### POLICY NO. 218
#### STUDENT DISCIPLINE

**Section 1** Purpose

The Board acknowledges that student conduct is closely related to learning. An effective educational program requires a safe and orderly school environment.

The goals of a Code of Student Conduct shall be:

1. To provide for uniformity, fairness and consistency in the disciplinary process.

2. To communicate clearly to students, staff and parents their respective rights and responsibilities and to guarantee these rights.

3. To assist children and youth in developing an awareness of self and to establish a sense of responsibility for the safety, property and welfare of others in the school environment.

4. To assist children and youth in developing patterns of positive social behavior.

5. To establish uniform procedures and supportive action in dealing with disruptive and anti-social behavior in the school.

6. To protect and maintain school property.
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7. To establish an environment of respect for others.

8. To establish a positive learning environment.

9. To comply with state and local laws.

### Section 2  
**Authority**

The Board shall establish fair, reasonable and nondiscriminatory rules and regulations regarding the conduct of all students in the District 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 Student Conduct to govern student discipline, and students shall not be subject to disciplinary action because of race, gender, color, religion, sexual orientation, national origin or handicap/disability.

Each student must adhere to Board policies and the Code of Student Conduct governing student discipline.

### Section 3  
**Guidelines**

Corporal punishment is defined as the infliction of physical force as punishment for a rules infraction. It is 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. **Corporal punishment is not permitted.**

Any student disciplined by a district 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 District shall take 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 Board policies.

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SC 510  
Title 22 Sec. 12.3, 12.4  
Pol. 103

Title 22 Sec. 12.2, 12.3, 12.4  
Pol. 103

Title 22 Sec. 12.2  
Pol. 235

Title 22 Sec. 12.5

Title 22 Sec. 10.23  
20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et seq.  
Pol. 113.1, 825

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Off-Campus Activities

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

1. The conduct occurs during the time the students is traveling to and from school or traveling to and from school-sponsored activities, whether or not via school district furnished transportation.

2. There is a nexus between the proximity or timing of the conduct in relation to the student’s attendance at school or school-sponsored activities.

3. 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.

4. Student conduct materially and substantially disrupts the operations of the school, or the administration reasonably anticipates that the conduct is likely to materially and substantially disrupt the operations of the school.

5. The conduct has a direct nexus to attendance at school or a school-sponsored activity, such as an agreement made on school property to complete a transaction outside of school that would violate the Code of Student Conduct if conducted in school.

6. The conduct involves the theft or vandalism of school property.

Section 4 Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall promulgate rules and regulations for student conduct which carry out the purposes of this policy and are not arbitrary, but bear a reasonable relationship to the need to maintain a school environment conducive to learning; do not discriminate among students; do not demean students; and do not violate any individual rights constitutionally guaranteed to students.

Title 22 Sec. 12.3
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The Superintendent shall annually review with the Board prior to the beginning of the school year, the student discipline rules and regulations that are included in the student/parent handbooks.

The Superintendent 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 on the District website and in the school office.

The building principal shall have the authority to discipline students, subject to the rules and regulations of the Superintendent and to the student’s due process right to notice, hearing and appeal.

Teaching staff members and other district employees responsible for students shall have the authority to take such reasonable actions as may be necessary to control the disorderly conduct of students in all situations and in all places where such 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 self or others.

Reasonable force may still be used by teachers and school authorities under any of the following circumstances: (1) to quell a disturbance; (2) to obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects, (3) for the purpose of self-defense; and (4) for the protection of persons or property. Reasonable force shall not be extreme, excessive or unreasonable in type or purpose.

**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.
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The Superintendent 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 a 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 memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement and Board policies.

The Superintendent 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 Superintendent 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 Superintendent or designee shall document attempts made to reach the parent/guardian.

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

The Superintendent shall report to the Board the methods of discipline imposed by administrators and incidences of student misconduct, in the degree of specificity required by the Board.
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References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 510, 1302.1-A, 1303-A, 1317, 1318

PA Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act – 35 P.S. Sec. 780-102

State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 10.2, 10.21, 10.22, 10.23, 10.25, 12.1 et seq., 403.1


No Child Left Behind Act – 20 U.S.C. Sec. 7114

Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, Title 24, Code of Federal Regulations – 34 CFR Part 300