



STANDARDS OF STUDENT CONDUCT

The following are standards of student conduct established by the School Board for all students. The consequences of any act are determined on the basis of the facts presented at the reasonable discretion of the Board, its designated committees and other appropriate school officials.

COVID-19: Students are required to follow all mitigation procedures as required by the School Board.

Student Dress

Students are expected to dress appropriately for a K-12 educational environment. Any clothing that interferes with or disrupts the educational environment is unacceptable. Clothing with language or images that are vulgar, discriminatory, or obscene, or clothing that promotes illegal or violent conduct, such as the unlawful use of weapons, drugs, alcohol, tobacco products, nicotine vapor products, or drug paraphernalia or clothing that contains threats such as gang symbols is prohibited.

Clothing should fit, be neat and clean, and conform to standards of safety, good taste and decency. Clothing that exposes cleavage, private parts, the midriff, or undergarments, or that is otherwise sexually provocative, is prohibited. Examples of prohibited clothing include, but are not limited to: sagging or low-cut pants, low-cut necklines that show cleavage, tube tops, halter tops, backless blouses or blouses with only ties in the back, clothing constructed of see-through materials and head coverings unless required for religious or medical purposes.

Additionally, disciplinary action will be taken against any student taking part in gang-related activities that are disruptive to the school environment, which include the display of any apparel, jewelry, accessory, tattoo, or manner of grooming that, by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark, or any other attribute, denotes

membership in a gang that advocates illegal or disruptive behavior.

Parents of students requiring accommodation for religious beliefs, disabilities, or other good causes should contact the principal.

Students not complying with this policy will be asked to cover the non-complying clothing, change clothes or go home.

Attendance; Truancy

Pursuant to Virginia Code §22.1-254, students shall attend school on a regular and punctual basis unless otherwise excused in accordance with School Board policy or procedures.

If a student who is under 18 years of age and has 7 or more unexcused absences from school, the Truancy Officer may initiate court referrals. Legal action can and often does include filling a petition against the student or the parents if the school determines that the parents are not making a reasonable effort to get the student to school regularly and/or against the student if the school determines that the student is refusing to attend school daily.

PCPS realizes that COVID-19 presents many challenges when tracking attendance. Teachers and staff will have to react on the current phase we are in.

Disruptive Conduct

Students are entitled to a learning environment free of unnecessary disruption. Any physical or verbal disturbance which interrupts or interferes with teaching and orderly conduct of school activities, is prohibited.

Profane, Obscene or Abusive Language or Conduct

Students shall not use vulgar, profane or obscene language or gestures or engage in conduct that is vulgar, profane, and obscene or disrupts the teaching and learning environment.

Threats or Intimidation

Students shall not make any verbal, written, or physical threat of bodily injury or use of force directed toward another person. Students shall not use electronic technology or communication devices, such as the internet or cell phones, to intimidate or threaten for any reason.

Assault and Battery

A student shall not assault or commit battery upon another person on school property, on school buses or during school activities on or off school property. An assault is a threat of bodily injury. A battery is any bodily hurt, however slight, done to another in an angry, rude or vengeful manner.

Bullying

A student, either individually or as a part of a group, shall not harass or bully others either in person or by the use of any communication technology including computer systems, telephones, or instant messaging systems. Prohibited conduct includes, but is not limited to, physical, verbal, or written intimidation, taunting, name-calling, and insults and any combination of prohibited activities.

"Bullying" means any aggressive and unwanted behavior that is intended to harm, intimidate, or humiliate the victim; involves a real or perceived power imbalance between the aggressor or aggressors and victim; and is repeated over time or causes severe emotional trauma. "Bullying" includes cyber bullying. "Bullying" does not include ordinary teasing, horseplay, argument, or peer conflict.

Gambling

A student shall not bet money or other things of value, or knowingly play or participate in any game involving such a bet, on school property, on school buses or during any school related activity.

Use and/or Possession of Alcohol, Tobacco Products, Nicotine Vapor Products, Anabolic Steroids, and Other Drugs

A student shall not possess, use, and/or distribute any of the restricted substances listed below on school property, on school buses or during school activities, on or off school property.

A student shall not attempt to possess, use, consume, procure, and/or purchase, or attempt to use or consume, any of the restricted substances listed below or what is represented by or to the student to be any of the restricted substances listed below or what the student believes is any of the restricted substances listed below. A student shall not be under the influence of any of the restricted substances listed below, regardless of

whether the student's condition amounts to legal intoxication.

