



# 2017-2018 Code of Student Conduct



**The School District of Philadelphia**



## School Reform Commission

**Chairman**  
Joyce S Wilkerson

**Commissioners**  
William Green      Farah Jimenez      Dr. Christopher McGinley      Estelle B. Richman

**Superintendent**  
Dr. William R. Hite, Jr.

**Chief of Student Support Services**  
**Karvn Lynch**

**Deputy Chief**  
**Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities**  
Rachel Holzman, Esq.

The Code of Student Conduct will be in effect for a period of five years and is subject to change by the School Reform Commission (SRC).

## Student Pledge

As a student of The School District of Philadelphia, I pledge to follow the Code of Student Conduct, **to respect others** and myself, and to treat everyone in my school community with fairness and consideration.

I understand and agree that school must be a positive and cooperative environment so that everyone can learn.

I understand that my daily attendance is the key to my success.

I understand that violence, disruptive behavior, and abusive language **are unacceptable** and will not be tolerated.

By signing this pledge, I understand and accept the responsibility of the Code of Student Conduct, for as long as I am a student in The School District of Philadelphia.

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## District Pledge

As a member of The School District of Philadelphia, I understand that I play a critical role in providing a safe and positive environment for all students. I pledge to follow the Code of Student Conduct, **to respect others** and myself, and to treat everyone in my school community with fairness and consideration.

I commit to celebrate learning.

I commit to support teaching and learning by creating and maintaining a safe, orderly, and engaging environment.

I commit to promote respectful two-way communication with all school and community members.

I pledge to enforce the Code of Student Conduct in a fair and consistent manner.

Administrator's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## Parent/Guardian/Caregiver Pledge

As a member of my child's school community, I have read and understand the Code of Student Conduct, and agree to support its purpose for as long as I am a member of this school community.

I understand that I play a critical role in maintaining an environment where learning is celebrated.

I will emphasize to my child the importance of good behavior and the possible consequences if he or she violates the Code of Student Conduct.

I understand the importance of, and expect open communication with, The School District of Philadelphia when my child's behavior and discipline at school are involved.

I pledge to provide positive support for my child to encourage his/her daily attendance, and to promote a positive learning environment for all.

Parent/Guardian/Caregiver's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE NOTE: The Code of Student Conduct is available in full on the District website - <http://www.philasd.org>**

**The Code is available in hard copy from your principal or from the Office of Family and Community Engagement, phone number 215-400-4180 or website - <https://www.philasd.org/face/>**

**For copies in languages other than English, please contact The Translation and Interpretation Center at phone number 215-400-4180, or consult the Center's website - <https://www.philasd.org/face/translations/>**

KUJTESË: Kodi i Sjelljes së Nxënësit është i plotë në uebsajtin e Drejtorisë Arsimore - [https://webapps.philasd.org/stor/Code\\_of\\_Student\\_Conduct\\_Albania\\_n.pdf](https://webapps.philasd.org/stor/Code_of_Student_Conduct_Albania_n.pdf) Kodi mund të merret si broshurë në drejtorinë e shkollës, ose nga Zyra e Përfshirjes së Familjes dhe Komunitetit, me telefon 215-400-8480, ose website – [www.philasd.org/language/albanian](http://www.philasd.org/language/albanian)

الملاحظة المرجاء: الملاحظة المدونة إن: [https://webapps.philasd.org/stor/Code\\_of\\_Student\\_Conduct\\_Arabic.pdf](https://webapps.philasd.org/stor/Code_of_Student_Conduct_Arabic.pdf)  
تنزيلًا إن! تمودمًا قرفنم في خريمة عوبطم نم ريدم كتسردم وأ ن م بتكم طياره قرفنًا مع متجلاو،  
www.philasd.org/language/arabic فئا ه بقر 8481-400-215 وأ ن م عقوم

请注意：请注意，您可以登录网站  
[https://webapps.philasd.org/stor/Code\\_of\\_Student\\_Conduct\\_Chinese.pdf](https://webapps.philasd.org/stor/Code_of_Student_Conduct_Chinese.pdf) 查看《学生守则须知》的中文版本。

您可以向校长办公室索取《学生守则须知》的印刷件，或  
者拨打电话215-400-8482或登陆  
[www.philasd.org/language/chinese](http://www.philasd.org/language/chinese) 索取该文件。

PRIÈRE DE NOTER: le code de conduite de l'élève est disponible dans sa totalité sur le site du district au [https://webapps.philasd.org/stor/Code\\_of\\_Student\\_Conduct\\_French.pdf](https://webapps.philasd.org/stor/Code_of_Student_Conduct_French.pdf) Le Code est disponible en imprimé chez votre principal ou au Bureau de la participation des parents, de la famille, de la communauté et des partenariats à base confessionnelle (Office of Family and Community Engagement) au 215-400-8483. [www.philasd.org/language/french](http://www.philasd.org/language/french)

