



POLICY MANUAL: CODE OF CONDUCT (1400)

Work Session
March 10, 2026



- The Rochester City School District's updated Code of Conduct was adopted on June 16, 2016. The amendments and additions to the Code of Conduct aim to create a more restorative and less punitive Code, focusing on keeping students in their classrooms and schools. The Code of Conduct was last amended on June 26, 2025.
- As part of its legal requirement, the Board of Education will review the *Code of Conduct* annually at or following the close of each academic year.



ANNUAL REVIEW, DISSEMINATION, & REGULATION

Per Resolution No. 2022-23: 13, the following individuals and groups have the opportunity to recommend Code of Conduct Committee members:

- Commissioners of the Rochester Board of Education
- Superintendent of Schools for the Rochester City School District
- Student Leadership Congress (SLC)
- Bilingual Education Council (BEC)
- Parent Leadership Advisory Council (PLAC)
- Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC)
- Association of Supervisors and Administrators of Rochester (ASAR)
- Board of Education Non-Teaching Employees (BENTE) Local 2419
- Rochester Association of Paraprofessionals (RAP)
- Rochester Teachers Association (RTA)



COMMITTEE MEMBER SELECTION

Robert (Chuck) Allan, Retired – Monroe County
Dept. of Human Services/FACT
Jennifer Banister, Teen Empowerment
Kimberly Brown, AP/ASAR
Myra Brown, Pastor
Nicole Chaffe, Physical Therapist
Tarlon Gibson, Senior Director of Strategic
Initiatives for Community Place
Jaime Lustig – Director of Alternative Special
Education Programs and External Education
Chrissy Miller, Parent/SEPAC
Terri Orden, Executive Director of Accountability
and Student Registration/ASAR
Sharifa Prior, Parent

Lourdes Roa, IBERO/BEC
Veldra Simmons, Sr. School Secretary - BENTE
Fred Tanksley, REAL Team
Rosemary Wilson, Teacher Assistant/RAP

Chair & Co-Chair

*Note: All members on this list attended at least one (1) meeting.



COMMITTEE MEMBERS





STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

- Weekly Code of Conduct Committee meetings
- Administration Review
- Final recommendations forwarded to the Policy COW to follow the policy management process as outlined in Policy 2410

- The school climate survey does not provide data on why respondents feel unsafe at school.
- Based on the data, students are receiving suspensions for behaviors that are not eligible in the matrix (i.e., absences, academic dishonesty, class cutting/skipping, technology violations).
- No data to determine the District's efforts in code of conduct dissemination to ensure awareness for students, families, staff, and community.
- Based on the student panel during a committee meeting, committee members' experience with the District, and the data packet provided to the committee, there is implementation inconsistency across the schools.
- Increased efforts are needed for staff to understand the policy.
- Within the policy, it is not always clear to parents who they should go to for help.
- Need stronger data collection around the effectiveness of intervention and prevention strategies.



COMMITTEE FINDINGS

- All changes are highlighted in yellow.
- Clarified the type of language not allowed when reading out loud to students under the “Principals & Staff Expectations” section.
- Clarified disciplinary response parameters under the “Guidance for Interventions and Disciplinary Responses” section.
- Revised the “Range of Interventions, Disciplinary Responses and Delineation of Authority” section by adding a note in the beginning and updating bullets 3 and 6.
- Revised the “Levels of Interventions and Disciplinary Responses” chart.
- Aligned the codes in the “Matrix Table of Contents” and matrix with the District’s internal reporting system.
- Revised in the “Alternative Instruction” section about virtual instruction.
- Revised the “Prohibited and Permitted Physical Force” section to align with the law.
- Revised the “Data Collection” section.
- Revised the “Annual Review, Dissemination, Regulation” section to align with state legislation.
- Revised paragraph 4 of the “Appendix D – Students with Disabilities” section.
- Revised definitions in “Appendix G – Glossary” section.
- Revised exhibits 1400-E1 and 1400-E2 to reflect changes made to policy 1400.



OVERVIEW OF RECOMMENDED CHANGES

- A separate committee is needed to further focus on school climate and the school climate survey results, such as a School Climate Committee.
- Adding “why” questions to the school climate survey to better understand why respondents worry or do not worry about safety in school.
- Increased awareness of the District’s Family Services website to help families better understand who/where they could go for assistance.
- Look at the effectiveness of intervention and prevention strategies, especially with long-term suspensions, to determine if the list of strategies needs adjusting.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT



NEXT STEPS

- Forwarded out of Work Session to Board Business Meeting
- Policy will follow the policy adoption process outlined in Policy 2410
- Public Hearing: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 5:30pm
- Vote at the May Business Meeting