



Pittsburgh
Public Schools

Students first

Always, in all ways.



Board Policy Workshop

MAY 14, 2025

CODE OF CONDUCT

Review and Feedback Process



The District met with, or received feedback from, the following stakeholders to discuss the Code of Conduct:

- ACLU
- ELC
- LTF
- PAC
- PPS Discipline Panel

Significant revisions have been undertaken over the past couple of years, resulting in minimal revision requests for the 2025-26 Code of Conduct.

May 14, 2025 Workshop Topic

Code of Conduct

- Student Support & Positive School Culture Guide
- K-5 Student Code of Conduct & Infraction Level Guide
 - No recommendations for revisions by stakeholders
- 6-12 Student Code of Conduct & Infraction Level Guide
 - No recommendations for revisions by stakeholders

Student Support & Positive School Culture Guide

NONDISCRIMINATION NOTICES, pg. 3

Correction of Title IX Officer Title and Contact Information:

Title IX Compliance Officer

Dr. Kymberly Cruz

Pittsburgh Public Schools

341 S. Bellefield Avenue | Pittsburgh, PA 15213

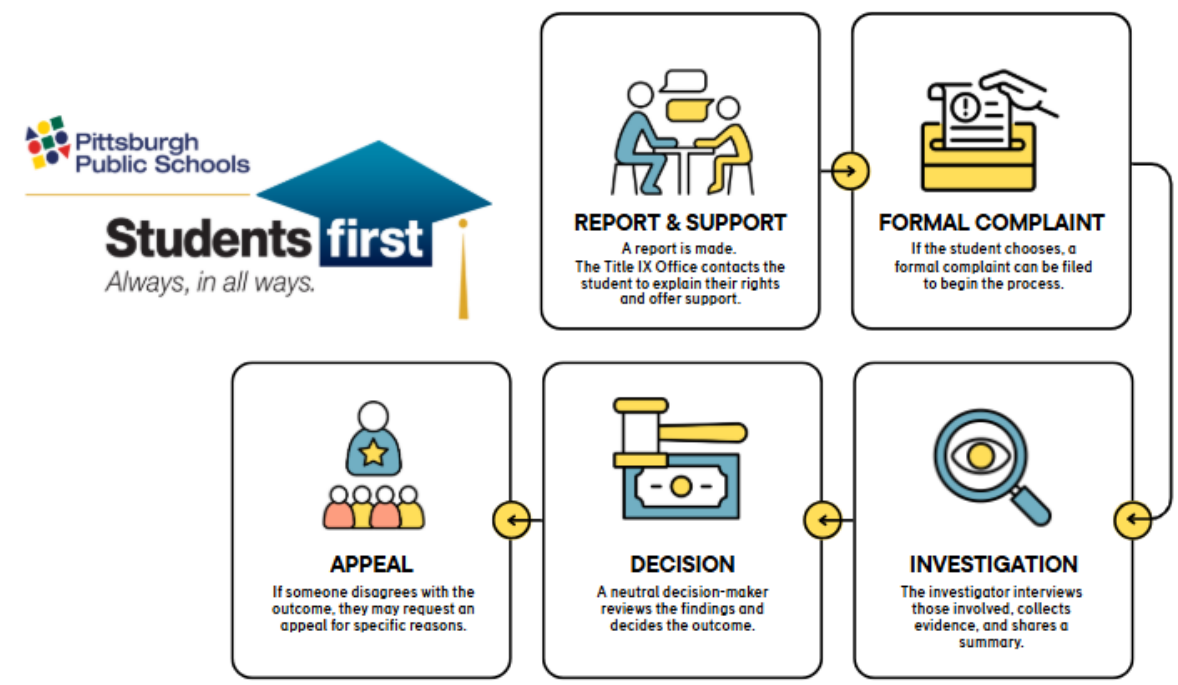
TitleIXComplianceOfficer@pghschools.org

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU REPORT: A GUIDE TO TITLE IX

NONDISCRIMINATION NOTICES, pg. 3 - 5

The Administration included language to strengthen the Non-Discrimination section as it relates to Title IX, to provide context for families or students' understanding of the law.

It includes the definition of Title IX with examples of conduct that may violate Title IX, and a reporting chart.



PROHIBITION AGAINST BULLYING, pg. 6

Updated the titles of X and Tik Tok:

The District prohibits cyberbullying which may wholly or partially occur outside the school setting, and which meets the above-referenced criteria regarding the act's nexus to the school setting or the education of any District student. Electronic acts which may occur on social media, blogs, Facebook, ~~Twitter~~ X , Instagram, Snapchat, ~~Musical.ly~~ Tik Tok, YouTube, and other similar Internet sites which may be created, can result in a violation of District policy.