សូមរករំសម្របគល់៖ សប្តចើ ងរំ ៃ ចា្នចំ  
មាងាភាសាសានសង្សប ៀត  
នក្ស រ ភា សាអង្គន់ គសា សូ ម រំ ងរោ ម្ពឈម្ពឌ ឈុកា សា នលម  
២១៥-៤០០-៨៤៨៤។ [www.philasd.org/language/khmer](http://www.philasd.org/language/khmer)

ПОЖАЛУЙСТА, ОБРАТИТЕ ВНИМАНИЕ: С полной версией Правил для учащихся можно ознакомиться на вебсайте округа [https://webapps.philasd.org/stor/Code\\_of\\_Student\\_Conduct\\_Russia\\_n.pdf](https://webapps.philasd.org/stor/Code_of_Student_Conduct_Russia_n.pdf) Распечатанные Правила можно получить у директора школы или в Управлении по Делах Семьи и Задействию Общин (номер телефона 215-400-8485 или вебсайт [www.philasd.org/language/russian](http://www.philasd.org/language/russian)

NOTA: El código de conducta del estudiante completo está disponible en el sitio Web del Distrito - [https://webapps.philasd.org/stor/Code\\_of\\_Student\\_Conduct\\_Spanish\\_h.pdf](https://webapps.philasd.org/stor/Code_of_Student_Conduct_Spanish_h.pdf) La copia impresa del código está disponible en la oficina del director de su escuela o en la Oficina del Compromiso Familiar y de la Comunidad, teléfono número 215-400-8489 o en el sitio Web – [www.philasd.org/language/spanish](http://www.philasd.org/language/spanish)

Xin Chú Ý: Nội dung của Nội Quy Điều Lệ Nhà Trường có trên trang web [https://webapps.philasd.org/stor/Code\\_of\\_Student\\_Conduct\\_Vietnamese.pdf](https://webapps.philasd.org/stor/Code_of_Student_Conduct_Vietnamese.pdf) Hiệu trưởng hoặc Văn Phòng Gia Đình Và Cộng Đồng đều có bản in của quyển nội quy này, xin vui lòng gọi số 215-400-8486 hoặc đọc trên trang web [www.philasd.org/language/vietnamese](http://www.philasd.org/language/vietnamese).

## Purpose of the Code of Student Conduct

- To support the creation of a safe learning environment for all members of the school community.
- To provide clear and explicit expectations for social behaviors in all school settings.
- To provide administrators with interventions that address students' disruptive behaviors.

**The safety and security of all school children is our highest priority, and The School District of Philadelphia is committed to providing a safe learning environment.**

The Code of Student Conduct establishes policies, rules, and expectations for all school community members to learn, teach, and work together.

## District Policy Regarding Behavior

Consequences for students who endanger school safety or disrupt the educational experience of others are listed in detail. The Code of Student Conduct applies during school and on the way to and from school, including, but not limited to travel on School District vehicles, private transportation, and public transit systems.

Families and guardians are critical to our community. We ask that they please read and understand the Code of Student Conduct and School Student Handbook, and discuss them with their children. We understand that families and guardians know best how to make sure that their children understand the expectations that will lead to a safe and orderly school community.

This Code of Student Conduct provides definitions of disruptive behaviors. Although some definitions include examples, the behaviors include, but are not limited to, the examples given.

**Parents, guardians, and caregivers who have any questions or concerns are encouraged to contact the school principal and/or the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities at phone number 215-400-4830 or website - <https://www.philasd.org/studentrights/>**

## Behavioral Expectations & Responsibilities

### Responsibilities of Everyone

- Respect all members of the school community.
- Maintain a positive school climate by being responsible, respectful, and cooperative.

- Communicate Code of Student Conduct expectations for students and staff.
- Motivate students to live up to the expectations through positive reinforcement.
- Use good judgment to prevent minor incidents from becoming major problems.

### Responsibilities of Administrators

- Respect all members of the school community.
- Implement the Code of Student Conduct and all disciplinary procedures in a fair and consistent manner.
- Provide students and parents all disciplinary policies, notices, and materials in their preferred language free of charge.
- Inform all school personnel, parents, and students of discipline policies.
- Review and act upon allegations and requests from school personnel concerning violations.
- Teach and maintain a learning environment that leads to academic success.
- Hold students accountable for disorderly conduct in school and on school grounds.
- Address rule violations with multiple strategies to keep students in school.
- Use professional judgment to prevent minor incidents from becoming major problems.
- Provide training for teachers and staff in creating and maintaining a respectful school climate, discipline issues, de-escalation, trauma in youth, restorative practices and other training requested by teachers and staff for the purpose of improving school climate, safety, and/or student outcomes.

### Responsibilities of Students

- Respect all members of the school community.
- Understand and comply with school rules and climate expectations, including the Code of Student Conduct and School Student Handbook.
- Comply with the School District's attendance, dress code, unlawful harassment, and bullying policies.
- Behave in a manner that focuses on academic success.
- Be responsible and accountable for following rules.
- Respect our country and its flag (Students may decline to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and may refrain from saluting the Flag on the basis of personal belief or religious convictions but shall respect the rights of classmates who wish to participate)

### Responsibilities of Parents/Guardians and Advocates

- Respect all members of the school community.
- Respect, understand, and support school rules and regulations.
- Respect, understand, and support the policies of The School District of Philadelphia.
- Recognize and understand that school personnel must enforce school rules.
- Teach children to respect the rights of others and follow school rules.
- Emphasize the importance of being prepared for school and adhering to school rules to foster academic success.

