

Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Student Discipline
Code	218
Status	Active
Adopted	February 2, 2022

Purpose

The Joint Operating Committee finds that student conduct is closely related to learning. An effective vocational education program requires a safe and orderly school environment.

Authority

The Joint Operating Committee shall establish fair, reasonable and nondiscriminatory rules and regulations regarding the conduct of all students in the school during the time they are under the supervision of the school or at any time while on school property, while present at school-sponsored activities, and while traveling to or from school and school-sponsored activities.[1][2][3][4][5]

The Joint Operating Committee shall adopt a Code of Student Conduct to govern student discipline, and students shall not be subject to disciplinary action because of race, sex, color, religion, sexual orientation, national origin or handicap/disability. Each student must adhere to Joint Operating Committee policies and the Code of Student Conduct governing student discipline.[2][3][4][5][6][7]

The Joint Operating Committee prohibits the use of corporal punishment to discipline students for violations of Joint Operating Committee policies and school rules or regulations.[8]

Any student disciplined by a school employee shall have the right to notice of the infraction.[9]

Suspensions and expulsions shall be carried out in accordance with Joint Operating Committee policy.[9]

In the case of a student with a disability, including a student for whom an evaluation is pending, the school shall take all steps required to comply with state and federal laws and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement and Joint Operating Committee policies.[5][10][11][12][13][14]

Off-Campus Activities

This policy shall also apply to student conduct that occurs off school property and would otherwise violate the Code of Student Conduct if any of the following circumstances exist:

1. The conduct occurs during the time the student is traveling to and from school or a school-sponsored activity, whether or not via school furnished transportation.
2. The student is a member of an extracurricular activity and has been notified that particular off-campus conduct could result in exclusion from such activities.[15]
3. 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 materially and substantially disrupt the operations of the school.

4. The conduct has a direct nexus to attendance at school or a school-sponsored activity, for example, a transaction conducted outside of school pursuant to an agreement made in school, that would violate the Code of Student Conduct if conducted in school.
5. The conduct involves the theft or vandalism of school property.
6. There is otherwise a nexus between the proximity or timing of the conduct in relation to the student's attendance at school or school-sponsored activities.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Administrative Director or designee shall ensure that reasonable and necessary rules and regulations are developed to implement Joint Operating Committee policy governing student conduct.

The Administrative Director or designee shall publish and distribute to all staff, students and parents/guardians the rules and regulations for student behavior contained in the Code of Student Conduct, the sanctions that may be imposed for violations of those rules, and a listing of students' rights and responsibilities. A copy of the Code of Student Conduct shall be available in each school library and school office. [2][7]

The building administrator shall have the authority to assign discipline to students, subject to Joint Operating Committee policies and school rules and regulations and to the student's due process right to notice, hearing, and appeal. [16][17]

Teaching staff and other school employees responsible for students shall have the authority to take reasonable actions necessary to control the conduct of students in all situations and in all places where students are within the jurisdiction of the Joint Operating Committee, and when such conduct interferes with the educational program of the school or threatens the health and safety of others. [16]

Reasonable force may be used by teachers and school authorities under any of the following circumstances: to quell a disturbance, obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects, for the purpose of self-defense, and for the protection of persons or property. [8]

Guidelines

Referral to Law Enforcement and Reporting Requirements

For reporting purposes, the term **incident** shall mean an instance involving an act of violence; the possession of a weapon; the possession, use, or sale of a controlled substance or drug paraphernalia as defined in the Pennsylvania Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act; the possession, use, or sale of alcohol or tobacco; or conduct that constitutes an offense listed under the Safe Schools Act. [18][19][20]

The Administrative Director or designee shall immediately report required incidents and may report discretionary incidents committed by students on school property, at any school-sponsored activity or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from school or a 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 Joint Operating Committee policies. [14][18][19][21][22][23]

The Administrative Director or designee shall notify the parent/guardian of any student directly involved in an incident as a victim or suspect immediately, as soon as practicable. The Administrative Director or designee shall inform the parent/guardian whether or not the local police department that has jurisdiction over the school property has been or may be notified of the incident. The Administrative Director or designee shall document attempts made to reach the parent/guardian. [14][19][24]

In accordance with state law, the Administrative Director shall annually, by July 31, report all new incidents to the Office for Safe Schools on the required form.[14][[18](#)][25][26][27][28]

Legal

1. 24 P.S. 1850.1
2. 22 PA Code 12.3
3. 22 PA Code 12.4
4. Pol. 103
5. Pol. 103.1
6. 22 PA Code 12.2
7. Pol. 235
8. 22 PA Code 12.5
9. Pol. 233
10. 22 PA Code 10.23
11. 20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq
12. Pol. 113.1
13. Pol. 113.2
14. Pol. 805.1
15. Pol. 122
16. 24 P.S. 1317
17. 24 P.S. 1318
18. 24 P.S. 1303-A
19. 22 PA Code 10.2
20. 35 P.S. 780-102
21. 24 P.S. 1302.1-A
22. 22 PA Code 10.21
23. 22 PA Code 10.22
24. 22 PA Code 10.25
25. Pol. 218.1
26. Pol. 218.2
27. Pol. 222
28. Pol. 227
- 24 P.S. 510
- 22 PA Code 12.1 et seq
- 22 PA Code 403.1
- 20 U.S.C. 7114
- 34 CFR Part 300
- Pol. 805