Restricted substances include but are not limited to alcohol, tobacco products as defined in Policy JFCH Tobacco Products and Nicotine Vapor Products, nicotine vapor products as defined in Policy JFCH Tobacco Products and Nicotine Vapor Products, inhalant products, and other controlled substances defined in the Drug Control Act, Chapter 15.1 of Title 54 of the Code of Virginia, such as anabolic steroids, stimulants, depressants, hallucinogens, marijuana, imitation and look-alike drugs, drug paraphernalia, and any prescription or non-prescription drug possessed in violation of School Board policy.

The School Board may require any student who has been found in possession of, or under the influence of, drugs or alcohol in violation of School Board policy to undergo evaluation for drug or alcohol abuse, or both, and, if recommended by the evaluator and with the consent of the student's parent, to participate in a treatment program. In addition to any other consequences which may result, a student who is a member of a school athletic team will be ineligible for two school years to compete in interscholastic athletic competition if the school principal and the division superintendent determine that the student used anabolic steroids during the training period immediately preceding or during the sport season of the athletic team, unless such steroid was prescribed by a licensed physician for a medical condition.

For the student drug testing policy, refer to JFC-R8.

Vandalism

Students shall not willfully or maliciously damage or deface any school building or other property owned or under the control of the School Board.

In addition, students shall not willfully or maliciously damage or deface property belonging to or under the control of any other person at school, on a school bus or at school-sponsored events.

Defiance of the Authority of School Personnel

Students shall comply with any oral or written instructions made by school personnel within the scope of their authority as provided by Board policies and regulations.

Possession or Use of Weapons or Other Dangerous Articles

Students shall not have in their possession any type of unauthorized firearm or other article which may be used as a weapon, regardless of whether it is commonly accepted as such. (See Policy JFCD Weapons in School.)

Theft

A student shall not intentionally take or attempt to take the personal property of another person by force, fear or other means.

Bus-Related Offenses

Students shall not behave in a disruptive manner or otherwise violate these Standards of Conduct while waiting for a school bus, while on a school bus or after being discharged from a school bus.

Cheating

Students are expected to perform honestly on schoolwork and tests. The following actions are prohibited:

- cheating on a test or assigned work by giving, receiving, offering and/or soliciting information
- plagiarizing by copying the language, structure, idea and/or thoughts of another
- falsifying statements on any assigned schoolwork, tests or other school documents

Trespassing

Students shall not trespass on school property or use school facilities without proper authority or permission, or during a period of suspension or expulsion.

Gang Activity

Gang-related activity is not tolerated. Symbols of gang membership are expressly prohibited (i.e., clothing that symbolizes association, rituals associated with, or activities by an identified group of students).

Harassment

A student shall not harass another student or any school employee, volunteer, student teacher or any other person present in school facilities or at school functions.

Communication Devices

Students may possess cellular telephone, smart phone, tablet, Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) or other communications device on school property,

including school buses, provided that the device must remain off and out of sight from the time the student arrives at school until the end of the instructional day.

The division is not liable for devices brought to school or school activities.

If a student uses such a device in violation of this policy, additional disciplinary sanctions may be imposed and the device shall be confiscated from the student and returned only to the student's parent/guardian.

Reports of Conviction or Adjudication of Delinquency

Any student for whom the superintendent has received a report pursuant to Va. Code § 16.1-305.1 of an adjudication of delinquency or a conviction for an offense listed in subsection G of Va. Code § 16.1-260 may be suspended or expelled.

Laser Pointers

Students shall not have in their possession laser pointers.

Internet Use

Students shall abide by the Pulaski County School Division's Acceptable Computer Use Policy and Regulation. (See Policy IIBEA Acceptable Computer System Use.)

Felony Charges

Students charged with any offense, wherever committed, that would be a felony if committed by an adult may be disciplined and/or required to participate in prevention/ intervention activities.

Bomb Threats

Students shall not engage in any illegal conduct involving firebombs, explosive or incendiary materials or devices or hoax explosive devices or chemical bombs as defined in the Code of Virginia. Moreover, students shall not make any threats or false threats to bomb school personnel or school property.

Hazing

Students shall not engage in hazing.

Hazing means to recklessly or intentionally endanger the health or safety of a student or students or to inflict bodily harm on a student or

students in connection with or for the purpose of initiation, admission into or affiliation with or as a condition for continued membership in a club, organization, association, fraternity, sorority, or student body regardless of whether the student or students so endangered or injured participated voluntarily in the relevant activity.

The principal of any school at which hazing which causes bodily injury occurs shall report the hazing to the local Commonwealth Attorney.

