

CHERRY HILL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Cherry Hill, New Jersey



- Elementary School - Code of Student Conduct

CHERRY HILL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

October 2009

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians:

Because **who** we are as individuals makes up **what** we are together, whether family, school, community, or nation, we have established the following character traits as an overall framework for our district and our schools. We know that we all learn best and most fully in an atmosphere where the opinions and rights of all are honored and respected. Therefore, our core values are:

Respect: The student demonstrates an understanding of respectful behavior, and conducts himself/herself in a respectful manner.

Responsibility: The student demonstrates an understanding of responsible behavior, and conducts himself/herself in a responsible manner.

Citizenship: The student demonstrates an understanding of the importance of knowing and practicing the values, beliefs, and principles fundamental to participation in the United States' constitutional democracy.

We believe in your potential, your ability to learn, the talents you have to share, and the contribution you can make to our schools and to our future as a nation. The following sections will further outline our most important guidelines for making your school life most productive and positive.

David Campbell, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Philosophy

The Cherry Hill Board of Education believes that an effective instructional program requires an orderly school environment and that the effectiveness of the educational program is, in part, reflected in the behavior of students. The emphasis on positive behavior creates an atmosphere of mutual respect and the appreciation of individual differences among staff, students, and parents as well as respect for District and community property.

The Cherry Hill Board of Education expects students to conduct themselves in keeping with their level of maturity, and in such a way as to demonstrate proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students. Students are expected to conduct themselves in keeping with the educational purpose underlying all school activities, including the care of school facilities and equipment. The Cherry Hill Board of Education believes that the standards of student behavior must be set cooperatively by interaction among students, parents/guardians, staff, and community producing an atmosphere that encourages students to grow in self-discipline.

Overview

Many policies and regulations govern the operation of a school district. This booklet will provide students and parents/guardians with an overview of important school and district policies and procedures, including student and parent responsibilities. These important policies and school regulations have been summarized in this reading, while full detailed policies can be found on the district website at www.chclc.org.

Parents/Guardians and students are to read and discuss each segment of the Student/Parent Handbook to gain a complete understanding of what is expected of them and what they can expect of Cherry Hill Public Schools. However, any failure to do so will not excuse pupils or their parents/guardians from compliance with the standards, expectations, and penalties set forth in this Code. It is important to note that the policies, as set forth, are to assist students with the establishment of the boundaries between acceptable and unacceptable behavior. It is to be clearly understood that disciplinary action is the direct result of a student's misconduct. As required, certain infractions will be reported to local enforcement agencies. In addition to the disciplinary consequences, a student may receive support services.

All students, parents, and staff are subject to these guidelines.

This Code of Student Conduct does not address every potential form of inappropriate student behavior. Those not cited in this document will be handled on a “case by case” basis.

Conduct and Discipline Policy

(See Board of Education Policy 5131 for the complete text of this Policy.)

The Cherry Hill Board of Education believes that an effective instructional program requires an orderly school environment and that the effectiveness of the educational program is, in part, reflected in the behavior of the students. The emphasis on positive behaviors creates an atmosphere of mutual respect and the appreciation of individual differences among staff, students and parents for individuals as well as district and community property.

The Cherry Hill Board of Education expects students to conduct themselves, in keeping with their level of maturity, and in such a way as to demonstrate proper regard for the rights and welfare of others. Students are expected to conduct themselves in keeping with the educational purpose underlying all school activities, including the care of school facilities and equipment. The Cherry Hill Board of Education believes that the standards of student behavior must be set cooperatively by interaction among students, parents/guardians, staff and community producing an atmosphere that encourages students to grow in self-discipline and character development.

1. The Superintendent of Schools shall develop general guidelines for student conduct on school property or while attending school events, trips or contests, and shall direct development of detailed regulations suited to the age level of the students and the physical facilities of the individual schools.
2. The Superintendent of Schools or designee shall provide to students and their parents/guardians the rules of this district regarding student conduct and the sanctions that may be imposed for breach of those rules.
3. All students shall adhere to the rules and regulations established by the Superintendent of Schools. Non-compliance will result in disciplinary action.
4. Disciplinary action shall be applied consistently and uniformly with necessary due process in accordance with the regulations of the New Jersey Administrative Code. Staff shall comply with the regulations of the New Jersey Administrative Code when dealing with discipline and/or suspension of classified pupils.
5. Certain infractions shall be reported to the local law enforcement agency in accordance with the District's Memorandum of Agreement which is on file with the Director of Security. Student/Staff confidentiality shall be protected in accordance with federal and state law.

Responsibilities

Students are expected to:

- Know and exercise positive modes of behavior and good manners.
- Accept the responsibility for their own actions and the consequences of inappropriate behavior as outlined in the code of conduct.
- Respect the rights of others, including the right to secure an education in an environment that is orderly and disciplined.
- Adhere to all policies and procedures of the School District.