## Dress Code Expectations

Students are expected to follow their school's dress code so that their appearance does not constitute a health or safety hazard. School principals must determine and communicate the final decision regarding what is considered proper or improper

attire. For information regarding a school's dress code, please consult the School Student Handbook.

A dress code violation shall not result in an exclusion from the classroom environment. Repeated uniform violations may result in a detention during non-instructional time.

Principals may declare spirit or club days and allow students to wear school spirit shirts, or schedule dress-up days (e.g., when school pictures are scheduled) or allow students to wear other attire such as uniforms or special dress for Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, athletes, cheerleaders, band, or chorus. Nothing in this Code of Student Conduct restricts or bans a student from wearing religious garb. Parents with concerns regarding religious dress are encouraged to discuss them with the principal.

Students shall have the right to dress in accordance with their stated gender identity and/or expression within the constraints of the school's dress code.

**Additional questions concerning the dress code should be referred to the principal or his/her designee.**

## School Attendance Requirement

In Philadelphia County, school attendance is required for all children ages 6 to 17. "Attend school" means that a child must be enrolled and attend a public school, a charter school, a cyber charter school, or a private or religious-based school, or else participate in an approved home schooling program. Once a student of age 5 or older is registered for school, he/she is considered school-age and is required to attend school daily. If the student/family does not comply, they can be referred to DHS for truancy services.

Pennsylvania Department of Education regulations state that children are considered school age from the time they are admitted to the public school educational program until graduation from high school or the age of 21 is reached. During the time a child is of school age, he/she is entitled to attend the public schools in The School District of Philadelphia or a charter school. Students who turn 21 during the school term are entitled to finish out the school year.

Parents/guardians are expected to:

- Ensure that their children between the ages of six and 17 are enrolled in school and attend school regularly, on time, and for the entire school day.
- Emphasize the importance of on-time attendance in school, class, and supervised activities-and celebrate good attendance and success.
- Send their child to school every day prepared to participate and learn by

providing a good night's sleep and breakfast.

- Establish reasonable, age-appropriate curfews and bedtimes.
- Make personal appointments for their child outside of the school day or during school breaks as often as possible.
- Ensure that their child receives the periodic student health examinations that are required by law.
- Schedule family vacations to coincide with school recesses.
- Call the school when their child is absent.
- Provide a written excuse for every absence when their child returns to school.
- Provide a written excuse for every late arrival and early departure.
- Provide the school with correct current addresses, emergency contacts, home, cell, and work telephone numbers, e-mail addresses at the beginning of each school year and update information whenever there are changes.
- Help develop and implement the individualized plan for their child's improved attendance when necessary.

## When Can A Child Be Absent?

Sometimes students have to miss school. These "excused absences" apply under circumstances such as illness or injury, teen parent leave (six weeks or 30 school days) after the birth of a child, death/funeral-related absence, education-related trips or activities, suspension, and religious holidays. A written notice from a parent or guardian must be submitted to the school immediately upon a student's return to school. Such notice must include a valid telephone number or other means of contact for verification purposes. Certification of illness/injury/delivery is required if the absence extends for three or more consecutive days. The student/family has three days from the date of the absence to provide documentation to the school for an excused absence. After the third day, the school principal or designee has the discretion to approve or deny the note.

An "unexcused" or "illegal" absence occurs when a student is absent without a valid excuse in writing. That means that either no written notice was submitted to the school upon the student's return or that the reason provided in the notice was deemed invalid. Examples of invalid excuses include (but not limited to) babysitting, waking up late, or being on vacation with family.

Additional attendance and truancy information is available on The School District of Philadelphia's Attendance and Truancy website -

<https://www.philasd.org/studentrights/programsservices/attendance-truancy/>

## Responses to Non-Attendance (Truancy)

A student who has missed three (3) or more unexcused days of school during a school year is considered "truant." Once a student is truant, the school must notify the parent/guardian in writing via the Three Day Legal Notice. This notice must be in the language preferred by the parent/guardian. The notice may include an offer to have a school attendance improvement conference for the student. At the school level, truancy can result in school-based interventions (Home Visits, School Attendance Improvement Plan (MTSS), Academic Supports & Social Service Referrals).

If a child who is truant continues to have unexcused absences, the school is required to invite the family into the school for a Attendance Improvement Conference. The parent and child must be invited to this conference in advance, but are not required to attend. At the conference, the reasons for the child's absences must be discussed, and the school will create a plan to help remove any barriers to attendance that the child is facing.

A student who has missed six (6) or more unexcused days of school during a school year is considered "habitually truant." When a child is habitually truant, the child and family may be referred to Regional Truancy Court or to DHS, depending on the child's age. Before any referral to Truancy Court or DHS, the school is required to invite the family in for a school attendance improvement conference and create a Attendance Improvement Support Plan (MTSS). The school must provide verification of this plan with any referral.

