

# THE RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENTS

## THE GOAL



Students are fully responsible for their own actions and they must take full responsibility for their actions and any subsequent consequences. However, students also have rights. They need to know and understand what their responsibilities are as well as their rights within the school. They also need to understand that these rights are based upon their willingness to be accountable and adhere to the rules all students are charged to follow.

## THE OBJECTIVE

This lesson will help the students better understand their rights as students and how these rights are contingent upon the students' acting responsibly.

## • EXERCISE •

**1** Explain to the students that they have rights. Explain that this means that there are certain things such as having a safe place to learn and having the opportunity to take a restroom break that are their rights as students. Ask the students to think of other rights they have and help them make a list of at least 3 rights.

**2** As the students identify their rights ask them to give examples. Affirm each appropriate right that is identified and if a right is inappropriate write it down but move to the next one. Examples of rights as a student include:

- THE RIGHT TO LEARN
- THE RIGHT TO RECEIVE A MEAL
- THE RIGHT TO BE TREATED FAIRLY BY STUDENTS AND TEACHERS
- THE RIGHT TO BE SAFE
- THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN CLASS BREAKS

3 After the students have completed their lists of rights fill in any that the students have missed.

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4 Now ask the students if these rights are absolute. Ask if there is anything that would cause these rights to go away. Ask the students to give examples of how they could lose the rights on the list.

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5 Explain to the students that these rights are actually conditional upon their ability to accept the responsibility of being good students. This means that these rights depend on them obeying the rules and acting the way they are supposed to act.

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6 Ask the students to identify and explain what their responsibilities are, as good students, in order to receive the rights they identified. After the students have given their lists share the following:  
In order to receive the rights associated with being good students the students must:

- TALK AND ACT NICELY TO OTHER STUDENTS AND TEACHERS
  - ACT APPROPRIATELY IN CLASS
  - ATTEND CLASS AND BE ON TIME
  - PREPARE FOR CLASS BY DOING ALL HOMEWORK AND READINGS
  - DRESS APPROPRIATELY AND BE CLEAN
  - OBEY ALL CLASSROOM RULES
  - RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF THE OTHER STUDENTS AND TEACHERS
  - RESPECT THE PROPERTY OF OTHER STUDENTS AND THE SCHOOL
  - KNOW AND OBEY THE SCHOOLS RULES
  - HELP THE TEACHER WHEN ASKED
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7 After the students have reviewed this list, ask them if there are any points on the list with which they disagreed. If so, why?

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8 Now explain to the students that the points on the list are developed and maintained in order to protect and respect everyone involved with the school, including them.

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Explain to the students that every right they have is based upon their ability to obey the rules and respect the rights of other people. Explain to the students that this is true even for adults. We all have to obey the rules and respect each other.

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Spend a few minutes visiting with the students about how their rights are based upon their willingness to obey the rules and respect the rights of other people.

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Now explain to the students that they have rights because they are valuable people. They deserve to have rights and they can keep those rights if they will respect the rights and the responsibilities of other people and of the school.

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## THE SUMMARY

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Each and every student is granted certain rights just for being a student. However, in order to maintain these rights students must become responsible members of the class and school. Rights are freely granted, but they must be maintained through effort. The students need to learn to maintain their rights by obeying the rules and acting respectfully towards other people.



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# DISCUSSION POINTS

Why is it important to know your rights as a student?

Can you lose your rights as a student? How?

Why is it important to know and respect the rights of other students and teachers?

What does it mean to obey the rules and act respectfully to other people?

## THE PLEDGE

ASK THE CLASS TO EITHER READ OR REPEAT THE FOLLOWING:

I am a good student and I have rights that I deserve. I make sure that I keep my rights by obeying the rules and respecting the rights of other students, teachers, and all other people.

## COMPLIMENTS & BACK-PATS



- Thank the students for participating and tell them that you are proud of them.
- Tell the students that they have rights because they are valuable people.
- Tell the students that they are good people who deserve to have a good education and they will get it by obeying the rules and being respectful to other people.

## RIGHT WAYS & NO WAYS

Ask the group to tell if the following is the “Right Way” or the “No Way”



- Sharon loves recess but doesn't like to do her reading work. She thinks she can skip her reading assignment and still go to recess. (No Way)
- Louis knows that it is almost lunch time so he finishes his work and gets ready to line up to go to the cafeteria. (Right Way)
- Carly decides to use her math book as a soccer ball and drops it on the floor and kicks it down the hallway. (No Way)

- Mike answers his teacher with a “Thank You” and a “Please”. (Right way)

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# SKILLS LESSON RECAP

## THE GOAL

Students are fully responsible for their own actions and they must take full responsibility for their actions and any subsequent consequences. However, students also have rights. They need to know and understand what their responsibilities are as well as their rights within the school. They also need to understand that these rights are based upon their willingness to be accountable and adhere to the rules all students are charged to follow.

## ... EXERCISE KEY POINTS ...

You identified your rights as they apply to the formal education process and provided examples for each one.

Next you explained how you could lose the rights you listed previously.

You identified what your responsibilities are in order to receive the rights identified.

You discussed how your rights as a student are predicated on your ability to respect the rights of others as well as your ability to hold yourself accountable to the rules discussed earlier in the exercise.

### CONSEQUENCES OF **NOT** USING THIS SKILL



### BENEFITS OF **USING** THIS SKILL

Failing to acknowledge the responsibilities of a student within an educational setting will result in the school taking your rights from you as a form of punishment until you have shown that you are capable of accepting the responsibilities associated with them.



Within an educational setting every student is granted rights by his or her school. By utilizing the skills covered within this exercise you will gain better understanding of what those rights are as well as what your responsibilities are for maintaining those rights.



## The Rights & Responsibilities of the Student

Make a list of each and every right you have that applies to education:

STUDENT RIGHTS	ABSOLUTE?	HOW DO YOU LOSE THE RIGHT?

In order to receive the rights associated with being a good student, the student must:

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES	DISAGREE?	WHY?
talk and act nicely to others		
act appropriately in class		
attend class and be on time		
prepare for each class		
be well-groomed and properly dressed obey		
all campus and classroom rules respect		
the rights of other students and teachers		
respect the property of other students and teachers		
know and obey the school rules		
help the teacher when asked		

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Facilitator: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_