



PROVIDENCE HALL

CHARTER SCHOOL

Discipline Policy

The purpose of the policy is to foster a safe, positive environment for learning by teaching the practice of self-discipline, citizenship skills, and social skills.

- A. At the school, plans and policies shall be developed for classroom and student management, which will include:
 - 1. Written standards for student behavior expectations, including school and classroom management
 - 2. Effective instructional practices for teaching student expectations, including self-discipline, citizenship, civic skills, and social skills
 - 3. Systematic methods for reinforcement of expected behaviors
 - 4. Uniform methods for correction of student behaviors
 - 5. Uniform methods for at least annual school-level data-base evaluations of efficiency and effectiveness

- B. On-going staff development shall be provided for all staff regarding:
 - 1. Effective instructional practices for teaching and reinforcing behavior expectations
 - 2. Effective intervention strategies
 - 3. Effective strategies for evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of interventions

- C. School personnel shall determine the range of student behaviors and establish a continuum of administrative procedures that may be used by school personnel to address student behavior, including:
 - 1. Classroom level strategies
 - 2. Building level strategies

Range of Behaviors and Continuum of Procedures

School building personnel shall determine by consensus student behavior infractions that should be dealt with at the classroom level and building level.

- A. Minor infractions are defined as infraction of school rules that are usually handled by teachers in the classroom. Chronic or excessive minor infractions can become major

infractions and result in office discipline referral to school administration. Minor infractions can result in a loss of privileges, phone calls home, detention, and in-school suspension. The following are minor infractions:

1. Dress code violations (see dress code section)
2. Disrespect, including put downs, talking back, and defiance
3. Public displays of affection
4. Inappropriate language and actions
5. Tardies
6. Disruptive behavior including talk-outs, chronic talking, and out of seat
7. Horseplay
8. Bus misconduct
9. Non-compliance

B. Major infractions are defined as severe infractions of school rules that result in immediate office discipline referrals to school administration and usually lead to out of school suspension. Major infractions include:

1. Safe school violations, including assault, threats to kill/harm, discrimination
2. Drug, alcohol, and tobacco violations
3. Physical aggression including fighting and throwing objects at a person
4. Any criminal action occurring at school such as vandalism, fire setting, possession or use of combustibles, forgery, and theft
5. Chronic or excessive abusive language, truancy, tardies, or non-compliance
6. Bullying and harassment

C. The following school personnel shall be authorized to issue notices of disruptive behavior. These personnel shall provide documentation of habitually disruptive student behavior prior to court referral.

1. Building administrators
2. School resource officers

Prohibited Conduct and Related Discipline

Prohibited conduct is forbidden at school, on school property, including school vehicles, and at any school activity. A serious violation that threatens or harms a school, school property, a person connected with school, or property associated with a person connected with school is forbidden regardless of where it occurs.

A student **WILL** be removed from school **for at least 1 year** for a serious violation involving the following:

1. A real weapon or
2. Explosive or flammable material or
3. Actual or threatened use of a look alike weapon with intent to intimidate or cause disruption.

Exceptions may be made on a case by case basis through the Providence Hall School Board.

A. A student **WILL** be removed from school for the following:

1. Possession, control, actual or threatened use of a real weapon, explosive, noxious, or flammable material;
2. Actual or threatened use of a look alike weapon with intent to intimidate or cause disruption;
3. The sale, control or distribution of a drug, controlled substance, imitation controlled substance, or drug paraphernalia;
4. Using or threatening to use serious force;
5. The commission of an act involving the use of force or the threatened use of force which if committed by an adult would be a felony or class A misdemeanor; or
6. A serious violation of Section II.C affecting a student or staff member.

B. A student **MAY** be removed from school for the following:

1. Willful and/or frequent disobedience or violating a school rule;
2. Defying authority;
3. Disruptive behavior;
4. Foul, profane, vulgar, or abusive language;
5. Defacing or destroying school property;
6. Truancy;
7. Theft;
8. Posing a significant threat to the welfare, safety or morals of a student, school personnel, or the operation of the school;
9. Fighting;
10. Bullying (including, but not limited to, behavior intended to cause harm or distress in a relationship with an imbalance of power, especially if repeated over time);
11. Possessing, using, controlling, or being under the influence of alcohol, a drug, an imitation drug, drug paraphernalia, or misusing any substance;
12. Possessing or using tobacco;
13. Hazing, demeaning, or assaulting someone, or forcing someone to ingest a substance;
14. Inappropriate exposure of body parts;
15. Sexual or other harassment; or
16. Gang-related attire or activity.

The decision to remove or to discipline in some other way is made by the administrator based on all the circumstances.

- C. The type and length of discipline is based on factors such as previous violations, severity of conduct, and other relevant educational concerns.
- D. When appropriate, students will be placed on remedial discipline plans.
- E. School personnel may use reasonable physical restraint, if necessary, to protect a person or property from physical injury or to remove a violent or disruptive student.
- F. If damage or loss of school property occurs, official report cards, diploma, and transcripts may be withheld until payment for the damage is received or the lost property is recovered.

Searches

- A. School personnel may search students, lockers, personal property, and vehicles parked on school property based on reasonable suspicion.
- B. School personnel may also conduct random searches that might include all lockers and other school property.

Suspension and Expulsion Defined

- A. Suspension is disciplinary removal from school with an offer of educational services.
- B. Expulsion is a disciplinary removal from school by the School Board for more than 10 school days without an offer of alternative educational service.

Readmission and Admission

- A. If a student is removed from school readmission depends upon satisfactory evidence that the student will not be a danger to self, others, or school property.
- B. If a student is removed from school the student may be readmitted after the parent/guardian meets with school officials to make a plan to correct the behavior(s) and after the student completes both the days of suspension and any conditions imposed.
- C. The school may deny admission to a student who has been expelled from any school in the last twelve months.

Due Process

- A. If a student is removed from school or otherwise disciplined under this policy, the student has the right to meet with the site administrator to tell his/her side of the story.

- B. If the site administrator recommends removal for more than 10 school days, a member of the Providence Hall school board will hear the case at the school with the student, the parent or guardian, the site administrator, and others as necessary. This hearing will be held within 10 school days of removal from school.

- C. If a student is removed from school for more than 10 school days, an appeal of the decision may be made in writing to School Board within 10 school days of the decision. The parent or guardian is responsible to plan and to pay for any educational services not provided by the school during the suspension.

Students with Disabilities

If a student has a qualified disability, the site administrator will explain the separate procedures that may apply based on the procedural safeguards under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.