When a child is referred to Truancy Court, a truancy case manager will be assigned to work with the family to help remove any barriers to truancy the child/family may face.

The child and parent/guardian will be required to attend Truancy Court to discuss the child's attendance. The parent/guardian must comply with the Truancy Court Order. The Court Order may include a referral for services. If the child's attendance does not improve, the Truancy Court may refer the case to Family Court. In Family Court, a judge may adjudicate the child dependent, and possibly order the child removed from his or her home and placed into foster care or a group home setting.

**Suspension from school or transfer to an alternative education setting is not a permissible response to truancy.**

For more information concerning the procedures for Attendance and Truancy, visit the School District's website at <https://www.philasd.org/studentrights/programsservices/attendance-truancy/>.

## Visitors to Campus

Parents and guardians are encouraged to visit schools and meet with teachers and administrators about their child's progress. Visitors to campus must present themselves to the school office with proper identification. To provide safe and orderly learning environments, each visitor to public school buildings

or grounds must receive authorization from the school principal or his/her designee.

The Code of Student Conduct applies to all students while traveling to and from school, using any mode of transportation, as well as during any school related event. Additionally, the Code applies to off ground and after-hours behavior if there is a nexus to the school and the learning environment at the school is disrupted.

## When Does the Code Apply?

## Referrals to the Philadelphia Police Dept.

Some infractions of the Code of Student Conduct may also be crimes. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) lists the crimes that *must* be reported to the Philadelphia Police Department. Additionally, The School District of Philadelphia has a

Memorandum of Understanding with the Philadelphia Police Department outlining the Diversion Program that is an alternative to arrest & criminal prosecution.

All relevant Memorandum of Understanding are available on the School District of Philadelphia's website – <https://www.philasd.org/studentrights/resources/>.

The Philadelphia Police Department shall divert a student from arrest if that student has committed a non-violent offense in school and has no prior arrests. In those cases, the student will receive services from the Department of Human Services.

## Diversion Program

Principals, teachers, and other school professionals hold high expectations for students' learning and behavior. Adults in schools help students achieve personal and academic success using a range of responses.

Classroom management strategies may include the following:

- Acquire a student's attention by calling his/her name in a calm voice.
- Address the student privately.
- State the problem behavior.
- State expected behavior and explain why the student needs to satisfy the expectation.
- Listen to the student's response and help student to recognize appropriate behaviors for him/herself.
- Indicate the specific consequence of continuing to engage in the problem behavior--and the positive consequences of good behavior.
- Ask the student to demonstrate the expected behavior.
- Acknowledge the student (i.e., thanks, praise, reward, etc.) for listening to you and/or exhibiting the appropriate behavior.
- Document the infraction on a discipline referral report (EH20 – Pink Slip).
- For more information on classroom management strategies please call the Office of School Climate and Safety.

School interventions may include the following:

- Create a Student Behavior Contract
- Before or after school detention
- Alternative volunteer service (e.g., soup kitchens, shelters)
- Cafeteria duty
- Community Conferencing/Restorative Justice
- School Counselor referral for individual and/or group counseling, and individual behavioral health assessment and resource linkage

- In-school work detail
- Lunch detention
- Parent shadowing
- Peer mediation
- Reflective essay
- Independent study
- Student/teacher/parent conference
- Daily reports/self-charting
- Restorative practices
- Mentoring program
- Check in/Check Out
- Evidenced-based Tier II programs
- For more information on school-wide interventions, please call the Office of School Climate and Safety
- Functional Behavior Assessment for Individual Behavior Planning, Implementation and Progress Monitoring
- Referral for SAP (Student Assistance Program) for Mental Health Assessment and appropriate referral
- Referral to School- Based Therapeutic Program (STS, CASST)
- Interagency Team Meeting with School, Parent, Behavioral Health Providers
- For more information on individual behavioral health interventions and school-based therapeutic programs, please call the Office of Prevention and Intervention
- For mental/behavioral health crisis, please call the Emergency Crisis Line at 267-784-7895
- For allegation of abuse/neglect, please call ChildLine at 800-932-0313

**Out-of-school suspensions should be used as a last resort and only when in-school interventions and/or consequences do not sufficiently address a student's inappropriate behavior.**

