

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

No. 904

Section: 900 Community

Title: Public Attendance at
School Events

Adopted: October 5, 2011

Revised: January 27, 2022

904 PUBLIC ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL EVENTS

Purpose

The Board of Education is committed to the goal of providing safe, welcoming, and healthy schools where students, staff, and the community want to be and learn each day.

The purpose of this policy is to outline guidelines for public attendance and conduct on school property and at activities and events sponsored by the District while maintaining order, observing health and safety protocols, and preserving school facilities during such events.

Definitions

For purposes of this policy, terms are defined as follows:

Disruption: Any behavior or conduct by an individual or group that interferes with the normal operation of a District or school-sponsored event, activity, or process, including, but not limited to:

1. Fighting, threatening, or other violent behavior.
2. Intentionally damaging or destroying District property or the personal property of another, including graffiti or arson.
3. Disrupting the orderly conduct of classes, school programs, or other school activities.
4. Distributing or wearing materials on school property or at school functions that are obscene, advocate illegal action, appear libelous, obstruct the rights of others, or are disruptive to the school program.
5. Intimidating, harassing, or discriminating against any person on the basis of a person's race, color, ethnicity, age, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy, socio-economic status, or handicap/disability. [1][2]
6. Using profane language or gestures.
7. Entering any portion of the school premises without authorization or remaining in any building or facility after it is closed.

8. Possessing, consuming, selling, distributing, or exchanging alcoholic beverages or controlled substances, or being under the influence of either on school property or at a school function.
9. Possessing or using weapons in or on school property or at a school function, except in the case of law enforcement officers or except as specifically authorized by the District. [3]
10. Loitering on or about school property.
11. Gambling on school property or at school functions.
12. Refusing to comply with any reasonable order of identifiable District officials performing their duties.

Event Organizer: Any person or nonprofit group or organization who is a customer, as defined in the [administrative procedures](#) for Policy 707 - Use of Facilities, hosting an event in a District facility. The organizer is responsible for the monitoring and control of all its events at the facility, and is required to review and comply with all established District health and safety protocols, and enforce requirements to protect participants, guests, workers, volunteers, etc. [4]

Public: All persons who are not an employee, contractor, or student of the District when on school property or attending activities sponsored by the District.

School property: In or within any building; structure; athletic playing field; playground; parking lot; land; or school buses owned by, contracted to, or jointly owned by the District.

Authority

As authorized by the Pennsylvania Public School Code, the Board may adopt and enforce such reasonable rules and regulations as it may deem necessary and proper regarding the management of its school affairs, including for school events open to the public. [5][6]

Delegation of Responsibility

The Board authorizes the Superintendent or their designee to prohibit the entry of or remove any individual from a school event whose conduct constitutes a disruption as defined in this policy. [5][6]

In accordance with state law and regulations, the Board directs the Superintendent or their designee, through the Office of School Safety, to annually, by July 31, report all incidents of violence; possession of a weapon, as defined by [Policy 218.1](#) - Weapons; and use or sale of a controlled substance, as defined by [Policy 227](#) - Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia, or tobacco products, as defined by [Policy 222](#) - Tobacco Product, Alternative Nicotine Product, and Vapor Product Use by Students, by any person on school property to the Office for Safe Schools on the required form. [3][7][8][9][10]

The Superintendent or designee may report incidents involving the disruption of public events 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.

[9][10][11][12][13][14]

Mandatory Regulatory Procedures

Attendance may be limited to designated areas or the number of attendees to school events limited when necessary to protect the health and safety of students, staff, and the public, in accordance with Board-approved health and safety plans and guidance from state and local officials.

Health and safety rules must be followed prior to entry and while attendees are in school buildings and on school property, in accordance with Board policy, District procedures, any Board-approved health and safety plan, and guidance from state and local officials.

Employee conduct during school events is governed by [Policy 301](#) - Employee Code of Ethics, [Policy 317](#) - Educator Misconduct and Reporting Requirements, and [Policy 340](#) - Employee Roles and Responsibilities in Student Welfare. Student conduct during school events is governed by the [Code of Conduct](#). [15][16][17][18]

All persons who violate this policy may be subject to warning, immediate removal, or exclusion from attendance in the future, as the facts may warrant. Exclusion decisions may be disputed by following the process for addressing concerns set forth in [Policy 906](#) - Addressing Student and Constituent Concerns. [10][19]

Any school employee, independent contractor, or volunteer who has reason to believe while attending a school event that a child is being, or has been, abused or neglected will immediately make a written or oral report of that suspicion of concern by following the reporting procedures set forth in [Policy 806](#) - Child Abuse. [20]

Gambling and Controlled Substances

The District prohibits gambling and the possession and use of controlled substances and alcoholic beverages on school premises. [5][6]

Weapons

The District prohibits the possession of weapons in any District buildings, on school property, at any school-sponsored activity, and on any District vehicle. [3]

Tobacco

The District prohibits tobacco use by any persons in its school buildings and on any property, buses, vans, and vehicles that are owned, leased, or controlled by the District. [21][22]

Profanity

Players, participants, coaches, directors, advisors, and spectators are expected to refrain from using foul, abusive, and/or abrasive language. Profanity of any type can be cause for immediate removal from school property.

Accommodations

Individuals with a qualified disability that require a reasonable accommodation to assist in their attendance or participation in an event should contact the event organizer at least seven (7) business days in advance of the scheduled event. If the individual does not know who the event organizer is, they should contact the Use of Facilities Department at buildingusage@philasd.org. [4][23]

Legal References:

1. [Policy 248](#) - Harassment and Discrimination of Students
2. [Policy 348](#) - Harassment and Discrimination of Employees
3. [Policy 218.1](#) - Weapons
4. [Administrative Procedures for Policy 707](#) - Use of School Facilities
5. [24 P.S. 511](#)
6. [24 P.S. 775](#)
7. [Policy 227](#) - Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia
8. [Policy 222](#) - Tobacco Product, Alternative Nicotine Product
9. [24 P.S. 1303-A](#)
10. [Policy 805.1](#) - Relations with Law Enforcement Agencies
11. [24 P.S. 1302.1-A](#)
12. [22 PA Code 10.2](#)
13. [22 PA Code 10.22](#)
14. [18 Pa. C.S.A. 6305](#)
15. [Policy 301](#) - Employee Code of Ethics
16. [Policy 317](#) - Employee Misconduct and Reporting Requirements
17. [Policy 340](#) - Employee Roles and Responsibilities in Student Welfare
18. [School District of Philadelphia Student Code of Conduct](#)
19. [Policy 906](#) - Addressing Student and Constituent Concerns
20. [35 P.S. 1223.5](#)
21. [Policy 806](#) - Child Abuse
22. [20 U.S.C. 7183](#)
23. [Policy 104](#) - Nondiscrimination in School and Classroom Practices

Related Information:

[22 PA Code 403.1](#)

[20 U.S.C. 7181 et seq](#)

[28 CFR Part 35](#)

[Philadelphia Home Rule Charter - 12-300](#)