Every **parent/guardian** is expected to:

- Model positive modes of behavior and good manners.
- Insist on his/her child's punctual and regular school attendance.
- Exercise respect and civility in all interactions with staff, students, and members of the community.
- Explain and discuss the code of conduct with his/her child.
- Reinforce student compliance with the code of conduct.
- Provide emotional, social, and academic support in the student's school life.
- Adhere to all policies and procedures of the school district.

The school **staff** is expected to:

- Model positive modes of behavior and good manners.
- Exercise respect and civility in all interactions with staff, students, and members of the community.
- Maintain a positive learning environment during the school day.
- Explain and discuss acceptable and unacceptable modes of behavior with students and parents/guardians.
- Foster an emphasis on positive behaviors creating an atmosphere of mutual respect and the appreciation of individual differences among staff, students and parents for individuals as well as for district and community property.
- Inform and enforce the discipline structure with students.
- Be consistent in enforcing the discipline structure throughout the school.
- Comply with requirements of New Jersey Administrative Code and District policies and procedures.

Student Conduct Guidelines

In order to help ensure a respectful, responsible learning environment, it is expected that a student shall:

- Be on time and attend every class every day. [See Policy 5113, Attendance.]
- Attain satisfactory academic achievement consistent with the student's ability and complete all homework and other assignments.
- Assume personal responsibility for acting with respect and civility, bullying and harassment in all its forms, is unacceptable. [Policy 5131]
- Exhibit ethical behavior as it applies to tests, assignments and other work for which the student is responsible.
- Abide by school rules that have been developed to assure the safety of all those in the school community.
- Communicate with peers and those in authority with respect and consideration.
- Accept disciplinary consequences with dignity and a resolve to improve one's performance and conduct.
- Comply with Board Policies governing appropriate dress and the proper use of electronic devices.
- Understand and comply with school requirements in relation to bus conduct and appropriate conduct at all school-sponsored activities.
- Respect school property and help to keep it free from damage.
- Refrain from the use of non-prescription drugs at school and at all school-sponsored activities unless necessary for the health and safety of the student in accordance with District policy and procedural requirements, including written authorization provided by the parent/guardian to the school nurse. Students are not permitted to self-administer medication except in certain limited life-threatening conditions. [See Policy 5141.21, Administration of Medication.]
- Refrain from using and/or possessing alcohol, controlled dangerous substances, or other illegal substances at school, on school property or school buses, and at all school-sponsored activities.

To maintain a safe and orderly learning environment in all schools, students are expected to be aware of, understand the seriousness of, and abstain from infractions and unlawful acts as defined in this document.

Student Rights

Students have the right to:

- Advance notice of behaviors that will result in suspension or expulsion. These behaviors are listed under the Discipline Categories section of this Code.
- Education that supports students' development into productive citizens.
- Attendance in safe and secure school environments.
- Notification to their parents/guardians consistent with procedures established by the District for instances of law enforcement agency interviews involving their children, for short-term and long-term suspensions or expulsions, and for attendance-related issues and consequences.
- The due process procedures established by the District for review of conduct which may result in the imposition of short-term suspensions, long-term suspensions, or expulsions. Those procedures are set forth below in this Code of Conduct.
- Appeal disciplinary determinations of District officials or the Board of Education to the New Jersey Commissioner of Education and, where applicable, to pursue the due process rights established in N.J.A.C. 6A:14 for pupils classified as eligible for special education.
- Protections pursuant to 20 U.S.C. § 1232g and 34 CFR Part 99, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; 20 U.S.C. § 1232h and 34 CFR Part 98, Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment; N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7, Student Records; 45 CFR § 160, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act; 20 U.S.C. § 6301, Title IV(A)IV § 4155 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as reauthorized under the No Child Left Behind Act; 42 CFR Part 2, Confidentiality of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Patient Records; N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-7.1, School-based drug and alcohol abuse counseling; information from participants; disclosure; N.J.A.C. 6A:16-3.2, Confidentiality of student alcohol and other drug information; N.J.S.A. 18A:36-19, Creation; Pupil Records: Maintenance and Retention, Security and Access; Regulations; Non-Liability; N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.9, N.J.A.C. 6A:32 Student Records; as well as other existing Federal and State laws pertaining to student protections.

Comprehensive Behavioral Supports

The Cherry Hill School District provides the following comprehensive behavioral supports that promote positive student development and the students' abilities to fulfill the behavioral expectations established by the Board of Education:

The School District offers the following positive reinforcement for good conduct and academic success:

- ***Lion's Quest:*** Lion's Quest serves as the foundation for the District's behavior program. It is a social and emotional skills development curriculum, and addresses pro-social skills in a progressive fashion. These skills build resilience against bullying, drug and alcohol use, suicide, etc.; the lessons include building community, understanding emotions, anger management, crisis resolution, and others. Lion's Quest is provided in the District as a K-8 curriculum.
- The School District also supports and promotes a combined advocacy/education group known as SCOPE – Schools and Community Organized for Parent Education. The presentations and workshops offered by this group complement ongoing school initiatives through parent and community education.

