a person(s).

Offense Consequences: Withdrawal from school

BULLYING/HARASSMENT: Unwanted and repeated written, verbal, or physical behavior, including any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, that is severe or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment, cause discomfort or humiliation, or unreasonably interfere with the individual's school performance or participation.

Offense Consequences: Suspension and/or Administrative Review

CELL PHONE USE: Use of any communication or recording device, such as cell phone, text messaging devices, or digital cameras, during instructional activities (which is not instructor-approved or directly associated with the lesson).

Offense Consequences:

1st – Warning

2nd – Suspension

Repeated incidents – Administrative Review

CHEATING: Deliberate distribution or use of information, notes, materials, or work of another person, or obtained by use of artificial intelligence (AI), in the completion of an academic exam, test, or assignment.

Offense Consequences: Zero Grade and Administrative Review

COMPUTER MISUSE: Manipulation of computer hardware, software, or data, and or the misuse of telecommunication services, including but not limited to improper use of technology devices, accessing or posting inappropriate information on the internet at any time on school-owned equipment, or school-owned or maintained network that may interfere with the educational process.

Offense Consequences: Suspension and/or Administrative Review

DISRUPTION ON CAMPUS: Disruptive behavior that poses a serious threat to the learning environment, health, safety, or welfare of others, including but not limited to making a bomb threat, inciting a riot, initiating a false fire alarm, etc.

Offense Consequences: Withdrawal from school

DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR: Participating in and/or encouraging any activity that substantially disrupts the classroom environment or its related function.

Offense Consequences: Suspension and/or Administrative Review

DRESS CODE VIOLATION: Failure to comply with dress code requirement(s) (Including failure to wear student ID). Repeated violations constitute insubordination.

Offense Consequences: Warning and Correction or Suspension

DRUG SALE/DISTRIBUTION: Manufacture, cultivation, sale, or distribution of any drug, narcotic, controlled substance, or substance represented to be a drug, including giving prescription drugs prescribed for someone else to another person.

Offense Consequences: Withdrawal from school

DRUG USE/POSSESSION: Use, possession, or under the influence of any drug, narcotic, or controlled substance, including any possession of drug paraphernalia or a student possessing prescription drugs that are not prescribed for him/her.

Offense Consequences: Administrative Review

FALSIFICATION OR FORGERY: Deliberately making any false or misleading verbal or written statements on any official correspondence or application, attendance record-keeping device, or falsifying any school records.

Offense Consequence: Suspension and/or Administrative Review

FIGHTING: Two or more persons mutually participating in the use of force or physical violence that requires physical or verbal restraint or results in injury that requires first aid or subsequent medical attention.

Offense Consequences: Administrative Review

GAMBLING: Participating in any form of gambling activities on campus.

Offense Consequences: Suspension and/or Administrative Review

HATE CRIMES: Incidents of criminal acts that evidence prejudice based on race, religion, ethnicity, color, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or national origin.

Offense Consequence: Withdrawal from school

HAZING: Hazing is defined as any group or individual action or activity that endangers the mental or physical health or safety or which may demean, disgrace, or degrade any person, regardless of location, intent, or consent of participant(s).

Offense Consequence: Administrative Review

INSUBORDINATION/DISRESPECT: Refusal or failure to follow directions or orders from a school staff member or any adult in authority, including guest teachers and security personnel. Use of words or acts which demean, degrade, antagonize, or humiliate a person or group of persons.

Offense Consequence: Suspension and/or Administrative Review

LARCENY/THEFT: (Taking of property from a person, building, or a vehicle.) The unauthorized taking, carrying, riding away, or concealing another person's property, including motor vehicles, without threat, violence, or bodily harm.

Offense Consequence: Suspension and/or Administrative Review

OFF-CAMPUS FELONY: Any student who has been charged with a felony other than on school property involving violence, drugs, sexual offense, or weapons.

Offense Consequence: Administrative Review

OTHER MAJOR DISRUPTION: Any serious, harmful incident resulting in the need for law enforcement intervention.

Offense Consequences: Withdrawal from school

OTHER RULE VIOLATIONS: Other rule violations that do not fall into categories or other offenses as indicated.

Offense Consequence: Administrative Review

PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIAL: Possession and/or distribution of any pornographic material.

Offense Consequence: Administrative Review

PROFANITY: Use of profanity and/or vulgar, abusive, or inappropriate language or gestures.

Offense Consequence: Student to Adult Staff: Administrative Review

Student to Student: Suspension and/or Administrative Review

SAFETY VIOLATION: Engaging in an act that endangers the safety of self or others.

Offense Consequence: Suspension and/or Administrative Review

SEXUAL HARASSMENT: Unwanted verbal or physical behavior with sexual connotations that is severe or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment, cause discomfort or humiliation, or unreasonably interfere with the individual's school performance or participation.

Offense Consequences: Administrative Review and/or withdrawal from school

THREAT/INTIMIDATION: Threat to cause physical harm to another person with or without the use of

a weapon that includes all the following elements:

1. Intent - an intention that the threat is heard or seen by the person who is the object of the threat.
2. Fear - a reasonable fear or apprehension by the person who is the object of the threat that the threat could be carried out.
3. Capability - the ability of the offender to actually carry out the threat directly or by a weapon or other instrument that can be easily obtained.

Offense Consequences: Suspension and/or Administrative Review

TOBACCO/VAPING: Use of tobacco products on school property. This includes smoking, burning, chewing, snuffing, dipping, or otherwise ingesting or deriving the effects of tobacco and shall include tobacco-like substances or products intended to provide or simulate the effects of tobacco, including, but not limited to, electronic cigarettes or similar devices.