Disruptive Behaviors	Rule	Consequences Levels				
		Level 1: In-school Interventions (including in-school suspension)	Level 2: Out-of-School Suspension	Level 3: Contract w/ Intervention or Lateral Transfer	Level 4: Disciplinary School Assignment	Level 5: Disciplinary School Assignment w/Expulsion Referral
Failure to follow classroom rules/Creating disruption	1A	✓				
Failure to carry hall-pass and/or appropriate ID	1C	✓				
Truancy/Excessive tardiness/Cutting class	2	✓				
Possession of inappropriate personal items	3B	✓				
Profane or obscene language or gestures	4	✓				
Inappropriate use of an electronic device	5B	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mutual fighting (without serious bodily injury)	6	✓	✓			
Forgery of administrator, teacher, or parent's/guardian's signature	7	✓	✓			
Alteration of grade reporting, excuse notes, and/or school documents	8	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Destruction and/or theft of property (less than \$500)	9	✓	✓	✓		
Harassment (including Sexual Harassment)	10A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bullying/cyber-bullying	10B	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Intimidation	10C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sexual act (consensual)	11	✓	✓	✓		
Threatening students/staff with aggravated assault	12		✓	✓	✓	✓
Destruction and/or theft of property (totaling \$500 or more)	13		✓	✓	✓	
Breaking and entering school property	14		✓	✓	✓	
Robbery	15A		✓	✓	✓	✓
Extortion	15B		✓	✓	✓	✓
Mutual fighting (with documented serious bodily injury)	16		✓	✓	✓	
Simple assault on a school community member	17		✓	✓	✓	
Possession of alcohol and/or drugs	18		✓	✓	✓	✓
Possession and/or use of fireworks, incendiary devices and/or explosives	19		✓	✓	✓	✓
Instigation and/or participation in a group assault	21		✓	✓	✓	✓
Aggravated assault	22			✓	✓	✓
Sexual act (non-consensual)	23		✓	✓	✓	✓
Possession of a weapon	24				✓	✓
Reckless endangerment	25		✓	✓	✓	✓

\*Consequence Levels are not mutually exclusive. If a student is referred to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities, that student will also be suspended out of school for some period between 1-10 days. Please note disciplinary hearings **ONLY** apply to 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders. There are **NO** out of school suspensions for the following violations: 1A,1B,1C,1D, 2, 3B and 4.

Kindergarten students may not be suspended unless they commit a violent offense. Any suspension over 3 days must be approved by an Assistant Superintendent.

Pursuant to ACT 26, the Superintendent or their designee, may, after a hearing, decide to allow the student who brought a weapon to school to remain in the school.



## Rules & Infractions

Students who are determined to have engaged in violations of this Code of Student Conduct as defined in this section and have a Student Conference may be subject to interventions and consequences on the Level described in the rule and the procedures and rights described in the Interventions and

Consequences section of this Code.

### **1A Failure to follow classroom rules/Creating disruption:**

These behaviors include but are not limited to running, throwing objects, loitering, eating, drinking in a location where eating and drinking is not allowed, or other behavior that distracts other students from learning or teachers from instructing.

### **1C Failure to carry hall-pass and/or appropriate ID:**

Failure to produce, upon request by a faculty or staff member, a school-approved hall-pass, student ID card, or state-approved ID card.

### **2 Truancy/Excessive tardiness/Cutting class**

Students who arrive to class after the official start of class 10 or more times, or fail to attend a scheduled class or leave school premises without permission during the school day.

### **3B Possession of inappropriate personal items**

Students who have physical control over (including contained within the student's clothing, locker, or bag) any object that is inappropriate for an educational setting (whether lost, found, or stolen), (including pornography, dice, playing cards, and other gambling instruments). Products containing tobacco, electronic cigarettes, cigars and vaping kits. This does not include water bottles, hygiene or beauty products.

### **4 Profane or obscene language or gestures**

Students who curse, use sexually explicit language, or gestures.

### **5B Inappropriate use of an electronic device:**

Including but not limited to sexting, videotaping fights, videotaping someone in a place where they have an expectation of privacy, or posting videos of inappropriate student conduct to a social media site that effect the school community in a negative manner.

### **6 Mutual fighting (without serious bodily injury):**

If one or more students are engaged in a physical confrontation in which, after an investigation is conducted, it is unclear which student is the aggressor and which student is the victim.

### **7 Forgery of administrator, teacher, or parent's/guardian's signature:**

Students who reproduce the signature of another with the intent to deceive

### **8 Alteration of grade reporting, excuse notes, and/or school documents:**

Students who, with the intent to deceive, alter grade reports, excuse notes, or official school documents.

### **9 Harassment (including Sexual Harassment):**

Unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that can include unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

### **10A Destruction and/or theft of property (less than \$500):**

Willful and malicious acts of damage or defacement to school property, personal property, including but not limited to graffiti, school pranks that cause a major disruption, or arson.

### **10B Bullying/cyber-bullying:**

Repeated intentional conduct that is directed at another student or students, in or outside a school setting, that is severe, persistent or pervasive, and that either (1) substantially interfere with a student's education, or (2) creates a hostile learning environment, or (3) substantially disrupts school operation. Bullying occurs within an interpersonal relationship where there is an imbalance of power (e.g., one person is physically larger, stronger, mentally quicker, or socially more powerful). The conduct may be physical, psychological, verbal, nonverbal, written, or electronic.

Cyber-bullying occurs through electronic communication devices including but not limited to social networking, e-mail, instant messaging, text messages, tweets, blogs, photo and video sharing, chat rooms, dash boards, or web sites.

### **10C Intimidation:**

Students who induce fear or a sense of inferiority in another student and/or school community member.

### **11 Sexual act (consensual):**

Students who, on school property or at a school-sponsored event, expose or touch their own genitals, breast, or buttocks or those sexual parts of another person, engage in intercourse, oral sex, or simulated sex with the consent of witnesses and other participating students.

