

Sylvan Heights Science Charter School

Policy Title: Student Discipline

Policy Number: 218

Adopted: February 24, 2020

PURPOSE

The Sylvan Heights Science Charter School (the School) and its Board believe that order and discipline are essential to an effective, caring educational environment and that everyone in the school community must play a role in contributing to an orderly environment. The Board also believes that an orderly school environment requires a code of discipline that clearly defines individual expectations and responsibilities, categorizes unacceptable behaviors, and provides for appropriate disciplinary options and responses.

DEFINITIONS

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.

AUTHORITY

The Board 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.

The Board shall adopt a Code of 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 Board policies and the School's Code of Conduct governing student discipline.

The Board prohibits the use of corporal punishment by School staff to discipline students for violations of Board policies and School rules and regulations.

Any student disciplined by a School employee shall have the right to notice of the infraction.

Suspensions and expulsions shall be carried out in accordance with Board policy.

In the case of a student with a disability, including a student for whom an evaluation is pending, the School shall take steps required to comply with state and federal laws and regulations, the procedures set forth in the Safe Schools memorandum of understanding (MOU) with local law enforcement, and Board policies.

Off-Campus Activities

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

1. The conduct occurs during the time the student is traveling to or from School or traveling to or from School-sponsored activities, 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. In the event the conduct is, or can reasonably be construed to be, expression or speech, the conduct will be regulated pursuant to federal and state laws and regulations and Board policy;
3. Student expression or conduct that materially and substantially disrupts the operations of the School, or the Principal/Chief Academic Officer (CAO) or designee 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, which would violate the Code of Conduct if conducted in School;
5. The conduct involves the theft or vandalism of School property; or
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

Via the School Handbook, which will incorporate the Code of Conduct, the Principal/CAO or designee shall ensure that reasonable and necessary rules and regulations are developed to implement Board policy governing student conduct.

The Principal/CAO 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 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 Conduct, found within the

School Handbook, shall be available in the School office.

The Principal/CAO or designee shall have the authority to assign discipline to students, subject to the policies, rules and regulations of the School and to the student's due process right to notice, hearing, and appeal.

Teaching staff and other 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 this Board, and when such conduct interferes with the educational program of the School or threatens the health and safety of others.

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.

Referral to Law Enforcement and Reporting Requirements

The Principal/CAO 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 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 Safe Schools MOU with local law enforcement and Board policies.

The Principal/CAO or designee shall notify the parent/guardian of any student directly involved in an incident as a victim or suspect as soon as practicable. The Principal/CAO or designee shall inform the parent/guardian whether the local police department that has jurisdiction over the School property has been or may be notified of the incident. The Principal/CAO or designee shall document attempts made to reach the parent/guardian.

In accordance with state law, the Principal/CAO or designee shall annually, by July 31, report all new incidents to the Office for Safe Schools on the required form.

The Principal/CAO or designee shall report to the Board the methods of discipline imposed by staff and incidences of student misconduct, in the degree of specificity required by the Board.

References

20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq.

20 U.S.C. § 7114

24 P.S. § 5-510

24 P.S. § 13-1317
24 P.S. §13-1318

34 CFR Part 300

22 PA Code § 10.2
22 PA Code § 10.21
22 PA Code § 10.22
22 PA Code § 10.23
22 PA Code § 10.25
22 PA Code § 12.1
22 PA Code § 12.2
22 PA Code § 12.3
22 PA Code § 12.4
22 PA Code § 12.5

Board policies: 103, 103.1, 113.1, 113.2, 122, 123, 218.1, 218.2, 220, 222, 227, 805, 805.1