Offense Consequences:

1st – Warning

2nd – Suspension

Repeated incidents – Administrative Review

TRESPASSING: Entering or remaining on school grounds/campus or at a school-sponsored activity off campus without authorization, being told to leave, or while on suspension.

Offense Consequences: Suspension and/or Administrative Review

UNAUTHORIZED AREA: Being present in buildings, rooms, or other areas on a school campus that are restricted to student access during all or part of the day.

Offense Consequences: Suspension and/or Administrative Review

UNAUTHORIZED AREA: (Restroom) - Any student who willfully enters a restroom or changing facility designated for the opposite sex (based on biological sex at birth) on the premises of the educational institution and refuses to depart when asked.

Offense Consequences: Suspension and/or Administrative Review

VANDALISM: Intentional destruction, damage, or defacement of public or private property.

Offense Consequences: Suspension and/or Administrative Review

WEAPONS POSSESSION: Possession of any instrument or object that can inflict serious harm on another person or that can place a person in reasonable fear of serious injury, including but not limited to any firearms, handguns, Tasers, zip guns, knives, brass knuckles, razor blades, chains, chemical sprays, sharp objects, etc. (Possession includes any location within reach or control of the person, concealed or carried openly, including in vehicle, lockers or backpack.)

Offense Consequences: Suspension and/or Administrative Review

Repeated misconduct during the school year or multiple incidents requiring disciplinary action may result in an Administrative Review and/or withdrawal from school.

RESPONSIBILITY TO CARRY OUT DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

The Coordinator or Associate Director (herein referred to as the judicial officer) is designated by the Director as having primary responsibility for the administration of student discipline, including the investigation of alleged student violations of the School's code of conduct. Suspected violations of student regulations or other student misconduct shall be referred to the judicial officer or designated representative by any member of the School community. The judicial officer or designated representative will immediately investigate the situation. The judicial officer or designated representative shall take the necessary steps to determine the probable foundation for the alleged infraction.

Lee County Technical Colleges and all Lee County Adult Education Centers will abide by all Florida Statutes and Florida board rules applicable to student discipline. Deliberate care shall be taken to provide for due process and to ensure that students receive fair and equitable treatment and are aware of all their rights.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

1. Alleged violations of student regulations or other misconduct are to be referred to the judicial officer or designated representative by any member of the school community.
2. The charges will be investigated by the judicial officer or designated representative, and after careful consideration of the facts, the judicial officer or a designated representative will determine the degree of disciplinary action to be taken, if any. If extenuating circumstances exist, the judicial officer or a designated representative may temporarily suspend a student from attending classes and ban the student from campus, pending the outcome of an Administrative Review.
3. If a formal complaint is to be filed against a student, the student will be notified in writing of the nature of the charges against him/her and the date and place of the Administrative Review with the judicial officer or designated representative.
4. The student will be notified in writing of the disciplinary action to be taken by the School, if any, as soon as possible following the Administrative Review.
5. The action of the judicial officer or a designated representative that would impose a suspension or withdrawal from school may be appealed to the school Director and, if needed, to an appeal committee at The School District of Lee County.

DISCIPLINARY APPEALS

The following discipline appeals procedures are to be followed:

1. The appeal must be made in writing within three workdays after notification to the student. The appeal must be sent to the Director. There are three grounds for appeal:
 - (1) Improper disciplinary procedures being followed.
 - (2) New, relevant, or mitigating evidence that was unavailable to the student at the time of the original hearing.

- (3) Sanctions recommended by the original judicial officer are thought to be excessive.
2. The student will be notified in writing of the date and place of the appeal hearing. The notice will also inform the student of his/her right to appear at a fair and impartial appeal hearing, present relevant evidence, to bring witness statements on his/her behalf, and have the opportunity for cross-examination. At this hearing, the student has the right to a representative of his choice, and any fee charged by such a representative shall be the student's responsibility. This representative may act only in an advisory capacity to the student and will not be permitted to otherwise participate in the hearing.
 3. The judicial officer will be present at the appeal hearing to present testimony, evidence, and witness statements on behalf of the school.
 4. Upon conclusion of the appeal hearing within three workdays, the Director will provide the student with written notification of the decision. This notification will include the findings of fact regarding the alleged violation(s) and the degree of disciplinary action.
 5. If the student wishes to challenge the findings of the Director, he or she may appeal this decision to an appeal committee composed of administrators at The School District of Lee County. The committee will consist of the Director of Adult, Career, and Technical Education, the Director of Student Services, and the Director of a Technical College not involved in the case. The appeal should be made in writing within five workdays after notification to the student. The appeal committee will review the facts and findings of the Director and decide the disposition of the student's case. The actions and/or sanctions imposed by the appeal committee are final and shall constitute final agency action of The School District of Lee County.

SCHOOL/PROGRAM ACCESS DURING DISCIPLINARY SUSPENSION

During suspension, the student is prohibited from returning to campus or engaging in a school-related activity off campus. Violation without the permission of the Director or designee could result in that student being subject to arrest and prosecution for trespassing.

READMISSION AFTER DISCIPLINARY SUSPENSION

Students under disciplinary suspension may re-enter after the specified period identified in the suspension notice. Students who have been withdrawn may request readmission to the school after a minimum period of two school years from the withdrawal notice. Students withdrawing from one technical college for disciplinary reasons may not request admission to another Lee County Technical College until the two-year waiting period has expired. Such requests for readmission must be made to the Director in writing. A record of previous disciplinary action shall be admissible in subsequent determinations for readmission.