

LESSON 8:

STUDENT & SCHOOL

Law & Citizenship Course • *Ghid practic de educație juridică - „Elevul și legea”* • Judecător Cristi Danileț



LEARN SAFE GROW FREE



In school, rules don't limit you
— they protect learning.
Everyone's rights are real
because we all follow fair
rules.

LESSON CONTENTS

PART 1

HOW SCHOOL WORKS

Structure of Romanian schools; students' rights, duties, and protections.

PART 2

WHY SCHOOLS HAVE RULES

How codes of conduct, attendance, and academic integrity keep learning safe, fair, and equal for everyone.

PART 3

RIGHTS, SUPPORT & DISCIPLINE

Anti-bullying rules, inclusion and accommodations for disability, and proportionate sanctions with due process.

PART 4

WHEN HELP IS NEEDED

How to report teacher misconduct or abuse, who investigates, and what protection services do for children at risk.

PART 5

REVIEW & PRACTICE

Quiz, key concepts, and reflection tasks — review what you've learned and apply it

LAW & CITIZENSHIP COURSE

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN IN THIS CHAPTER

In this chapter, you'll learn how **schools protect children's rights** and help them grow through respect, equality, and responsibility. Education is a shared duty — of **families, teachers, and the state** — ensuring that every child can learn in a safe and fair environment. You'll explore how **school rules** support cooperation and discipline, what the **student's rights and obligations** are, and how the law prevents **bullying, discrimination, or abuse**. You'll also see how teachers and parents must act to keep learning spaces **respectful and inclusive**.

By the end, you should be able to explain how the law protects education, what happens when rights are violated, and why respect and fairness are essential in every classroom.

SAFE TO LEARN

WHY SCHOOL RULES KEEP LEARNING FAIR & SAFE

School rules ban **bullying** and **discrimination**, set **attendance** and **conduct standards**, and require **academic integrity**—no **cheating** or **plagiarism**. Safety procedures cover corridors, labs, and online spaces, while **privacy rules** protect grades and personal data. When a problem appears, students have the **right to be heard** and to **proportionate sanctions**, with notice and a chance to respond. **Counselors**, **teachers**, and the **head teacher** work with families so support comes first, punishment second.



Warm-Up Activity

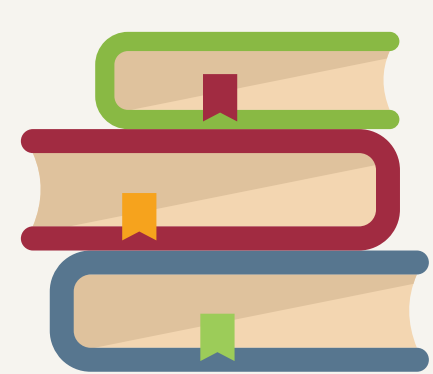


Write one school rule that protects learning or students (attendance, phones, bullying, plagiarism, safety). Why does it help? Share with a classmate.

Fair rules create safe classrooms where everyone can learn.

WHY DO WE HAVE RULES?

Without school rules, the loudest would dominate and the shy would be ignored. **Conflicts** would be settled by **pressure** or **popularity**, not by **fairness**. **Codes of conduct** make expectations clear, protect time for learning, and keep everyone safe. **Attendance rules** make sure each person does their part; **academic integrity** protects honest work; and **behavior standards** prevent **bullying** and **harassment**. The goal isn't to limit your life; it's to protect **equal chances** for students with different strengths and needs.



In Class & Exams

Follow the lesson; be on time; keep phones away unless allowed; no cheating or plagiarism.



Safety, not control

Rules prevent accidents and bullying so everyone can relax and learn.



Digital Use

Protect accounts; post respectfully; no sharing others' images or personal data.



Why it helps

Focus and fair grading — effort counts, not shortcuts or pressure.



Around School

Respect queues; keep spaces clean; no pushing or intimidation; follow safety signs.



Respect & inclusion

Every student belongs — differences are protected; help replaces mockery.

Imagine and Reflect

Imagine a school day with no rules at all — in class, on the corridors, or online. What would learning look like? Who would lose out first? Write 2–3 sentences describing the results and how one rule would change them.

WHO DOES WHAT IN SCHOOL

Roles



Support Roles

- **Teachers & Counselors** — guide behavior, prevent bullying, and help students solve conflicts peacefully. They ensure everyone feels safe and respected.

Discipline



Rules & Discipline

- **Head Teacher & School Board** — apply the school's Code of Conduct and decide proportional sanctions after hearing all sides.

Rights



Rights & Protection

- **Students** — have the right to be heard, to appeal unfair measures, and to learn without discrimination or abuse.

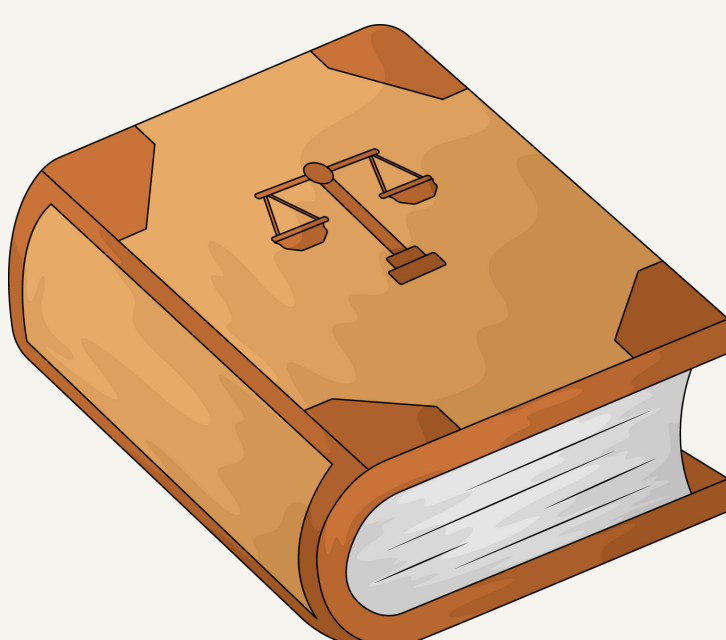
Support



Special Support

- **School Psychologist & Inclusion Teacher** — provide assistance for students with disabilities or emotional difficulties and adapt lessons when needed.