INVESTIGATION OF BULLYING, pg. 7

Removed Name and added Student Services email to contact information for Compliance Officer for Student Bullying & Harassment

Compliance Office for Student Bullying & Harassment

Office of Student Support Services

341 S. Bellefield Avenue, Room 440

Pittsburgh, PA 15213

studentservices@pghschools.org

Phone: (412) 529-3918

Fax: (412) 622-3954

ISSUANCE OF SUMMARY CITATIONS BY A PPS SCHOOL POLICY OFFICER (SPO)

A moratorium on the issuance of summary citations for PPS students is in effect until a policy and administrative guidelines are created by the Policy Committee in collaboration with the Safety and Operations Committee and authorized by the Board of Education. The moratorium ~~will~~ remains in effect. ~~until no later than November 2023, and may be extended with authorization from the Board.~~

ATTENDANCE pg. 18

PARENT SUPPORT STEPS AFTER ABSENCES

When a student is absent, their parent/guardian receives notice from the school in the parent/guardian's preferred language, on the day of the student's absence. Parents/guardians have 3 school days from the date the child missed school to turn in a written excuse. Until the excuse is received, the absence is treated as unexcused. Parents/guardians can submit an excuse for up to 10 absences per school year. After that, an excuse from a licensed healthcare provider is required for absences due to medical reasons. For absences due to funerals, court, or extraordinary matters, a valid excuse and proof is necessary. **A principal may use their discretion to excuse a student for a temporary period for urgent reasons.**

ATTENDANCE, pg. 19

SCHOOL SUPPORTS STEPS AFTER ABSENCES

PPS will prioritize working together with parent/guardians to eliminate attendance barriers. Before any additional steps are taken, the SAIC must be held, even if the student and/or parent do not attend. If the unexcused absences continue after the SAIC, a referral will be made to the Department of Human Services, or Office of Children, Youth, and Families (CYF) for additional support. **For students 15 years of age or older, PPS may file a truancy citation against either the parent or the student, but not both. For students under the age of 15, PPS may only file against the parent.** A referral to the local magistrate via truancy citation is never required but may be made as a last resort. Penalties for truancy issued by the local magistrate can involve fines, community service, completion of school attendance improvement programs, suspension of student driving privileges, and/or ineligibility to apply for a driver's license for up to 6 months.

DRESS CODE, pg. 21

The District is committed to upholding the Pittsburgh and Allegheny County Crown Acts, also known as the Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair (CROWN) Act, prohibiting discrimination based on nature hairstyles, **textures and hair coverings**, particularly targeting racial discrimination. Furthermore, students have the right to wear protective hairstyles, **including styles that include elements such as headbands, head wraps, bonnets, barrettes or beads**. Students will not be discriminated against on the basis of their hair texture.

School principals are authorized to establish within their school an additional dress code, or a uniform policy as outlined in Board policy and regulations. Schools that implement a prescribed dress or uniform policy at school or school sponsored events will maintain one list of appropriate attire for all students, instead of including lists by gender. Parents/guardians should access their child's school-specific dress code for further information. **Students who are experiencing homelessness under the McKinney-Vento Act will be provided with assistance obtaining a uniform.** Individual school dress code provisions must be consistent with Board policy, administrative guidelines, and this Code of Student Conduct. Specifically, school level dress code must follow the general guidelines in Board Policy 221 – Dress Code. Access Board Policy 221 – Dress Code here: <https://go.boarddocs.com/pa/pghboe/Board.nsf/Public>.

RULES OF STUDENT CONDUCT, BEHAVIOR, DEFINITIONS and INFRACTION LEVELS, pg. 22

Non-Violent Offenses: An infraction or offense that does not necessarily pose a threat to the health, safety or property of others. Non-violent offenses include all Level 1 infractions and the following non-violent Level 2 infractions:

- Unauthorized presence of students during school hours (school or private property)
- Possession or use of tobacco or electronic smoking devices
- Academic dishonesty
- Misuse of computers/electronic device
- ~~Undesirable group activity~~
- Profanity & vulgarity/verbal altercation (to student)
- Profanity & vulgarity/verbal altercation (to staff)
- Inappropriate sexual behavior
- Repeated Level 1 or 2 non-violent infractions that the Threat Assessment Team determines not to be credible

EXCLUSIONS FROM SCHOOL – PROCEDURES, pg. 26

EXPLUSION

EDUCATION DURING EXPLUSION FROM SCHOOL

- Students who are under 18 years of age are still subject to the compulsory school attendance law even though expelled and shall be provided an education.
- Students who have been excluded from school are educated at ~~either the Student Achievement Center or~~ Clayton Academy.
- Students with a disability who are excluded from school shall be provided educational services as required by their IEP and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

EXCLUSIONS FROM SCHOOL – PROCEDURES, pg. 26

EXPLUSION STUDENT'S RIGHT TO A FORMAL HEARING

- A student is entitled to a formal hearing prior to being expelled (i.e., excluded from school for more than 10 consecutive days). Parents or guardians must be given notice by certified mail of the charges and at least 3 days' notice of the time and place of the hearing.
- A copy of the expulsion policy and notice that legal counsel may represent the student and hearing procedures shall be included with the hearing notice. A student may request the rescheduling of the hearing when the student demonstrates good cause for an extension.
- A parent/guardian has the option to waive their right to a formal hearing by accepting the discipline in lieu of proceeding to a formal hearing, **and the parent must be presented with the waiver in writing prior to acceptance.**

Code of Conduct Timeline

- Thursday, May 8, 2025 Pre-Policy Committee Meeting
- Wednesday, May 14, 2025 Policy Workshop
- June 18, 2025 Agenda Review
- June 25, 2025 Legislative Meeting, Board vote





What Questions Do You Have?

Thank You

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