### **12 Threatening students/staff with aggravated assault:**

Students who threaten, using aggressive verbal or written language or gestures, communicate a terroristic threat, an act that causes serious physical harm or creates a substantial risk of serious physical harm to another student and/or school community member.

### **13 Destruction and/or theft of property (totaling \$500 or more):**

Students who intentionally damage, deface, or take school property or personal property without permission. Damage or defacement includes graffiti, school

pranks that cause a major disruption, and arson.

**12 Breaking and entering school property:**

Students who enter any property owned or utilized by The School District of Philadelphia or by any vendor under contract to The School District of Philadelphia through force (as minimal as pushing open a door) and without authorization.

**15A Robbery:**

Taking or attempting to take the property of another student or school community member by force or threat of force or by putting the victim in fear.

**15B Extortion:**

Students who obtain money, property or services from another student and/or school community member by express or implied threat of force.

**16 Mutual fighting (with documented serious bodily injury):**

If one or more students are engaged in a physical confrontation in which, after an investigation is conducted, it is unclear which student is the aggressor and which student is the victim.

**17 Simple assault on a school community member:**

Students who, without provocation, hit, punch, or kick a school community member.

**18 Possession of alcohol and/or drugs:**

Controlled substances and illegal substances, as well as “look-a-likes”, which are defined as any substance that, by appearance, representation, or manner of distribution, would lead a reasonable person to believe that the substance is an illegal drug or other controlled substance.

**19 Possession and/or use of fireworks, incendiary devices and/or explosives:**

Students who have physical control over (including contained within the student's clothing, locker, or bag) fireworks, incendiary devices, bombs, firecrackers, bombshells and/or other explosives.

**21 Instigation and/or participation in a group assault:**

Students who initiate, by verbal, written, or physical act, a Simple or Aggravated Assault as defined in this section by multiple students on one or more other students. This does not refer to a Mutual Fight as defined in this section, but a physical confrontation in which one or more students can be determined to be the aggressors.

**22 Aggravated assault:**

An act that causes serious physical harm or creates a substantial risk of serious physical harm to another student and/or school community member.

**23 Sexual act (non-consensual):**

Students who, on school property or at a school sponsored event, touch their own genitals, breast, or buttocks or those sexual parts of another person, engage in aggressive sexual behavior, intercourse, oral sex, or simulated sex without the express consent of witnesses and other participating students (including compelling or forcing another to engage in sexual conduct).

**24 Possession of a weapon:**

Any object, device, or instrument, which, in its inherent and functional purpose is intended to be a weapon, including any firearms, whether loaded or not, cap guns, pellet guns, BB guns, knives, box cutters, cutting instruments, nunchaku, or mace. This does not include ordinary objects such as pencils

**25 Reckless endangerment:**

Recklessly engaging in conduct that places or may place another person in danger of serious bodily injury.

## Due Process

All students are to be treated with fairness and respect. Students have a right to be heard and are to

be provided the opportunity to explain their version of events to administrators.

If you feel you need victim services, please contact the Office of Safe Schools Advocate at phone number 215-656-5381 or website – <http://www.phillyyossa.com>

At student conferences, students have the right to expect that school officials will:

## Student Conference Procedures

1. Inform the student of the reason for a conference.
2. Give the student an opportunity to respond to allegation(s).
3. Discuss student's problem behavior and ways to correct it.
4. Inform the student of the corrective action and/or next steps to be taken.
5. Document the problem behavior and intervention.

## Suspension Procedures

According to Pennsylvania law, suspension is defined as the denial to a student of the right to attend school and to take part in any school function for any period of up to 10 days. Suspensions must be preceded by notification to the student and parent/guardian in writing. For the purposes of The School District of Philadelphia's Code of Student Conduct, suspensions comprise three categories: In-school, short-term, and long-term.

## In-School Suspensions

**In-school Suspension** is an exclusion from a classroom for disciplinary purposes that allow a student to **remain** under the direct supervision of school personnel. Direct supervision means school personnel are physically in the same location as students under their supervision.

## Out-of-School Suspensions

### **Kindergarten students may not be suspended unless their actions result in serious bodily injury**

**Short-term Suspension** is an exclusion from school and/or any school activity or function for a period of **three or fewer school days**. Students who are suspended must meet with the principal or his/her designee prior to the suspension. During the conference, the student has the right to the procedures described under Student Conference Procedures outlined in this Code of Student Conduct.

**Long-term Suspension** is an exclusion from school and/or any school activity or function for a period of **four to 10 school days**. Students who are given a long-term suspension are to participate in a student conference and a parent/guardian conference. During the parent conference, the student and parent/guardian have the right to the procedures described under *Parent/Guardian Conference Procedures* section in the Code of Student Conduct. **In addition, prior approval by the Deputy Chief of the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities is required for all suspensions exceeding eight school days.**

**All referrals to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for a student discipline hearing must be preceded by an out of school suspension.**

## Parent Conference Procedures

At parent conferences, parents, guardians, and caregivers can expect that school administrators will adhere to the following protocol:

1. Notice of a conference must be provided to the parent/guardian in writing and either hand-delivered to the home, sent by certified mail, faxed, emailed, or communicated by other reasonable means.
2. When a student is suspended, a parent/guardian conference must be held no later than day three of the suspension.
3. At the conference, the parent/guardian or caregiver may request to review and have a copy of the student's records and any witness statements, with other student names and information redacted.
4. School administrators will discuss the student's problem behavior and ways to correct it.
5. School administrators will inform the parent/guardian of any further disciplinary action.

