HAMPTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: STUDENT DISCIPLINE

ADOPTED: February 18, 2004

REVISED:

218. STUDENT DISCIPLINE

1. Purpose

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

Maintaining appropriate standards of discipline is essential for a proper educational environment. It is imperative that all persons responsible for the maintenance of discipline be made aware of this policy, and that discipline procedures are in accordance with established policy.

An important goal of the district is to help students develop self-discipline. Students must learn to control themselves and conform within reasonable limits to the school environment.

Discipline is intended to be developmental rather than punitive. Based upon a belief in the worth and dignity of each individual student, discipline becomes a guiding rather than a punishing device. Unusual punishment or forms of discipline, which tend to destroy a student's self-respect or endanger their physical well-being, shall be avoided.

The Board recognizes that in order to establish and maintain consistent discipline, full cooperation is needed among those people whose influence is felt by the student; i.e. parents, students, teachers and administrators.

2. Authority SC 510 Title 22 Sec. 12.3

The Board shall require each student to adhere to Board policies and the rules and regulations promulgated by the administration and to submit to disciplinary measures appropriately assigned for infraction of those rules. School rules and Board policies shall govern student conduct in school, at school-sponsored activities, and during the time spent in travel to and from school and school-sponsored activities.

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The Board may also regulate student conduct which occurs off school property, which would violate the Student Behavior Expectations and/or student Code of Conduct if committed on school property, and which is directly connected to the student's enrollment in the school district or participation in school activities. To the extent this involves student expression, Policy 220 Student Expression must be followed.

Title 22 Sec. 12.3

The Board shall adopt Student Behavior Expectations and/or a student Code of Conduct to govern student behavior.

Applicable Board policies shall be expressly incorporated into the Student Behavior Expectations and/or student Code of Conduct.

3. Guidelines Title 22 Sec. 12.6 Pol. 233

Any student disciplined by a district employee shall have the right to notice of the infraction and an informal hearing before the building principal prior to being disciplined, and the student may appeal the discipline determination to the Superintendent or designee.

Responsibilities of the Students

- 1. Obey the rules of the school.
- 2. Pursue the prescribed course of study.
- 3. Respect and respond to the authority of all school personnel.
- 4. Be alert and responsive to directions.
- 5. Be courteous to fellow students and all school personnel.
- 6. Respect the rights and property of others.

Responsibilities of the Parents

- 1. Send children to school in a proper state of health and cleanliness.
- 2. Encourage proper attitudes toward learning and respect for school authority.
- 3. Cooperate with school personnel in efforts to improve the student's attitude and behavior.

- 4. Assume responsibility for their children's misbehavior or damage to school property.
- 5. Assume full responsibility for their children's punctual and regular attendance at school.

Responsibilities of the Teachers

- 1. Enforce the policies of the school in maintaining discipline.
- 2. Inform students about standards for classroom routine and behavior.
- 3. Deal with all minor disciplinary problems according to the disciplinary options/ responses.
- 4. Maintain classroom control to ensure that a proper environment for learning prevails.
- 5. Inform students of their responsibilities and privileges in the classroom, on the school grounds, and traveling to and from school.

Responsibilities of the Principals

- 1. Provide and maintain the best possible school environment for learning.
- 2. Provide instruction to faculty and staff in the standards of classroom routine and good behavior.
- 3. Implement appropriate procedures in dealing with extreme or unusual cases of misconduct. This shall include prompt parental notification.
- 4. Provide leadership in developing and establishing building rules and procedures.
- 5. Refer selected problems to appropriate agencies for assistance.
- 6. Work closely with parents and staff on individual problems.
- 7. Maintain discipline records for all students.
- 8. Support staff members in establishing and maintaining adequate student control.
- 9. Assume responsibility for the implementation of Board policy and building procedures.

		Corporal Punishment
		Corporal punishment may not, under any circumstances, be implemented by a district employee as a method of enforcing student discipline.
	Title 22 Sec. 12.5	Reasonable force may still be used by teachers and school authorities under any of the following circumstances: to quell a disturbance, to obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects, for the purpose of self-defense, and for the protection of persons or property.
	18 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 509	In the event a criminal complaint is lodged against a teacher or school authority for exercising reasonable force, the Board will review the facts of the case and will support the teacher or school authority if, in the opinion of the Board, the action was justified pursuant to law.
4.	Delegation of Responsibility Title 22 Sec. 12.3	The Superintendent or designee shall publish and provide to all staff, students and parents the rules for student behavior contained in the Student Behavior Expectations and/or student Code of Conduct and the sanctions that may be imposed for violations of those rules. A copy of the Student Behavior Expectations and/or student Code of Conduct shall be available in each school.
		Building administrators, with their staff, shall develop the individual building procedures to be used in carrying out established policy.
		Board policy and the school building discipline procedures shall be included in the appropriate handbooks.
		All individual school building discipline procedures shall be reviewed by the Superintendent and approved by the Board.
		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.
		Building administrators shall develop, with their staff, programs and procedures to encourage preventive discipline.
		Discipline policy shall be coordinated under the supervision of the Superintendent to ensure that corrective action for all students in the district is just.
	SC 1317	The building principal shall have the authority to assign discipline to students, subject to the policies, rules and regulations of the district and to the student's due process right to notice, hearing, and appeal.

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SC 1317 Pol. 220	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 in all 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. When the conduct involves student expression, Policy 220 Student Expression shall apply.
School Code 510, 1317, 1318	
PA Code Title 22 Sec. 12.3, 12.5, 12.6	
20 U.S.C. Sec. 7114	
Board Policy 220, 233	