Key terms



Mini-Glossary

- **Inclusion** = adapting school life so everyone can participate equally.
- **Due Process** = fair procedure before any disciplinary action.
- **Sanction** = consequence meant to correct, not humiliate.

WHO HELPS WHEN THINGS GO WRONG

When problems appear — **bullying, violence, or teacher misconduct** — students have a **right to be protected**. **Support starts inside the school**: counselors, teachers, and the head teacher help **calm conflicts** and **guide students** toward solutions. If safety is at risk or the problem doesn't stop, the school must **inform families** and, when needed, **Child Protection** or **the police**.



INSIDE THE SCHOOL

The class teacher and school counselor are the first to listen and help. They can mediate conflicts or connect students to extra support when needed.



STUDENT RIGHTS

Every student has the right to report abuse or unfair treatment without fear. No one may retaliate for speaking up. Reports can be made verbally or in writing, and must be treated confidentially.



IF THE PROBLEM CONTINUES

The School Board or Inspectorate reviews serious issues — such as repeated aggression or neglect. Disciplinary actions must be proportional, and students have the right to explain their side before any decision.



CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES

When violence or risk is found, DGASPC (Child Protection Directorate) can intervene, offering counseling, temporary protection, or police coordination. The goal is to ensure safety first, punishment second.

FROM REPORT TO ACTION

Report

The student, parent, or teacher reports the problem to the class teacher, counselor, or head teacher.



Speak up

Review

The staff checks the facts and listens to everyone involved. Notes are made and support options discussed.



Facts checked

Investigation

If serious, the school board or inspectorate investigates; external experts may join.



Authorities informed

Decision

Sanctions or support measures are decided and communicated in writing.



Fair decision

Follow-up

Counselors monitor the situation to ensure the student's safety and reintegration.



Ongoing support

So what for me?

No one has to face harm or unfairness alone. Knowing whom to ask for help — and that your voice will be heard — keeps school a safe space for everyone.

If something feels unsafe or unfair, tell a teacher, counselor, or the head teacher — they must listen and act.

Try it: Think of one situation where asking for help could make a difference (e.g., bullying, unfair grading, rumors). Who could you talk to first? What might change?

QUIZ — Lesson 8

Check what you've learned about students' rights, duties, safety, and school rules. Read each question carefully and choose the correct answer.



- 1** A school's code of conduct
 - a) Gives teachers full discretion over rules
 - b) Sets shared standards that protect safety, fairness, and learning
 - c) Replace national law in school
- 2** Which best shows due process in school discipline?
 - a) Punishment first, explanation later
 - b) Written notice and a chance to respond before a sanction
 - c) Sanctions decided by a student vote
- 3** Bullying differs from ordinary conflict because it usually involves...
 - a) A one-off argument between equals
 - b) Repeated behavior plus a power imbalance
 - c) Only physical aggression
- 4** If a teacher suspects cheating, the fair response is to...
 - a) Annul the work and deny any appeal
 - b) Collect evidence, hear the student, then decide proportionately
 - c) Ignore it if the grade isn't high-stakes
- 5** "Reasonable accommodation" means the school should...
 - a) Grade more gently for everyone
 - b) Adapt methods or timing so a disabled student can access learning
 - c) Exempt the student from all rules
- 6** A student worried about teacher misconduct should first use...
 - a) The reporting ladder
 - b) Anonymous posts online
 - c) Confronting the teacher after class
- 7** Which action best preserves cyberbullying evidence?
 - a) Delete the messages
 - b) Screenshot, save links, note dates, then report
 - c) Reply publicly to "set the record straight"
- 8** About attendance, which is correct?
 - a) Every absence is unexcused without a medical note
 - b) Schools follow set procedures; valid reasons are recorded and parents informed
 - c) They guarantee that popular groups always win conflicts
- 9** Retaliation after reporting bullying is...
 - a) Allowed if the report was mistaken
 - b) The shared history and identity of the community
 - c) Handled only by police
- 10** If a student's safety or dignity is at risk, the school must...
 - a) Wait for parents before acting
 - b) Take immediate safeguarding steps and inform parents/authorities
 - c) Move the student and close the case

QUIZ — Lesson 8

ANSWER KEY



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KEY CONCEPTS FROM LESSON 8



CODE OF CONDUCT

The school's rulebook: shared expectations for behavior, safety, and learning.



DUTY OF CARE

Staff must act to keep students safe and respond when risk appears.



SAFEGUARDING

Procedures to protect students from harm (in school, online, on the way to/from school).



REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION

Adjustments that give students with disabilities real access (e.g., extra time, accessible formats).



ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Honest work; cheating or plagiarism brings consequences that protect fairness.



ATTENDANCE POLICY

Clear rules for excuses, late arrivals, and informing families.



RESTORATIVE RESPONSE

Fixing harm (apologies, agreements) alongside or instead of punishment when appropriate.



DUE PROCESS

Notice, a chance to explain, and proportionate sanctions.



GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

The steps to appeal a decision (teacher → head teacher/committee → inspectorate as applicable).



CONFIDENTIALITY VS. SECRECY

Staff protect privacy but must share concerns when safety is at stake (mandatory reporting).