The School District's supportive interventions and referral services include the following:

- ***Intervention & Referral Services*** are provided in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-8.1 *et seq.* The I&RS team provides an individualized monitor outside of regular counseling staff to follow up with students in need of intervention services. Interventions can include behavioral assessments and behavior intervention plans, referral services or working with teachers to provide instructional modifications such as extended time.
- ***Girls' Gab*** assists Fifth and Sixth grade girls in dealing with self-image, transitional and bullying and harassment issues.
- ***Value Options New Jersey*** is the statewide contracted system administrator for the New Jersey Division of Child Behavior Health Services. The District provides referrals to Value Options for furnishing of assessments, supportive services and other interventions to troubled or needy students.
- ***School Nurses*** provide a variety of health professional supports, including support with physical and mental health issues.

Remediation of problem behaviors take into account the nature of the behaviors, the developmental age of the student, and the student's histories of problem behaviors and performance.

For students with disabilities, the behavior interventions and supports are determined and provided pursuant to the requirements of *N.J.A.C. 6A:14*. Students with disabilities are sometimes eligible to receive behavioral supports/services as determined by the IEP team or the Child Study Team. The Cherry Hill Public School District provides these types of services to eligible children based on individual assessments performed by qualified professionals in the field of Behavior Consultation or Behavior Analysis. Individual behavior plans which are designed are based on a positive behavior approach, ensuring that children are learning to modify their behaviors based on positive feedback from adults. Behavior plans may be re-designed as often as necessary as the child grows, develops, and learns to modify his/her behavior over time.

The School District also has procedures in place for the discipline of students with disabilities, designed to implement the relevant mandates outlined in the federal IDEA and *N.J.A.C. 6A:14*. These procedures apply to all students who have been determined eligible for special education and students who have been referred to the Child Study Team for possible eligibility, while that process of identification and/or evaluation is in progress.

Discipline Categories

Discipline guidelines are classified in two separate categories; **Infractions** and **Unlawful Acts**. The abbreviations used in this section can be found in the glossary starting on page 17.

The options listed under each offense category display the range of discipline that can be imposed

Infractions

Infractions primarily refer to those circumstances whereby students fail to comply with school rules or policies that do not fall within the scope of an unlawful act..

Infractions	First or Occasional Offenses	Repeated/Habitual Offenses
Absence from School (Truancy)	Refer to Procedures A-17 Refer to Procedures A-18 Refer to Policy 5113 Refer to Policy 5113.1	Refer to Procedures A-17 Refer to Procedures A-18 Refer to Policy 5113 Refer to Policy 5113.1
Inciting/Baiting - (Inappropriate Behavior / Horse Play) Refer to Policy 5131 Refer to Policy 5114	AD PL PCT Verbal Warning Written Warning OD	AD ISSP OSS (1-3) PL – PCT – PC OD
Individual Student Ethical Performance Refer to Policy 6147.12 (Cheating, Homework Assignments, Test)	AD PL PCT Verbal Warning Written Warning	AD OSS (1-3) ISS Plus a Zero Grade PL – PCT – PC OD
Cutting Class Refer to Policy 5113.1 Refer to Procedure C-4	AD PL PCT Verbal Warning Written Warning OD	AD ISSP (PL – Optional) (PCT – Optional)
Insubordination Refer to Policy 5114	AD PL PCT Verbal Warning Written Warning OD ISSP	AD OSS ISSP PL – PCT – PC OD
Misuse of Computer Equipment: Accessing internet sites unrelated to school business	Discipline based on the degree of damage and severity of incident AD PL PCT Verbal Warning Written Warning OD	AD OSS (1-5) ISSP PL – PCT – PC - SRO

