



Book	BHASD Policies
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Student Discipline
Code	218
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Purpose

One of the major goals of education in a democratic society is to help children and youth learn self-discipline, to know how to act and how not to act in the various situations and responsibilities of life. Maintaining discipline is part of the educational process. It is the foundation upon which a learning environment is established. The behavior of each student has a great deal to do with the ability of teachers to help students fulfill their educational needs.

If the school is a miniature society where students are educated to meet the demands of society then students must learn to live by the rules and regulations established for the safety and welfare of all or receive consequences as part of their learning experience.

The base upon which the district's disciplinary policy is developed is a belief in the worth and dignity of each student. It is recognized that no one has the right to detract from the education and well being of another by committing actions contrary to the rules and regulations established for the successful operation of the educational program. Therefore, when a violation of the Code of Conduct occurs, fair and appropriate action should be taken to correct the discipline problem and turn the situation into a learning experience for the students involved.

The disciplinary process requires communication, understanding, and mutual respect among students, teachers, administrators, and parents/guardians. This disciplinary policy has been established as a guideline for appropriate behavior and is distributed so all will know what is expected and may base their actions accordingly.

The term parent/guardian henceforth refers to anyone acting in the official parental capacity.

The Board believes that one of the major functions of the public school is to prepare students to live lives based upon principals of good citizenship. The Board further believes that self-discipline and the acceptance of life's responsibility are paramount for the well being of our society. Therefore, the Board has directed the school staff to develop and implement the following school disciplinary policy consistent with the components of student's rights and responsibilities. The district is committed to assuring equal opportunity and treatment to all students. This policy extends to all matters under control of the school district:

1. To guarantee the rights of all students and staff by providing a discipline policy with established rules and regulations prohibiting the disruption of the work of the school.
2. To guarantee the rights of each individual through fair and reasonable treatment of violators of the discipline policy.

3. To teach self-discipline by communicating to students their rights and responsibilities as outlined in the discipline policy.
4. To respect the rights and personal dignity of all students and staff by providing a discipline policy that will ensure a safe school environment.
5. To protect and maintain school property.
6. To reduce the occurrence of discipline problems.
7. To comply with federal, state and local laws.
8. To ensure all students have the right to complete the course of study prescribed by state and local school authorities.

Authority

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 and Board policies shall govern student conduct in school, at school-sponsored activities, and during the time spent in travel to and from school.[\[1\]\[2\]\[3\]\[4\]](#)

The Board shall adopt a Code of Student Conduct to govern student behavior.[\[5\]\[2\]\[3\]\[4\]\[6\]](#)

Guidelines

Rules governing student conduct shall require students to:

1. Conform to reasonable standards of socially acceptable behavior.
2. Respect the rights, person, and property of others.
3. Preserve the degree of order necessary to the educational program in which they are engaged.
4. Obey constituted authority and respond to those who hold that authority.

Any student disciplined by a district employee shall have the right to notice of the infraction and a hearing before the building principal prior to being disciplined, and the student may appeal the discipline determination to the Superintendent or designee.

Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment is defined as physically punishing a student for an infraction of the discipline policy.

Corporal punishment may not be administered to any child in the district.

However, even though corporal punishment is prohibited in the district, reasonable force may be used by teachers and school authorities:

1. To quell a disturbance.
2. To obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects.
3. For the purpose of self-defense.
4. For the protection of persons or property.
5. To physically remove a disruptive student from a classroom or public assembly who refuses to leave after being requested to do so.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall promulgate rules and regulations to implement Board policy governing student conduct.

The Superintendent or designee shall publish and provide to all staff, students and parents/guardians the rules for student behavior contained in the Code of Student Conduct and the sanctions that may be imposed for violations of those rules. A copy of the Code shall be made available in each school library.[\[2\]\[6\]](#)

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.[\[9\]\[10\]](#)

Teaching staff and other district employees responsible for 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 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.[9]

Students have legal rights as persons and citizens. These rights include the right to due process, the right to an education, the right to express their opinions in an appropriate manner, and the right to be free from discrimination. They also have human rights as persons and participants in the educational community. These rights include the right to be treated with dignity by other members of the school community and the right to contribute to the educational program.

1. Students' responsibilities include school attendance, conscientious effort in classroom work and conformance to school rules and regulations. Most of all, students share with the administration and faculty a responsibility to develop a climate within the school that is conducive to wholesome learning and living.
2. No student has the right to interfere with the education of his/her fellow students. It is the responsibility of each student to respect the rights of teachers, students, administrators, and all others who are involved in the educational process.
3. Students should express their ideas and opinions in a respectful, constructive and polite manner.
4. It is the responsibility of the students to conform with the following:
 - a. Be aware of all rules and regulations for student behavior and conduct themselves in accordance with them. Students should assume that, until a rule is waived, altered or repealed in writing, it is in effect.
 - b. Volunteer information in matters relating to the health, safety and welfare of the school community and the protection of school property.
 - c. Dress and groom to meet fair standards of safety and health, and not to cause substantial disruption to the educational processes.
 - d. Assist the school staff in operating a safe school for all students enrolled therein.
 - e. Comply with Commonwealth and local laws.
 - f. Exercise proper care when using public facilities and equipment.
 - g. Attend school daily and be on time at all classes and other school functions.
 - h. Make up work when absent from school.
 - a. Pursue and attempt to complete satisfactorily the courses of study prescribed by Commonwealth and local school authorities.
 - j. Be appropriate in all verbal, written or physical representations that are associated with the school.