Extortion

No student may obtain or attempt to obtain anything of value from another by using a threat of any kind.

Fighting

Exchanging mutual physical contact between two or more persons by pushing, shoving or hitting with or without injury is prohibited.

Stalking

Students shall not engage in a pattern of behavior that places another person in fear of serious harm.

Other Conduct

In addition to these specific standards, students shall not engage in any conduct which materially and substantially disrupts the ongoing educational process or which is otherwise a violation of federal, state or local law.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Corrective actions are designed to be positive and preventive depending on the severity of the infraction. These options and alternatives are to preserve a safe, non-disruptive environment for effective teaching and learning. The facts and circumstances of each offense are considered fully in determining reasonable corrective actions. Pulaski County Public Schools uses a multi-tiered system of supports when working with students and possible restorative justice practices.

- Counseling
- Admonition
- Reprimand
- Loss of privileges, including access to the School Division's computer system
- Parental conferences
- Modification of student classroom assignment or schedule
- Student behavior contract
- Referral to student assistance services
- Removal from class
- Possible Core Team referral
- Referral to in-school intervention, mediation, or community service programs
- Tasks or restrictions assigned by the principal or his designee
- Detention after school or before school
- Suspension from school-sponsored activities or events prior to, during, or after the regular school day. **Refer to policies JGD/JGE.**
- In-school suspension
- Out-of-school suspension – If a student is suspended, they will have access to their work for completion during and after the suspension.
- Referral to an alternative education program
- Notification of legal authority where appropriate
- Recommendation for expulsion including recommendation for expulsion for possessing a firearm, destructive device, firearm muffler, firearm silencer or pneumatic gun on school property or at a school-sponsored event
- Recommendation for expulsion for having brought a controlled substance, imitation controlled substance or marijuana, synthetic cannabinoids, on school property or at/ to a school sponsored activity
- Evaluation for alcohol or drug abuse
- Participation in a drug, alcohol or violence intervention, prevention or treatment program

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

FERPA is the federal law that protects the privacy of student education (scholastic) records. An education record is defined as those records that contain information directly related to a student and which are maintained by an educational agency or institution or by a party acting for the agency or institution.

FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18, "eligible student," or is enrolled in a postsecondary institution. Parents and eligible students are granted the following rights:

The right to inspect and review the student's education records.

The right to request that a school correct the student's education record if he or she believes information is inaccurate or misleading.

The right to a hearing if the school decides not to amend the student's education record.

The right to place a statement with the education record on what he or she believes is accurate if the school decides not to amend the student's education record.

Schools, generally, must have written consent from the parent or eligible student to release information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows disclosure to certain parties without written consent under certain conditions.

Equal educational opportunities shall be available for all students, without regard to sex, sexual orientation, race, creed, national origin, gender, gender identity, ethnicity, religion, disability, ancestry, marital or parental status or any other unlawful basis. Educational programs shall be designed to meet the varying needs of all students.

Acknowledgement of Receipt Review of the Code of Student Conduct and Compulsory Attendance Law

**All PCPS policies and procedures apply to
students enrolled in the Pulaski County
Virtual Academy.**

I acknowledge:

1. I am aware that the Pulaski County School Board's *Code of Student Conduct* is available on the school website at *pcva.us* and understand that printed therein are Section 22.1-279.3 of the *Code of Virginia* and the PCPS Acceptable / Safe Use of Technology and the Internet. Hard copies are available at each school, upon request.
2. I am in receipt of the Pulaski County School Board's abbreviated version of the *Code of Student Conduct*.
3. I am receipt of the *code of conduct* from the school attended by my child, and I have reviewed its contents with him/her.
4. I have received a letter and information from the school attended by my child outlining the Attendance policies and procedures, and I have reviewed its contents with him/her.
5. That signing below only signifies receipt and review, and furthermore, that by signing this statement of receipt, I am not waiving, but expressly reserving, my rights protected by the constitution or laws of the United States or Commonwealth of Virginia, and my right to express disagreement with a school or school division's policies or decisions.
6. Should I, however, willfully and unreasonably refuse to participate in efforts to improve my child's behavior as required by VA Code 22.1-279.3 I understand that school officials are authorized, under VA Code 22.1-279.3(G), to petition the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.

School _____

Student's Name _____

Grade _____

Student Signature/Date

Parent Name _____

Parent/Legal Custodian Signature/Date

*Please return this page to your child's teacher
with in two (2) weeks of enrollment of each new
school year.*