

# CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

The School District of Pittsburgh is committed to providing every student with the opportunity to attend school in an environment that is safe, free of violence and drugs and conducive to learning and community building. This goal is of the highest priority because excellence in education cannot be achieved unless schools and classrooms are safe and orderly. The Code of Student Conduct was developed so that all students, staff and parents of the District fully understand the expectations for student behavior while in attendance in our schools, while attending school sponsored activities or while riding on transportation systems serving our school district.

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The responsibility to create and maintain a safe school environment rests with the principal in collaboration with staff, students, parents, and the school community. Effective schools have established practices and routines that teach and reinforce appropriate school and classroom behavior, while maximizing learning time and minimizing exclusions from the classroom. These practices and routines are part of each school's safety plan, and we anticipate that they will be fully supported by all members of the school community. The school safety plan represents a proactive approach to safe school development that encourages student self-discipline~~self-discipline~~, thereby minimizing the use of exclusionary interventions for violations of the Code of Student Conduct.

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**1. PARENT:** When used in these procedures, the term "parent" shall include every parent, guardian or person in parental relation, having control or charge of any child or children in attendance at a school in the School District of Pittsburgh. "Parent" shall also include a court appointed educational decision maker.

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**1. DISRUPTION OF SCHOOL:** ~~A student shall not use violence, force, noise, profanity, defiance, coercion, threats, conspiracy, fear, passive resistance, harassment (racial, gender, ethnic or sexual), intimidation, or any such conduct, to cause the substantial and material disruption or obstruction of any lawful mission, process, policy or function of the school or the School District. Neither shall he/she engage in such conduct or urge other students to engage in such conduct if such a disruption or obstruction is reasonably certain to result.~~ A student shall not act or behave in a way that disrupts the orderly conduct of the school or learning environment; or that poses a threat to the health, safety, and/or welfare of students, staff, or others; or that causes annoyance, alarm, or inconvenience. Disruption of school violations alone will not result in the filing of Disorderly Conduct charges unless the offense also meets the definition of Disorderly Conduct as set forth in this Code.

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7 ... Use of a drug as authorized by a medical prescription from a registered physician for the student for whom it is prescribed shall not be considered a violation of this rule, but may be a violation of the Use of Medications policy. Failure to comply with the Use of Medications policy may also result in school discipline.-

A student found to be in violation of this rule ~~shall~~may be placed in an Alternative Education program for a period of not less than one quarter and may be expelled.

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**8. Disorderly Conduct:** ~~A student shall not act or behave in a way that substantially disrupts the orderly conduct of the school or learning environment or that poses a threat to the health, safety, and/or welfare of students, staff, or others causing annoyance, alarm, or in convenience is also unacceptable. This includes violent and unruly behavior, unreasonable noise, the use of obscene language and gestures, and the creation of hazardous or physically offensive conditions that serve no legitimate purpose on school grounds. Fighting may result in disorderly conduct charges being filed with the local magistrate. A student shall not, with intent to cause public inconvenience, annoyance or alarm, or recklessly creating a risk thereof:~~

(1) engage in fighting or threatening, or in violent or tumultuous behavior;

(2) make unreasonable noise;

(3) use obscene language, or make an obscene gesture; or

(4) create a hazardous or physically offensive condition by any act which serves no legitimate purpose.

Violation of this rule, including fighting, may result in Disorderly Conduct charges being filed with the local magistrate.

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~~Any act or behavior which substantially disrupts the orderly conduct of the school function or learning environment; poses a threat to the health, safety and/or welfare of students, staff or others. The intent may be to cause annoyance, alarm or inconvenience. This includes violent or tumultuous behavior, unreasonable noise and the use of obscene language or gesture or creation of hazardous or physically offensive conditions that serve no legitimate purpose. Fighting may result in disorderly conduct charges being filed with the local magistrate.~~

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**1. LEVEL 1 INFRACTIONS** are those of a less serious nature that do not necessarily pose a threat to the health, safety or property of any person. Staff persons must use appropriate forms of discipline intervention to correct misbehavior manifested in less serious infractions. ~~It is advisable for s~~Staff persons shall to keep a record of discipline interventions and share this documentation at the request of a student, parent or administrator. In most cases of Level 1 infractions, students may not necessarily be referred to an administrator. If Level 1 behaviors are repetitive after appropriate discipline interventions have been made, the student should then be referred to an administrator. Students will not be excluded from school for a Level 1 infraction unless there are repeated infractions and evidence of prior interventions.

