



SECTION: STUDENTS

POLICY: 218

TITLE: STUDENT DISCIPLINE

ORIGINAL: November 5, 2018

CURRENT REVISION: April 5, 2021

**LAST REVIEWED BY THE
COMMITTEE:**

I. PURPOSE

- A. The development of self-discipline and the acceptance of individual responsibilities are important results of the educational program of the Wissahickon School District. An effective instructional program requires a safe and orderly school environment; and the effectiveness of the educational program, is in part, reflected in the behavior of students.
- B. Further, students are representatives of the school district at all times and, as such, are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner. It should be noted that students have a right to receive an education, but that participation in co-curricular activities is a privilege.

II. DEFINITIONS

None.

III. POLICY

- A. The Board shall require each student to adhere to Board policies and the rules and regulations promulgated by the administration and to submit to disciplinary measures appropriately assigned for infraction of those rules. School rules shall govern student conduct in school, at school-sponsored activities, and during the time spent in travel to and from school.
- B. The Board shall adopt a Code of Student Conduct to govern student behavior in school.
- C. The Board prohibits the use of corporal punishment as a form of discipline for students in the district.
- D. Despite the prohibition of corporal punishment, reasonable force may still be used by teachers and school authorities under any of the following circumstances: to quell a disturbance, to obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects, for the purpose of self-defense, and for the protection of persons or property.
- E. In any case when a student is excluded from class by a school official, the student has the responsibility to make up exams and work missed while being disciplined and shall be permitted to complete these assignments before or after the regular school day.
- F. The policy shall also apply to student conduct that occurs off school property and would violate the Code of Student Conduct if:
 - a. There is a nexus between the proximity or timing of the conduct in relation to the student's attendance at school or school-sponsored activities.

- G. 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 disrupt materially and substantially the operations of the school.
- H. The conduct has a direct nexus to attendance at school or a school-sponsored activity, such as an agreement made on school property to complete a transaction outside of school that would violate the Code of Student Conduct
- I. The conduct involves the theft or vandalism of school property.
- J. When law enforcement officials notify the district of student conduct that occurs off school property, at non-school-sponsored events, that involves the illegal use of alcohol and/or drugs, the consequences for that student at school (in addition to any legally required counseling referrals) shall include mandatory parent/counselor meetings.

IV. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

- A. The Superintendent shall promulgate rules and regulations to implement Board policy for student conduct in the form of a Code of Student Conduct and is responsible for the fair and consistent application of the Code of Student Conduct.
- B. The Superintendent shall publish and provide to all staff, students and parents the rules for student behavior contained in the Code of Student Conduct and the sanctions, which may be imposed for violations of those rules. A copy of the Code of Student Conduct shall be made available in each school. The Superintendent shall also publish and provide to all administrators, a handbook delineating procedures to be followed in cases where student suspension or expulsion is imposed or recommended.
- C. The building principal shall have the authority to assign discipline to students, subject to the policies, rules and regulations of the district and to the student's due process right to notice, hearing, and appeal.
- D. Teaching staff members and other employees of this Board having authority over students shall have the authority to take reasonable actions necessary to control the disorderly conduct of students in all situations and in all places where such students are within the jurisdiction of this Board and when such conduct interferes with the educational program of the schools or threatens the health and safety of others.
- E. Any student disciplined by a District employee shall have the right to notice of the infraction and may request a hearing before the building principal prior to being disciplined, and may appeal the discipline determination to the Superintendent.

V. REFERENCES

- 22 PA Code 12.3
- 22 PA Code 12.4
- 24 P.S. 510
- Pol. 103
- Pol. 103.1
- 22 PA Code 12.2
- Pol. 235
- Pol. 233
- 20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq

22 PA Code 10.23
Pol. 113.1
Pol. 113.2
Pol. 805.1
Pol. 122
Pol. 123
24 P.S. 1317
24 P.S. 1318
22 PA Code 12.5
22 PA Code 10.2
24 P.S. 1303-A
35 P.S. 780-102
22 PA Code 10.21
22 PA Code 10.22
24 P.S. 1302.1-A
22 PA Code 10.25
Pol. 218.1
Pol. 218.2
Pol. 227
20 U.S.C. 7114
22 PA Code 12.1 et seq
22 PA Code 403.1
34 CFR Part 300