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Infractions	First <u>or</u> Occasional Offenses	Repeated/Habitual Offenses
<p>Altering School Documents or Grades Disrupting or attempting to disrupt school operations</p> <p>Refer to Policy 6142.1 Refer to Policy 6142.12</p> <p>Level of discipline based on the degree of damage and severity of incident.</p>	<p>AD PL PCT Verbal Warning Written Warning ISSP OSS (1-3) OD</p>	<p>AD OSS (1-5) LTS SRO PL – PCT – PC</p>
<p>Failure to Provide Name – Fictitious Name</p> <p>Refer to Policy 5114</p>	<p>AD PL PCT Verbal Warning Written Warning OD</p>	<p>AD ISSP OSS (1-3) PL – PCT – PC</p>
<p>Forged Note/Forgery or Signature</p> <p>Refer to Policy 5114</p>	<p>AD PL PCT Verbal Warning Written Warning OD</p>	<p>AD ISSP OSS (1-3) PL – PCT OD</p>
<p>Leaving School Grounds Without Authorization</p> <p>Refer to Policy 5131 Refer to Policy 5114</p>	<p>AD PL PCT Verbal Warning Written Warning OD</p>	<p>AD ISSP OSS (1-3) PCT PL – PCT – PC OD</p>
<p>Unacceptable Language, Profanity or Inappropriate Gestures Directed at <u>Students</u></p> <p>Refer to Policy 5131 Refer to Policy 5114</p>	<p>AD PL PCT Verbal Warning Written Warning OD ISSP OSS (1)</p>	<p>AD ISSP OSS (1-3) PL – PCT – PC</p>
<p>Unacceptable Language, Profanity or Inappropriate Gestures Directed at <u>Staff</u></p> <p>Refer to Policy 5131 Refer to Policy 5114</p>	<p>AD PL PCT Verbal Warning Written Warning OD ISSP OSS (1-3)</p>	<p>AD ISSP OSS (1-5) PL – PCT-pc OD</p>
<p>Cafeteria Misconduct Throwing Food (Disruptive Behavior)</p> <p>Refer to Policy 5131 Refer to Policy 5114</p>	<p>AD PL PCT Verbal Warning Written Warning OD</p>	<p>AD ISSP OSS (1-3) PL – PCT – PC OD</p>

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Infractions	First or Occasional Offenses	Repeated/Habitual Offenses
Unauthorized Area – No Pass Refer to Policy 5114	AD PL PCT Verbal Warning Written Warning OD	AD ISSP PL – PCT OD
Removed From Classroom for Disruptive Behavior Refer to Policy 5131 Refer to Policy 5114	AD PL PCT Verbal Warning Written Warning OD	AD ISSP OSS (1-3) PL – PCT OD
Dress Code Violation Refer to Policy 5132	AD PL PCT Verbal Warning Written Warning OD	AD PL – PCT ISSP OD
Unauthorized Use of Electronic Devices, Pagers, Cell Phones, Radios, Computer Games - iPods Refer to Policy 5131.72 Refer to Procedure T-17 Refer to 2C:33-19	AD PL PCT Verbal Warning Written Warning OD	AD ISSP PL – PCT-PC
School Bus Conduct: Discipline Administered based on the degree of inappropriate behavior Refer to 18A:25-2 Refer to Policy 5114 Procedure V-6 <u>Optional</u> Loss of Bus Privileges based on the degree of Inappropriate Behavior	AD PL PCT Verbal Warning Written Warning OD	AD ISSP OSS (1-3) Loss of Bus Privileges PL – PCT - PC
Possession or Distribution of Non-prescription Drugs Refer to Policy 5141.21 Refer to Policy 5131.6 Refer to Procedure D-12 Refer to Procedure D-8	AD PL PCT Verbal Warning Written Warning OD ISSP OSS (1-3)	AD ISSP SAC OSS (1-5) PL – PCT – PC

Refer to Policy 5114 for all Administrative Infractions not covered by a Specific Policy or Procedure
Refer to Procedure D-11 Discipline for Classified Students

PCT: Written Parental notice shall be initiated by a school administrator for all Suspension matters.

* All Board of Education Policies can be found at the District Website, www.chclc.org

Unlawful Acts

Unlawful Acts primarily refer to offenses cited in the New Jersey Criminal Justice Code or the General Provision that may require Police intervention, relating to education under the Provisions of Title 18A.

Unlawful Acts	First <u>or</u> Occasional Offenses	Repeated/Habitual Offenses
<p>Arson or any related incidents involving materials</p> <p>Refer to 2C:17-1 (Refer to Fire Watch Program)</p> <p>Administrative discretion based on the degree of damage or severity of incident</p>	<p>AD Written Warning OD ISSP OSS (1-3) LTS PL – PCT – PC - SRO</p>	<p>AD OSS (3-10) LTS PL – PCT – PC – SRO PE</p>
<p>Assault on <u>Student</u></p> <p>Refer to Policy 5114 Refer to 2C:12-1</p>	<p>AD Verbal Warning Written Warning OD ISSP OSS (1-3) PL – PCT – PC - SRO</p>	<p>AD OSS (1-5) LTS – MHE PL – PCT – PC - SRO</p>
<p>Aggravated Assault on <u>Student</u></p> <p>Refer to 2C:12-1</p>	<p>AD OSS (1-5) LTS PE PL – PCT – PC - SRO</p>	<p>AD OSS (5-10) LTS PE PL – PCT – PC - SRO</p>
<p>Assault on <u>Staff</u></p> <p>Refer to Policy 5114 Refer to 18A:37-2.1 Refer to 2C:12-1 Refer to 18A:37-2.2 Refer to Procedure S-15</p>	<p>AD OSS (1-3) LTS PE - PL – PCT – PC - SRO</p>	<p>AD OSS (3-5) LTS PE - PL – PCT – PC - SRO</p>
<p>Possession of a Weapon</p> <p>Refer to Procedure S-15 Refer to Policy 5131.7 Refer to 2C:39-1 Refer to 2C:39-5 Refer to 2C:39-3 Refer to 2C:39-4</p> <p>Administrative Discretion based on the type of weapon</p>	<p>AD OSS (1-3) LTS PE PL – PCT – PC – SRO OD ISSP</p>	<p>AD OSS (3-5) LTS PE PL – PCT – PC - SRO</p>
<p>Possession of Imitation Firearm</p> <p>Refer to Procedure S-15 Refer to Policy 5131.7 Refer to 2C:39-1 Refer to 2C:39-5 Refer to 2C:39-3</p> <p>Administrative Discretion based on the type of firearm and circumstance</p>	<p>AD OSS (1-5) LTS SRO – PC – PL – PE – PCT</p>	<p>AD OSS (5-10) LTS SRO – PC – PL – PE - PCT</p>