## Student Discipline Transfer Procedures

Students in kindergarten through grade 5 are **NOT** eligible for disciplinary hearings. Before a suspension can be issued for a student in 1st or 2nd grade, referrals for various interventions must be made and documented. Please refer to page 7 of the Code of Conduct for further details.

Those students in kindergarten through grade 5 exhibiting a pattern or disruptive behavior(s) and/or committing serious violation(s) of the Code of Student Conduct are referred to the Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) process.

Students in grade 6 through 12 exhibiting a pattern of disruptive behavior(s) and/or committing serious violation(s) of the Code of Student Conduct may be referred to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for a student disciplinary hearing. Students who are referred receive full due process, including a hearing to determine whether the student will be transferred to a disciplinary school. These schools provide high-quality alternative education programs and supports to help students achieve their intellectual and social potential.

Students referred for a hearing will be suspended and provided the procedures indicated in the Suspension Procedures section of the Code of Student Conduct. The school must complete a Behavior Performance Review (BPR) for regular education students or a Manifestation Determination for special education students and share the results of the review at the parent/guardian conference. **When a hearing is not scheduled during the period of a student's suspension, the student has the right to return to his/her school pending the outcome of the hearing, unless the behavior of the student continues to create such a risk of harm to the school community, than the school may request an interim placement. (See below for details of that process)**

Students/Parents/Guardians have the right to a hearing to be conducted by an independent and impartial hearing officer. During the hearing process, parents/guardians may oppose the request for their student's removal from the school. At a hearing, students and parents/guardians have the right to:

- Present witnesses
- Present evidence relevant to the alleged infraction
- Request and ask questions of school district personnel
- Review student records in advance

If the hearing officer makes a finding that the alleged violation occurred, s/he shall determine an appropriate consequence within the applicable range of the matrix.

## Interim Placements

Schools may request an interim placement for a regular education student with documentation that the student's continued presence poses a threat to the school community. In those cases when an interim assignment is granted by the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities a hearing must be held as soon as possible after that assignment. For a special education student interim assignments will only be granted if there is documentation of weapons, drugs, or serious bodily injury.

Note: Please refer to the **Discipline for Students with Disabilities** section for discipline protocols for students with disabilities.

## Expulsion Procedures

According to Pennsylvania law, expulsion is defined as an exclusion from school and any school activities for more than 10 school days. Students who have committed an offense subject to expulsion will also be suspended and have the right to the procedures found in the Suspension procedures section of the Code of Student Conduct.

**The formal expulsion hearing process includes the following due process requirements:**

1. Notification of the charges in writing by certified mail to the student's parent/guardian.
2. At least three days' notice of the time and place of the hearing, which shall include a copy of this policy, hearing procedures, and notice of the right to representation by legal counsel. A student may request the rescheduling of the hearing when he/she demonstrates good cause for an extension.
3. The hearing shall be private unless the student or parent/guardian requests a public hearing.
4. Representation by counsel at the parent's/guardian's expense and parent/guardian may attend the hearing.
5. Disclosure of the names of witnesses against the student and copies of their written statements or affidavits.
6. The right to request that witnesses against the student appear in person and answer questions or be cross-examined.
7. The right to testify, make arguments and present witnesses on the student's behalf.
8. A written or audio record shall be kept of the hearing and a copy made available to the student at the student's expense, or at no charge if the student is indigent.
9. The hearing shall be held within 15 school days of the notice of charges, unless a delay is mutually agreed to by both parties or is delayed by:
  - a) The need for laboratory reports from law enforcement agencies.
  - b) Evaluations or other court or administrative proceedings are pending due to a student's invoking his/her rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
  - c) Delay is necessary due to the condition or best interests of the victim in cases of juvenile or criminal court involving sexual assault or serious bodily injury.
10. Notice of a right to appeal the results of the hearing shall be provided to the student with the expulsion decision.

## Expulsion Procedures (continued)

If a student is expelled by the School Reform Commission (SRC), the parent/guardian of the student has 30 days to provide written documentation that the student is in another educational program. If they are unable to find an alternative educational program, the School District of Philadelphia will provide for the student's education.

A student who has been permanently expelled from the School District of Philadelphia by the affirmative vote of a majority of the SRC may apply for readmission.

The SRC delegates complete authority for all readmission decisions to the Chief Executive Officer/Superintendent or his/her designee. Temporarily expelled students need not apply for readmission because they are automatically readmitted to The School District of Philadelphia at the end of the expulsion period. Readmission decisions are final and not subject to review by appeal to the SRC or the courts.

