



Title: Student Discipline

200 Pupils

Code 209

22 PA Code 12.3

22 PA Code 12.4

24 P.S. 510

22 PA Code 12.2

22 PA Code 12.5

22 PA Code 10.23

20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq

24 P.S. 1317

24 P.S. 1318

22 PA Code 10.2

24 P.S. 1303-A

35 P.S. 780-102

22 PA Code 10.21

22 PA Code 10.22

24 P.S. 1302.1-A

22 PA Code 10.25

24 P.S. 1302-E

20 U.S.C. 7114

22 PA Code 12.1 et seq

22 PA Code 403.1

34 CFR Part 300

Mahanoy Area School District v. B.L., 594 U.S. _____ (2021)



Purpose

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

Authority

William Penn Academy shall establish fair, reasonable and nondiscriminatory rules and regulations regarding the conduct of all students in the district.[1][2][3][4][5]

William Penn Academy 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 to Board policies and the Code of Student Conduct governing student discipline.[1][2][4][5][6][7][8]

William Penn Academy shall approve the inclusion of restorative practices in the Code of Student Conduct to address violations where applicable.[10]

William Penn Academy prohibits the use of corporal punishment by district staff to discipline students for violations of Board policies, the Code of Student Conduct and district rules and regulations.[9]

Any student disciplined by a district employee has the right to know the specifics of the infraction and the applicable rule(s) violated.[11]

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 of understanding with local law enforcement and Board policies.[5][7][12][13][14][15]

On-Campus and Off-Campus Activities

This policy and the Code of Student Conduct shall apply to the behavior of students at all times, 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, while traveling to or from school and school-sponsored activities or at other times while riding in school-provided means of transportation ("on-campus"). This policy and the Code of Student Conduct also apply to student behavior that occurs at other times and places ("off-campus") when:[3]

1. The conduct involves, threatens or makes more likely violence, the use of force or other serious harm directed at students, staff or the school environment;
2. The conduct materially and substantially disrupts or interferes with the school environment or the educational process, such as school activities, school work,



discipline, safety and order on school property or at school functions;

3. The conduct interferes with or threatens to interfere with the rights of students or school staff as well as the safe and orderly operation of the schools and their programs;
4. The conduct involves the theft or vandalism of school property; or
5. The proximity, timing or motive for the conduct in question or other factors pertaining to the conduct otherwise establish a direct connection to attendance at school, to the school community, or to a school-sponsored activity. This would include, for example, but not be limited to, conduct that would violate the Code of Student Conduct if it occurred in school that is committed in furtherance of a plan made or agreed to in school, or acts of vandalism directed at the property of school staff because of their status as school staff.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Educational Director or designee shall ensure that reasonable and necessary rules and regulations are developed to implement William Penn Academy policy governing student conduct.

The Educational Director 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 in each school library and school office, and may be included in student handbooks and on the district website.[\[1\]](#)[\[8\]](#)

The building principal shall have the authority to assign discipline to students, subject to William Penn Academy policies, administrative regulations, the Code of Student Conduct and school rules, and to the student's due process rights to notice, hearing, and appeal.[\[7\]](#)[\[11\]](#)[\[16\]](#)[\[17\]](#)

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 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, in accordance with William Penn Academy policy, administrative regulations, the Code of Student Conduct and school rules.[\[16\]](#)



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.^[9]

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.^{[18][19][20]}

The Educational Director 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 William Penn Academy policies.^{[15][18][19][21][22][23]}

The Educational Director 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 Educational Director 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 Educational Director or designee shall document attempts made to reach the parent/guardian.^{[15][18][24]}

In accordance with state law, the Educational Director or designee shall annually, by **July 31**, report all new incidents to the Office for Safe Schools on the required form.^{[15][19][25][26][27][28]}

When a student's behavior indicates a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community or others, district staff shall report the student to the threat assessment team, in accordance with applicable law and William Penn Academy policy.^{[29][30]}