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Unlawful Acts	First or Occasional Offenses	Repeated/Habitual Offenses
<p>Assault with a Weapon Student/Staff</p> <p>Refer to Policy 5114 Refer to 18A:37-2.1 Refer to 2C:12-1 Refer to 18A:37-2.2</p>	<p>AD OSS (1-5) LTS PL – PCT – PC – SRO MHE</p>	<p>AD OSS (5-10) LTS/EXP PL – PCT – PC – SRO MHE</p>
<p>Possession of a Firearm</p> <p>Refer to Procedure S-15 Refer to 2C:39-4 Refer to 2C:39-1 Refer to Policy 5131.7 Refer to 2C:39-3 Refer to 2C:39-5</p>	<p>LTS PL – PCT – PC - SRO</p>	<p>LTS PL – PCT – PC - SRO</p>
<p>Use of Fireworks or similar items</p> <p>Refer to 21:3-2 Refer to Policy 5114</p>	<p>AD ISSP OSS (1-5) LTS– PE PL – PCT – PC - SRO</p>	<p>AD ISP OSS (5-10) LTS - PE PL – PCT – PC - SRO</p>
<p>Possession of Fireworks</p> <p>Refer to Policy 5114 Refer to 21:3-2</p>	<p>AD Written Warning OD ISSP OSS (1-3) PL – PCT – PC - SRO</p>	<p>AD ISSP OSS (3-5) PE – LTS PL – PCT – PC - SRO</p>
<p>Terroristic Threats</p> <p>Psychiatric Evaluation or Mental Health Evaluation may be recommended depending on the nature of the threat.</p> <p>Refer to 2C:12-3 Refer to Policy 5131 Refer to Policy 5114</p>	<p>AD ISSP OSS (1-3) PE LTS PL – PCT – PC - SRO</p>	<p>AD ISSP OSS (3-5) PE LTS PL – PCT – PC - SRO</p>
<p>Fighting</p> <p>Refer to 2C:33-2 – Disorderly Conduct Refer to Policy 5131 Refer to Policy 5114</p>	<p>AD PL PCT Verbal Warning Written Warning OD ISSP OSS (1-3)</p>	<p>AD ISSP OSS (1-5) PL – PCT – PC – SRO</p>
<p>Under the Influence of Drugs or Alcohol</p> <p>Refer to Policy 5131.6 Refer to Procedure D-12 Refer to Procedure D-8 Refer to 2C:35-10 Refer to 2C:33-15 Refer to 2C:33-16</p>	<p>OSS (6) SAC Refer to District Substance Abuse Policy Refer Student for Drug Test</p>	<p>OSS(9) SAC Refer to District Substance Abuse Policy Refer Student for Drug Test BOE referral for a Hearing</p>

