CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

Education Committee
June 4, 2013
• Student Services reviews the Code of Student Conduct annually and proposes revisions as necessary.

• The revisions proposed in June are minor revisions resulting from the Safe Schools Audit completed last year and additional requests made by the Education Law Center, a nonprofit student advocacy organization in Pennsylvania.

• The Law Department and Student Services has committed to conduct a full review of the Code of Conduct over the next year and will work with the Education Law Center and consider other updates based on suggestions that the Education Law Center will collect from students, parents and community members.
CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT
JUNE 2013 REVISIONS

1. Language that clarifies the difference between disorderly conduct and disruption of school
2. Language that clarifies alternative placements
3. Add language to allow for certain excused absences for parenting teens
4. Other minor language revisions for clarity and consistency with current practice
Disruption of School vs. Disorderly Conduct

- Revision recommended after the 2011-2012 Safe Schools Audit and requested by the Education Law Center
- Language is updated to reflect practice
- Disorderly Conduct is redefined and language reflects the statutory definition of Disorderly Conduct set forth by state law
- Disruption of School is redefined to include other disruptive behaviors that may not meet the criminal definition of Disorderly Conduct, but may still result in school discipline
Alternative Placements

• Clarifying language has been added to remind schools that exclusionary discipline, including alternative placements should not be used for isolated Level 1 infractions or dress code violations.

• Language regarding probationary period was removed. Students who are transferred to an alternative placement for an assault are subject to the statutory requirements for alternative placements for disruptive youth.
Excused Absences have been updated to include absences related to parenting teens:

- If a student is absent from school because his/her own child is ill and a note or doctor's note if necessary is presented, then that absence will be considered excused.
- If a student needs to take his/her own child to the doctor, that absent or tardy can be excused with a doctor’s note.
Other Minor Revisions

• Definition of Parent expanded to include court appointed educational decision makers
• Rule 7 clarified to remind students/staff that use of properly prescribed medication is not a Rule 7 violation, but if the medication is not registered with the nurse or on file as a self-administered medication, possession/use of prescription medication may violate the medication policy and result in school discipline; “shall” changed to “may” to reflect the current due process afforded to students referred to an alternative placement
• Reminder that isolated Level 1 infractions should not result in exclusion from school
• Updates to staff responsibilities to reinforce goal of minimizing exclusionary discipline, treating parents and students with respect and including the requirement that discipline committees meet each month
Questions