



STONE VALLEY COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL

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POLICY OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Title: Student Discipline
Policy Number: 218
Adopted: September 8, 2016
Revised:

PURPOSE

The Board recognizes that student conduct is closely related to learning. An effective educational program requires a safe and orderly school environment. The purpose of this policy is to establish fair, reasonable, and nondiscriminatory rules and regulations regarding the conduct of all the students in the Charter 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.

AUTHORITY

22 PA Code §12.1 et seq

The Board 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 Board policies and the Code of Student Conduct governing student discipline.

The Board prohibits the use of corporal punishment by school staff to discipline students for violations of Board policies and the Code of Student Conduct.

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

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

DEFINITIONS

Incident—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.

Corporal punishment -a form of physical discipline intended to cause pain and fear, in which a student is spanked, paddled or hit on any part of the body with a hand or instrument.

DELEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

The Director of Education shall ensure that reasonable and necessary rules and regulations are developed to implement Board policy governing student conduct.

The Director of Education shall publish and distribute to all staff, student, 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.

The Director of Education shall develop the Code of Student Conduct and submit to the Board for approval.

The Director of Education shall have the authority to assign discipline to students, subject to Board policies, school rules and regulations, and to the student's due process right to notice, hearing, and appeal.

Teaching staff and other district 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 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 and property.

The memorandum of understanding shall provide for local law enforcement response including, but not limited to, investigation of the incident, interrogation, and custody of the student.

Referral to Pennsylvania State Police and Reporting Requirements

The Director of Education shall immediately report required incidents and may report discretionary incidents on Charter School property, at any school-sponsored activity or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored activity by a student with a disability, including a student for whom an evaluation is pending, to the Pennsylvania State Police, in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations, and the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with the Pennsylvania State Police and Board policies.

The Director of Education shall notify the parent/guardian of any student directly involved in an incident as a victim or suspect immediately, as soon as practicable. The Director of Education shall inform the parent/guardian whether or not the Pennsylvania State Police has been or may be notified of the incident. The Director of Education shall document attempts made to reach the parent/guardian.

Required Reports

The Director of Education shall report to the Board the methods of discipline imposed and the incidences of student misconduct in the degree of specificity required by the Board.

The Director of Operations shall report annually via the Pennsylvania Information Management System (PIMS) process, all new incidents that occurred on school property and involved conduct including, but not limited to, acts of violence, weapons, terroristic threats, controlled substances, and alcohol or tobacco.

The Director of Operations shall submit annually the above-mentioned report, in adherence to the timeline outlined in the PIMS process, to the Pennsylvania State Police for review and comparison with police incident data. Discrepancies shall be resolved in accordance with the procedures outlined in the memorandum of understanding.

President—Board of Trustees

Secretary—Board of Trustees