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**4. LEVEL 2 INFRACTIONS** are those of a serious nature that may pose a threat to the health, safety or property of any person. Level 2 infractions include those listed in Section I of this document and any violation of local, state or federal laws, statutes or ordinances or District policies. Staff persons must notify an administrator when a level 2 infraction occurs. The notification should normally take the form of a discipline referral or statement describing the incident. The administrator must complete an investigation of the incident and gather written statements from all witnesses. The administrator must notify the student and parent of all charges, consequences and applicable due process rights during the disciplinary process.

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## **F. ALTERNATIVE PLACEMENTS**

When students are consistently demonstrating behavior that is disruptive to the learning environment or if they have been involved in serious misconduct such as drug violations, assault or physical abuse of a student or staff person, the principal can notify the Office of Student Services that an Alternative Placement is warranted. The principal will prepare a document file for review by the Office of Student Services after an information hearing. The student may be assigned to the appropriate Alternative Education Program. An Educational Support Plan (ESP) will be developed for the student. The student will remain in the Alternative Education Placement until he/she satisfactorily completes the Educational Support Plan. Students will be provided with necessary academic, counseling, social and mental health services to facilitate a successful return to the regular school program. Out-of-school

suspensions, expulsions and transfers to alternative placements are not generally appropriate forms of discipline for isolated Level 1 infractions or dress code violations.

#### **Note: Cases Involving Assault**

An intentional and serious incident of assault, or attempted assault, by a student ~~to-on~~ any person, including but not limited to teachers, employees or other students, will-may result in assignment to the Alternative Education Center until such time that the student successfully completes the Educational Support Program. It may also require the administering of appropriate penalties, including, but not limited to the following:

1. A transfer to another school for the balance of the school year, with the further requirement that no less than one (1) full semester shall be spent by the offending student at the school to which he/she is transferred; or
2. An expulsion from school of more than ten (10) school days with the necessary prescribed hearing being conducted, following the expulsion an offending student may be:
  - a. readmitted to the regular school program,
  - b. transferred to another school for no less than one (1) complete quarterly report period or the balance of the school year, or
  - c. a permanent transfer to another school
3. Criminal charges will be filed against any individual who commits an assault while at school, at a school sponsored event or traveling to or from school.
- ~~4. All such offending students who are either transferred to another school or readmitted to their regular school shall be on probation for a period of not less than one (1) complete school year from the date of the offense. Any further assault incident involving such a student during this period of probation may result in the immediate implementation of the expulsion penalties provided above.~~

Determination of which penalty may be administered in an Incident of assault shall be made in the normal manner provided for under this Code of Student Conduct, i.e, commencing with the initial evaluation and action of the principal and continuing with whatever review or hearing is necessary prior to formal imposition of the penalty selected

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#### **STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES**

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- Work to minimize lost class time and exclusionary discipline
- Treat students and parents in a respectful manner,

#### **ADMINISTRATOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

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- Establish a Discipline Committee and convene ~~as needed~~ at least once each month to review available discipline data and discuss strengths and weaknesses of the school's disciplinary climate.

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Excused Absence –An “excused absence” includes the absence of a student for any of the following reasons:

Illness or other urgent reasons – Upon receipt of satisfactory evidence of mental, physical or other urgent reasons, a parent’s written note will excuse a student’s absence a maximum of ten (10) days of cumulative absences verified by parental notification may be permitted during a school year. All absences beyond ten (10) cumulative days require an excuse from a physician. For parenting students, upon receipt of satisfactory evidence of illness of the student’s child, related absences will be excused.

Health Care – A student may be excused during school hours to obtain non-school professional health care, including emergency care, hospitalization and/or quarantine. A parenting student may be excused during school hours to obtain non-school professional health care, including emergency care, hospitalization and/or quarantine for the student’s child. Documentation from the treating licensed health care professional shall be obtained and provided to the school.