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Unlawful Acts	First or Occasional Offenses	Repeated/Habitual Offenses
<p>Possession of Alcohol Dangerous Substance or Paraphernalia</p> <p>Refer to Policy 5131.6 Refer to 2C:35-7 Refer to Procedure D-12 Refer to 2C:35-10 Refer to Procedure D-8 Refer to 2C:35-15 Refer to 2C:33-16</p>	<p>OS(10) Optional (based on quantity) & CST, SAC & Principal to refer to the BOE for LTS</p> <p>Refer student for Drug Test</p> <p>Refer to District Substance Abuse Policy PL – PCT – PC – SAC - SRO</p>	<p>OSS(10) Referral to BOE for LTS</p> <p>Refer student for Drug Test</p> <p>Refer to District Substance Abuse Policy PL – PCT – PC – SAC -SRO</p>
<p>Sale or Distribution of Dangerous Substance</p> <p>Refer to Policy 5131.6 Refer to Procedure D-12 Refer to Procedure D-8 Refer to 2C:35-7 Refer to 2C:35-10</p>	<p>OSS(10) Referral to the BOE for LTS SAC - SRO</p>	<p>OSS(10) Referral to the BOE for LTS SAC - SRO</p>
<p>Theft or Possession of Stolen Property</p> <p>Refer to Policy 5131 Refer to Policy 5114 Refer to 2C:20-7</p>	<p>AD Verbal Warning Written Warning OD ISSP OSS (1-3) LTS Regardless of Value PL – PCT – PC - SRO</p>	<p>AD ISSP OSS (3-5) LTS Regardless of Value PL – PCT – PC - SRO</p>
<p>Criminal Mischief or Vandalism (Reimbursement Damages)</p> <p>Refer to Policy 5131 Refer to Policy 5114 Refer to 18A:37-3 Refer to 2C:17-3 Refer to Procedure L-2</p>	<p>AD (Refer to District Policy) Written Warning OD ISSP OSS (1-3) Regardless of Extent of Damage PL – PCT – PC – SRO</p>	<p>AD (Refer to District Policy) ISSP OSS (3-5) LTS Regardless of Extent of Damage PL – PCT – PC - SRO</p>
<p>Fraud or Possession of Counterfeit Currency</p> <p>Refer to Policy 5114</p> <p>Level of Discipline Based on Denomination of Currency</p>	<p>AD ISSP SRO – PCT – PL-PC OSS (1) Verbal Warning Written Warning Community Service</p>	<p>Regardless of Monetary Amount</p> <p>OSS – (1-5) LTS PCT - PC – SRO – PL</p>
<p>Use of Tobacco Products</p> <p>Refer to Procedure T-14 Refer to Policy 3515 Refer to Policy 5114 Refer to 2A:4A-23 Refer to 2C:33-13</p>	<p>AD Refer to Procedure T-14 Encouraged to attend Smoking Cessation Program (at parent’s expense) PC – SRO Written Warning Referral to SAC</p>	<p>AD Refer to Procedure T-14 Required to attend Smoking Cessation Program (at parent’s expense) PC – SRO Written Warning Signed & Sent to Municipal Court Referral to SAC</p>

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Unlawful Acts	First <u>or</u> Occasional Offenses	Repeated/Habitual Offenses
<p>Possession of Tobacco Products</p> <p>Refer to Policy 5114 Refer to Policy 3515 Refer to 2C:33-13 Refer to 2A:4A-23 Procedure T14</p>	<p>AD Refer to Procedure T-14 Encouraged to attend Smoking Cessation Program (at parent's expense) PC – SRO Written Warning Referral to SAC</p>	<p>AD Refer to Procedure T-14 Required to attend Smoking Cessation Program (at parent's expense) PC – SRO Written Warning Signed & Sent to Municipal Court Referral to SAC</p>
<p>False Public Alarm (False 911 Call) -False Fire Alarm (Referral to Fire Watch Program) Refer to Policy 5114 Refer to 2C:33-3 Refer to 2C:33-3.1</p>	<p>AD OSS – (10) Days SRO – PC – PL – PCT</p>	<p>Optional OSS – (10) Days PCT - SRO – PC – PL – CST LTS - AEP</p>
<p>Robbery (No Weapon) Depending on nature of the incident</p> <p>Refer to Policy 5114 Refer to 2C:15-1</p>	<p>AD OSS – (1-3) SS (5-10) Days PCT - SRO – PC –PL</p> <p>Depending on the nature of the incident</p>	<p>OSS – (10) Days AEP - LTS PCT -SRO – PC – PL – PE</p>
<p>Robbery with Weapon</p> <p>Refer to Policy S-15 Refer to Policy 5114 Refer to 2C:15-1</p>	<p>OSS – (5-10) LTS PCT - SRO – PC – PL PE</p>	<p>OSS – (10) LTS PCT -SRO – PC – PL PE</p>
<p>Sexual Contact Offense</p> <p>Refer to Policy 4111.1/4211.1 Refer to Procedure S-31 Refer to Policy 5114 Refer to 2C:14-3 Refer to 2C:33-4</p> <p>A Psychological Evaluation may be recommended depending on the nature of the incident.</p> <p>DYFS Notification if Applicable</p>	<p>AD DYFS Notification if Applicable</p> <p>ISSP OSS (1-3)</p> <p>Depending on nature of incident</p> <p>SRO – PC – PL – PCT – AAO PE</p>	<p>AD DYFS Notification if Applicable</p> <p>OSS – (3-5) LTS PCT - SP – PC – PL AAO PE</p>
<p>Sexual Assault Offense</p> <p>Refer to Policy 4211.1 Refer to Policy 4111.1/4211.1 Refer to Policy S-31 Refer to Policy 5114 Refer to 2C:14-2</p> <p>A Psychological Evaluation shall be recommended depending on the nature of the incident.</p> <p>DYFS Notification if Applicable</p>	<p>OSS (10) PCT – SP – PC – PL – AAO - PE LTS</p>	<p>OSS (10) PCT – SP – PC – PL – AAO - PE LTS</p>