A student who has been permanently or temporarily expelled by the affirmative vote of a majority of the SRC, beginning in school year 2008-2009, may apply to The School District of Philadelphia to have the records of expulsion erased from the his/her records, or expunged. Expunging records occurs at the discretion of the Superintendent or his/her designee, and is not subject to review or appeal to the SRC or the courts.

## Expunging Records for Expelled Students

The complete SRC Board Policy No. 233, including the criteria and process for readmission and/or impingement or records, may be found on The School District of Philadelphia's website – <https://www.philasd.org/src/policies/>.

## Discipline for Students with Disabilities

### Suspensions for Special Education Students Identified as Intellectually Disabled

The District can only suspend students identified as Intellectually Disabled with either written agreement of the parent/guardian or the written approval of the

Bureau of Special Education of the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). PDE can be contacted by calling 717-783-6913 or visit their website – <http://www.pde.state.pa.us>.

### Suspensions, Expulsion, and Transfer for All Other Disabled Students – Including Students with 504 Service Agreements

The District may suspend students with disabilities and cease educational services for up to five consecutive schools days or 15 cumulative school days in one school year without providing special education procedural safeguards.

Schools must complete the following steps A through G below, for students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Service Agreements if any of the following are being considered:

1. Expulsion Referral.
2. Request to transfer to an Alternative School for disciplinary reasons (the school must file an EH-21).
3. Suspension for more than 10 consecutive days.
4. Suspension for more than 15 cumulative days.
5. Suspensions totaling more than 10 days in an academic school year and when there is a pattern or problem behavior.

#### Steps:

A team must convene a Manifestation Determination meeting within 24 hours of the misconduct, and will invite the parents/guardian. The team must:

- A. Provide written notice to the parent/guardian of the recommended disciplinary action and the date of the proposed Individualized Education Program (IEP) team meeting.
- B. During the IEP/Manifestation Determination meeting, the IEP team will review the student's most current evaluation, IEP and placement to determine if the referred misconduct is related to the student's disability. Two questions are to be answered by the school team at the manifestation meeting: (1) is the conduct caused by, or did it have a direct and substantial relationship to, the student's disability? or (2) was the conduct in question a direct result of the school's failure to implement the student's IEP?
- C. If the school team determines that the student's behavior is **NOT a Manifestation of the Disability**, school officials may apply the Code of Student Conduct. In no event, however, may the student be suspended without providing appropriate educational services for more than five consecutive or 15 cumulative school days in a school year.
- D. A Notice of Recommended Educational Placement (NOREP) must be issued with the results of this determination and a copy of the Procedural Safeguard Notice (PSN) must be given to the parent/guardian.

**\*If parents or caregivers disagree with the decision, they can request an expedited Special Education Hearing and the Commonwealth-appointed hearing officer will review the manifestation determination.**

- E. If necessary, the IEP team reviews and revises the existing behavior intervention plan or, as necessary, complete a functional behavior assessment and intervention plan to address the misconduct.
- F. The IEP team determines the appropriateness of an interim alternative educational setting, and as indicated, include in the IEP those services and modifications that will enable the student to continue to participate in the general education curriculum and help prevent the problem behavior from recurring.

G. If the student's **behavior IS a Manifestation of the Disability**, the student's placement may be changed if:

- (1) The student carried a dangerous weapon\* to school or a school function;
- (2) The student knowingly possessed or used illegal drugs or sold or solicited the sale of a controlled substance while at school or at a school function; and
- (3) The student has inflicted serious bodily injury upon another person while at school, on school premises, or at a school function.

In these special circumstances and **over parent/guardian objections**, school officials may remove the student, by issuing a NOREP to an interim alternative education setting for not more than 45 school days.

- If the behavior is determined to be a manifestation of the student's disability, the conduct is not a "special circumstances" (see step G.1-3 above), and the student is substantially likely to cause injury to himself/herself or others if maintained in the current placement, the District may ask for an expedited hearing conducted by a Special Education Hearing Officer to obtain a 45-day interim placement.
- Students with disabilities, even if expelled, must be provided with a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE).

\*NOTE: A "dangerous weapon" is a weapon, device, instrument, material, or substance that is used for, or is readily capable of, causing death or serious bodily injury. However, in the case of a pocketknife, blades less than two-and-one half inches in length are not considered dangerous weapons. A multi-tool containing a blade or cutting device is deemed a "dangerous weapon."

## Discipline for Students with Disabilities (continued)

The information in this handbook may be updated during the course of the school year.

The latest version is available on The School District's website – <http://www.philasd.org>

For copies in languages other English, please contact The Translation and Interpretation Center at phone number 215-400-4180.

The School District of Philadelphia does not discriminate in employment or education programs or activities based on race, creed, color, national origin, religion, ancestry, age, marital status, sexual orientation (known or perceived), gender identity expression (known or perceived), sex, handicap, disability, nationality, citizenship, union membership, or limited English proficiency. This policy of non-discrimination extends to all other legally protected classifications. Publications of this notice are in accordance with state and federal laws including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.



School District of  
Philadelphia Education  
Center  
440 North Broad Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19130  
215-400-4000