

# **LEBANON SCHOOL DISTRICT**

POLICY: 218  
SECTION: PUPILS  
TITLE: STUDENT DISCIPLINE  
ADOPTED: July 18, 1994  
REVISED: August 18, 2008  
August 17, 2009  
March 16, 2015  
July 16, 2018

## **218. STUDENT DISCIPLINE**

### **Purpose**

The Board acknowledges that conduct is closely related to learning; an effective instructional program requires a wholesome and orderly school environment and the efficacy of the educational program is, in part, reflected in the behavior of students and employees.

It is the policy of the Lebanon School District that a district-wide climate for learning, free from disruption and safe from violence, shall be established so as to assure that teaching and learning can go on in a constructive environment. Conduct by any student which interferes with the rights of others to learn in peace will not be tolerated.

### **Definition**

**Corporal punishment** shall mean 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.<sup>1</sup>

### **Authority**

#### Code of Student Conduct

The Board shall establish fair and reasonable rules and regulations regarding the conduct and deportment of all students in the school district during the time they are under the supervision of the school or at any time while on

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<sup>1</sup> 22 Pa. Code. 12.16.

school property, while present at school-sponsored activities, and while traveling to or from school and school-sponsored activities.<sup>2</sup>

All students enrolled in the Lebanon School District are expected to conduct themselves in accordance Board Policies, the Guidelines on Discipline, the Code of Student Conduct and the rules of the individual school. Such rules require proper conduct, regular attendance, acceptable quality of scholarship, good relations with others, and acceptable standards of dress and grooming. It is also expected that parents/guardians will cooperate with school authorities in helping students and pupils to maintain such conduct. Therefore, the principals and teachers in the Lebanon School District are directed to maintain such order in the schools as will facilitate learning by the students.<sup>3</sup>

The Superintendent shall publish and provide to all students and their parents/guardians the rules of this district regarding the Code of Student Conduct and the sanctions which may be imposed for breach of those rules. The Code of Conduct shall be adopted by the Board. A copy of such shall be made available in each school library.<sup>4</sup>

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the Code of Student Conduct is enforced by teachers and administrators in each school. Enforcement of these rules may include, but is not limited to, the imposition of disciplinary consequences such as detentions, suspensions or recommendations of expulsion from school.

The Superintendent or designee shall make recommendations to the Board to amend the Code of Student Conduct, as necessary, to ensure compliance with the applicable law and to ensure an orderly educational environment.

### Out-of-School Conduct

Student conduct that either occurs off school property, or outside of the time period when a student is under the supervision of school officials, and violates the Code of Student Conduct may still result in disciplinary action being taken against a student if:

1. 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; or

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<sup>2</sup> 24 P.S. 510; 22 Pa. Code. 12.3.

<sup>3</sup> 24 P.S. 510; 22 Pa. Code 12.3.

<sup>4</sup> 22 Pa. Code. 12.3.

2. The student is a member of an extra/cocurricular activity and has been notified in advance that particular out-of-school conduct may result in the temporary or permanent exclusion from such activities or sports;  
or
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; or
4. 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; or
5. The conduct involves the theft or vandalism of school property.

### Corporal Punishment

The Board prohibits the use of corporal punishment to discipline students.<sup>5</sup>

Teachers and school authorities may place hands on and use reasonable force on a child (with no intent to harm) in the following situations:<sup>6</sup>

1. To quell a disturbance (for example, to separate students who are fighting or, in the teacher's or school authorities' judgment, about to fight);
2. To obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects;
3. For purposes of self-defense; or
4. For the protection of persons or property.

In an effort for further guidance, when a teacher or school authority is attempting to quell a disturbance that does not involve fighting, he or she should give a direct order to the student. If the student refuses to follow through, the teacher or school authority should repeat the order. If the student still refuses, the teacher or school authority may place his or her hand between the student's shoulder and elbow and escort them to the office. Note: if the student resists or breaks away do not grab him or her.

The Board recognizes that despite the use of positive behavioral supports and interventions, there may be instances when the behavior of one or more students escalates beyond the student's immediate control, creating

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<sup>5</sup> 22 Pa. Code. 12.5.

<sup>6</sup> 22 Pa. Code. 12.5.

crisis, danger of violence or self-injury. In such circumstances, a staff member trained in safe crisis intervention may need to restrain a child in a manner consistent with said training and, in said event, those who are trained in safe crisis intervention are authorized to do so while utilizing the specific intervention strategies designed to diffuse the situation and restore order.

### Teacher Authority and Responsibility

Teachers shall have the authority, and it shall be their duty, to make and enforce by reasonable means, rules and regulations to govern behavior and promote learning in their respective classes. Such rules and regulations and the means by which they are enforced are subject to approval by the appropriate administrative officials of the school and of the district.

The teachers shall use their skill and training in helping the student(s) correct undesirable behavior patterns. Teachers shall be expected to be able to handle minor classroom discipline problems themselves. Serious offenses shall be reported to the school principal immediately. The building principal shall be kept informed of repeated violators.

A student who strikes, attacks or assaults a teacher in any way shall be suspended from school immediately, in accordance with procedures in Policy 233. The student will not be readmitted without the approval of the Superintendent.<sup>7</sup>

### **Guidelines**

#### Due Process Procedures for Student Discipline

Teaching staff and other district employees responsible for supervising 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 under the supervision of the District, and when such conduct interferes with the educational program of the schools or threatens the health and safety of others.<sup>8</sup>

A building principal shall have the authority to assign discipline to students, subject to the policies, rules and regulations of the District up to and including a potential recommendation to the Board that a student be expelled from school.

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<sup>7</sup> PA Public Law 167 of 1980.

<sup>8</sup> 24 P.S. 1317.

Any student disciplined by a District employee shall have the right to notice of the infraction. A student shall be offered the required notice and hearing when a suspension or expulsion is being imposed by the District. Suspensions and expulsions shall be carried out in accordance with Policy 233.

The discipline of students with disabilities shall be done in compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and its state and federal implementing regulations.<sup>9</sup>

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.

#### Reporting Disciplinary Infractions

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the District executes a Memorandum of Understanding with local law enforcement officials as required by the Public School Code. The Memorandum of Understanding shall outline when student disciplinary infractions occurring on school grounds shall be reported to local law enforcement.

The Superintendent or designee shall also ensure that the District files all required reports regarding student disciplinary infractions with the Office for Safe Schools at the Department of Education as required by the Public School Code.

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<sup>9</sup> 20 U.S.C. 1400 et. seq.