Teacher Responsibilities

The teacher should know and carry out the rules and regulations of the school. The teacher is the first line of discipline and it is the responsibility of each teacher to:

1. Be honest and ethical.
2. Promote a climate of mutual respect.
3. Encourage a positive self-image and sense of self-worth for each student.
4. Strive to make each student eager to learn.
5. Realize that his/her subject or area of responsibility is an important part, but only a part, of the total school program.
6. Be aware of the total school program and of his/her responsibilities for the success of the program.

7. Build a working relationship with the student and his/her parents/guardians.
8. Distinguish carefully between student misconduct which can be handled by the teacher and that which requires the assistance of the administration.
9. Report to the principal any student who behaves in a way that jeopardizes his/her safety and the safety of others, or who seriously interferes with the instructional program of the classroom.
10. Teach students by precept and example the common courtesies which promote better inter-personal relationships.
11. Handle individual infractions separately, fairly and consistently.
12. Be aware of behavioral changes in students that may indicate personal problems. An effort should be made to talk to students about their problems immediately and, when appropriate, make referrals to the counselor or administrator.
13. Expect the best from each student.
14. Build good relationships with their colleagues.

Principal Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the principal, as the educational leader of the school to:

1. Be honest and ethical.
2. Promote a climate of mutual respect.
3. Be available to students, staff and parents.
4. Assist all personnel in evaluating their own professional attitudes and procedures.
5. Help school personnel improve their school attitudes and procedures.
6. Assist in the orientation of new personnel.
7. Work with all staff members to prevent problems and to resolve those which do arise.
8. Work with students and personnel to formulate school regulations.
9. Work closely with parents/guardians in establishing a working relationship between home and school.
10. Encourage parents/guardians and students to consult auxiliary staff and community agencies in the solution of problems.
11. Establish building security to assure health and safety.
12. Try to resolve discipline cases promptly.
13. Implement the students' rights and responsibilities policy, school district policies, and State Code Regulations.

Superintendent and School Board Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of central office administrators and School Board members to:

1. Be honest and ethical.
2. Establish a climate of mutual respect.
3. Establish a climate that is conducive to learning.
4. Assist in matters relating to the health, safety and welfare of the school community and the protection of school property and establish necessary building security.
5. Be aware of the total school program and their responsibilities for the success of that program.
6. Work closely with parents/guardians and school personnel in establishing a working relationship between home and school.
7. Work closely with the community and school personnel in establishing a supportive relationship between the community and the school.
8. Encourage parents/guardians, student and school personnel to consult auxiliary staff and community agencies in the solution of problems.
9. Be sensitive to needs and expectations of different components of the school community.
10. Be available to parents/guardians, students, staff, and community members.
11. Respect the feelings, judgments and concerns of students, parents/guardians, school personnel, and community members.

Other School Personnel Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of other school personnel to:

1. Be honest and ethical.
2. Contribute to a climate of mutual respect.
3. Be aware of the total school program of his/her responsibilities for the success of the program.
4. Realize that his/her area of responsibility is an important part, but only a part, of the total school program.
5. Distinguish carefully between student misconduct which can be handled personally and that which requires assistance.
6. Report to the professional staff any student who behaves in a way that jeopardizes his/her safety and the safety of others, or who seriously interferes with the instructional program of the classroom. Secretaries, teacher aides, paraprofessionals, cafeteria employees, and bus drivers all contribute to the educational climate in the school.

Parent's/Guardian's Responsibilities

It should be the responsibility of parents/guardians to:

1. Be honest and ethical.
2. Promote a climate of mutual respect.
3. Make every attempt to have their daughter/son attend school on a regular basis.
4. Assist in helping to make their daughter/son eager to learn.
5. Build a working relationship with teachers, counselors and administrators.
6. Prepare their daughter/son to come to school ready to learn and to adhere to the rules and regulations of the school.
7. Inform the appropriate school personnel of situations which may affect their daughter's or son's performance in school or school activities.
8. To take every opportunity to be aware of their daughter's/son's progress and/or concerns in school.

Legal

1. [24 P.S. 510](#)
2. [22 PA Code 12.3](#)
3. [22 PA Code 12.4](#)
4. Pol. 103
5. [22 PA Code 12.2](#)
6. Pol. 235
7. [22 PA Code 12.5](#)
8. Pol. 233
9. [24 P.S. 1317](#)
10. [24 P.S. 1318](#)