

# THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

No. 218

SECTION: 200 Pupils

TITLE: Student Conduct And  
Discipline

ADOPTED: August 24, 2011

REVISED: June 21, 2018

## 218 STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

### **Purpose**

The Board of Education finds that student conduct is closely related to learning. An effective educational program requires a safe and orderly school environment in which students and employees know and abide by reasonable standards of socially acceptable behavior and respect the rights, person and property of others.

### **Authority**

The district shall establish fair, reasonable and nondiscriminatory rules and regulations regarding the conduct of all students in the school district during the time they are under the supervision of the school or at any time while on school property, while present at school-sponsored activities, while traveling to and/or from school and school-sponsored activities, and in certain circumstances while off campus. [\[1\]\[2\]\[3\]\[4\]](#)

The Board shall adopt a Code of Student Conduct in order to inform students, staff and parents/guardians of what conduct is required, what conduct is prohibited, and the consequences that may be applied. Disciplinary consequences shall be rationally related to the offense and designed to teach responsibility for one's actions. Students shall not be subject to disciplinary action because of race, sex, color, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin or handicap/disability. [\[1\]\[2\]\[3\]\[4\]\[5\]](#)

Each student is expected to adhere to and conduct themselves in accordance with law, Board policies and district rules, the Code of Student Conduct, and the lawful directions of district employees. [\[6\]](#)

The Board prohibits the use of corporal punishment by district staff to discipline students for violations of Board policies and district rules and regulations. [\[7\]](#)

Any student disciplined by a district employee shall have the right to notice of the infraction and an opportunity to respond. Suspensions and expulsions shall be carried out in accordance with Board policy. [\[8\]](#)

Kindergarten, first, and second grade students shall not be suspended from school unless their actions result in serious bodily injury.

In the case of a student with a disability, including a student for whom an evaluation is pending, the district shall take all steps required to comply with state and federal laws and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement and Board policies.[4][9][10][11][12][13]

### Off-Campus Activities

This policy shall also apply to student conduct that occurs off school property and would otherwise violate the Code of Student Conduct if any of the following circumstances exist:

1. The conduct occurs during the time the student is traveling to and from school or traveling to and from school-sponsored activities, whether or not via school district furnished transportation.
2. The student is a member of an extracurricular activity and has been notified that particular off-campus conduct could result in exclusion from such activities.[14][15]
3. Student expression or conduct materially and substantially disrupts the operations of the school, or the administration reasonably anticipates that the expression or conduct is likely to materially and substantially disrupt the operations of the school.
4. The conduct has a direct nexus to attendance at school or a school-sponsored activity, for example, a transaction conducted outside of school pursuant to an agreement made in school, that would violate the Code of Student Conduct if conducted in school.
5. The conduct involves the theft or vandalism of school property.
6. There is otherwise a nexus between the proximity or timing of the conduct in relation to the student's attendance at school or school-sponsored activities.

### Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that reasonable and necessary rules and administrative procedures are developed to implement Board policy governing student conduct and discipline.

The Superintendent or designee shall publish the Code of Student Conduct, which includes the consequences that may be imposed for violations of those rules, and a listing of students' rights and responsibilities. A copy of the Code of Student Conduct shall be available in each school library and school office and may be printed in student handbooks.[1][6]

The building principal shall have the authority to assign discipline to students, subject to Board policies, district rules and regulations and to the student's due process right to notice, hearing, and appeal.[16][17]

Teaching staff and other district employees responsible for students shall have the authority to take reasonable actions necessary to control the conduct of students in all situations and in all places where students are under the jurisdiction of the Board , and when such conduct

interferes with the educational program of the schools or threatens the health and safety of others.[\[16\]](#)

Reasonable force may be used by teachers and school authorities under any of the following circumstances: to quell a disturbance, obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects, for the purpose of self-defense, and for the protection of persons or property.[\[7\]](#)

#### Referral to Law Enforcement and Required Reports

For reporting purposes, the term incident shall mean an instance involving an act of violence; the possession of a weapon; the possession, use, or sale of a controlled substance or drug paraphernalia as defined in the Pennsylvania Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act; the possession, use, or sale of alcohol or tobacco; or conduct that constitutes an offense listed under the Safe Schools Act.[\[18\]\[19\]\[20\]](#)

The Superintendent, Office of School Safety, or designee shall immediately report required incidents and may report discretionary incidents committed by students on school property, at any school-sponsored activity or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored activity to the local police department that has jurisdiction over the school's property, in accordance with state law and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement and Board policies.[\[13\]\[18\]\[19\]\[21\]\[22\]\[23\]](#)

The Superintendent or designee shall notify the parent/guardian of any student directly involved in an incident as a victim or suspect immediately, or as soon as practicable. The Superintendent or designee shall inform the parent/guardian whether or not the local police department that has jurisdiction over the school property has been or may be notified of the incident. The Superintendent or designee shall document attempts made to reach the parent/guardian.[\[13\]\[19\]\[24\]](#)

In accordance with state law, the Superintendent shall annually, by July 31, report all new incidents to the Office for Safe Schools on the required form.[\[13\]\[18\]\[25\]\[26\]\[27\]\[28\]](#)

#### Legal References:

1. [22 PA Code 12.3](#)
2. [22 PA Code 12.4](#)
3. Pol. 103 - Nondiscrimination in School and Classroom Practices
4. Pol. 103.1 - Nondiscrimination - Qualified Students With Disabilities/Protected Handicapped Students
5. [22 PA Code 12.2](#)
6. Pol. 235 - Student Rights and Responsibilities
7. [22 PA Code 12.5](#)
8. Pol. 233 - Suspension and Expulsion
9. [20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq](#)
10. [22 PA Code 10.23](#)
11. Pol. 113.1 - Discipline of Students With Disabilities
12. Pol. 113.2 - Behavior Support
13. Pol. 805.1 - Relations With Law Enforcement Agencies
14. Pol. 122 - Extracurricular Activities

15. Pol. 123 - Interscholastic Athletics
16. 24 P.S. 1317
17. 24 P.S. 1318
18. 24 P.S. 1303-A
19. 22 PA Code 10.2
20. 35 P.S. 780-102
21. 24 P.S. 1302.1-A
22. 22 PA Code 10.21
23. 22 PA Code 10.22
24. 22 PA Code 10.25
25. Pol. 218.1 - Weapons
26. Pol. 218.2 - Terroristic Threats
27. Pol. 222 - Tobacco
28. Pol. 227 - Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia

**Related Information:**

- 24 P.S. 510
- 24 P.S. 696
- 22 PA Code 12.1 et seq
- 22 PA Code 403.1
- 20 U.S.C. 7114
- 34 CFR Part 300
- Pol. 805 - Emergency Preparedness
- Philadelphia Home Rule Charter - 12-300