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Unlawful Acts	First or Occasional Offenses	Repeated/Habitual Offenses
<p>Lewdness</p> <p>Refer to 2C:14-4</p> <p>A Psychological Evaluation may be recommended depending on the nature of the incident.</p>	<p>AD</p> <p>OSS (1-3)</p> <p>ISSP</p> <p>SRO – PCT – PL – PE – AAO</p>	<p>AD</p> <p>OSS (3-5)</p> <p>SRO – PCT – PL – PC – PE – AAO</p> <p>LTS</p>
<p>Bomb Threat</p> <p>Refer to 2C:33-1</p> <p>Refer to 2C:33-3</p> <p>Refer to 2C:39-3</p>	<p>AD</p> <p>OSS (5-10)</p> <p>LTS</p> <p>PCT - PC – PL - SRO</p>	<p>OSS (10)</p> <p>LTS</p> <p>PCT - PC – PL - SRO</p> <p>PE</p>
<p>Possession of Stink Bombs, Smoke Bombs, or Dangerous Explosives</p> <p>Refer to Policy 5131.7</p> <p>Refer to Policy 5131</p> <p>Refer to 2C:39-3</p> <p>Refer to 2C:30-3</p> <p>Level of Discipline Based on Type of Device</p>	<p>AD</p> <p>ISSP</p> <p>OSS (1-3)</p> <p>PCT - PL - PC - SRO</p>	<p>OSS (10)</p> <p>LTS</p> <p>PCT - PC – PL - SRO</p>
<p>Use of Explosive Devices (Stink Bombs, Smoke Bombs, or Dangerous Explosives)</p> <p>Refer to Policy 5131</p> <p>Refer to Policy 5131.7</p> <p>Refer to 2C:39-3</p> <p>Level of Discipline Based on Type of Device</p>	<p>AD</p> <p>OSS (3-5)</p> <p>ISSP</p> <p>PCT – SRO – PL - PC</p> <p>LTS will apply if a device is classified as a dangerous explosive</p>	<p>OSS (10)</p> <p>PCT – SRO – PL – LTS - PC</p> <p>LTS will apply if a device is classified as a dangerous explosive</p>
<p>Gambling</p> <p>Refer to Policy 5114</p> <p>Refer to 2C:37-2</p>	<p>AD</p> <p>PL – PCT – PC - SP</p> <p>Verbal Warning</p> <p>Written Warning</p> <p>SAC</p>	<p>AD</p> <p>OSS (1)</p> <p>SRO - PCT – PL</p> <p>Refer for Counseling SAC</p>
<p>Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying</p> <p>Refer to Policy 5131</p> <p>Refer to 2C:33-4</p> <p>Refer to Procedure B-10</p> <p>Level of Discipline based on the Severity of HIB Behavior</p>	<p>AD</p> <p>ISSP</p> <p>OSS (1-5)</p> <p>SRO –PCT</p> <p>AAO</p> <p>PL – PCT – PC</p> <p>Verbal Warning</p> <p>Written Warning</p>	<p>AD</p> <p>OSS (3-5)</p> <p>PC - SAC – AAO –PCT - SRO</p>
<p>Hazing</p> <p>Refer to Policy 5131.1</p> <p>Refer to 2C:40-3</p> <p>Administrative Discretion: Student may be Suspended from School Program If Applicable</p>	<p>AD</p> <p>OSS (1-3)</p> <p>PCT – SRO – AAO</p> <p>ISSP</p> <p>PL – PCT – PC</p>	<p>AD</p> <p>OSS (3-5)</p> <p>PCT - SRO – PL - PC</p> <p>AAO - LTS</p>

CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

Unlawful Acts	First or Occasional Offenses	Repeated/Habitual Offenses
<p>Racial Harassment - Bias Incident/Stalking</p> <p>Refer to Policy 5131 Refer to 2C:16-1 Refer to 2C:33-4 Refer to 2C:12-10</p>	<p>AD ISSP PCT - SRO - PL - SAC AAO - PC OSS (1-3)</p>	<p>AD OSS (3-5) PCT - SRO - SAC - PL AAO - PC</p>
<p>Sexual Harassment</p> <p>Refer to Policy 5131 Refer to 2C:16-1 Refer to 2C:33-4 Refer to Procedure S-31 Refer to Policy 4111.1/4211.1</p>	<p>AD OSS (1-3) ISSP PCT - SRO - PL - SAC - PC AAO OSS (3-5) Days</p>	<p>AD OSS (5-10) Days LTS PCT - PC - SRO - SAC AAO</p>
<p>Malicious Damage to Property Criminal Mischief Discharge of Fire Extinguisher - Vandalism</p> <p>Refer to Policy 5131 Refer to Policy 5113 Refer to 18A:37-3 Refer to 2C:17-3</p> <p>Reimbursement for Damages Level of Discipline based on Extent of Damage</p>	<p>AD <u>Under - \$500 in Damages</u> Optional ISSP OSS (1-3) OD</p> <p>\$500 or more Damages OSS (3-5) Days LTS PCT - PL - SRO - PC</p>	<p>AD OSS (5-10) Days PCT - PC - PL - SRO - LTS</p> <p>Regardless of monetary cost for damages</p>
<p>Burglary to school property</p> <p>Refer to 2C:18-2 Refer to 2C:18-3</p> <p>Depending on the dollar value of loss and or damages</p>	<p>AD OSS (1-5) PL - PCT - SRO - PC LTS ISSP</p>	<p>Optional OSS (5-10) PL - PCT - SRO - PC LTS</p>
<p>Possession of Remotely Activated Paging Device on School Property</p> <p>Refer to 2C:33-19 Refer to Policy 5131.7</p>	<p>AD Verbal Warning Written Warning</p>	<p>AD ISSP OSS (1) PL-PCT-SRO</p>

Refer to Policy 5114 for all Administrative Infractions not covered by a Specific Policy or Procedure
Refer to Procedure D-11 Discipline for Classified Students

**PCT: Written Parental notice shall be initiated by a school administrator for all Suspension matters.*

**CST: Shall be consulted for all matters involving Special Education Students*

*All Board of Education Policies can be found at the District Website, www.chclc.org

Glossary of Terms

AAO: Affirmative Action Officer:

Reports of sexual harassment shall be reported to the principal or designee. The Principal or designee shall make notification to the Building Affirmative Action Officer. The Affirmative Action Officer shall promptly investigate any complaints of harassment, intimidation, bullying and sexual harassment and shall initiate the appropriate corrective action when deemed necessary. **(Refer to Board Policy 5131, 5114, 4111.1/4211.1 and Administrative Procedure S-31 and B-10 located in the Appendix)**

AD: Administrative Discretion:

This category is the lowest degree of student discipline contained in the school district's Code of Conduct. Discretion is intended to allow School Administrators the latitude to impose reasonable disciplinary measures for minor infractions of school rules committed by students. Some suggested measures for elementary schools are Verbal or Written Warnings, After School Behavioral Program and Community Service performed within the scope of the school environment.

AEP: Alternative Educational Program:

School Administrators have the latitude to assess a student's academic performance and behavioral history in consultation with CST Staff, Counselors and the Director of Special Education to determine if an Alternative Educational Program will serve in the best interest of the student and school community.

CST: Child Study Team: (Referral)

The Child Study Team shall be consulted on all discipline matters involving students who are classified under the category of Special Education.

DAO: District Attendance Officer:

An intervention team consisting of Guidance Counselor, Child Study Team (if applicable) and the appropriate School Administrator shall make every effort to remedy cases involving student tardiness or absenteeism. The intervention process should include conferences with parents or guardians and well documented notices of excessive tardiness and unexcused absenteeism. If all preliminary measures to resolve a students' unexcused absenteeism have been exhausted, the principal or designee shall refer the matter to the District's Attendance Officer for follow-up. The Attendance Officer may initiate legal action, if applicable, under the provisions of the Compulsory Education Act. The Attendance Officer Referral Form shall be completed and submitted to the Attendance Officer for all follow-up investigations.

Glossary of Terms

EXP: Expulsion:

The Board of Education may expel a student; that is, to discontinue educational services or discontinue payment for educational services, for a general education student from school only after the Board of Education has provided due process rights set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A-16-7.3 and 7.4 subsequent to long term suspension.

ISSP: In School Suspension Program:

The In School Suspension Program is a self-contained classroom environment. The intent is to provide students with an alternative to out of school suspension.

LTS: Long Term Suspension (Recommendation): (Policy 5114)

The Principal may make a recommendation to the Superintendent for a student to receive a long term suspension for committing an act of violent behavior, a serious violation of school regulations, and/or for an unlawful act which creates a dangerous or unsafe condition for students, guests/visitors or school staff. **(Refer to Board Policy 5114 Administrative Procedure S-16 entitled Guidelines for Suspension and Expulsion located in the Appendix)**

MHE: Mental Health Evaluation:

The Principal or designee has the discretion to require a student to make an appointment with a Mental Health Professional in those circumstances when the principal or designee deem the recommendation is appropriate for the safety and welfare of the student or other students or staff. This includes, but is not limited to, when a student demonstrates violent behavior in the form of verbal threats, physical confrontation or a weapons offense. The parent or guardian has the option to utilize the services provided by Steinger Crisis Center located at Kennedy Health Systems or choose their own Mental Health Professional. The family is required to produce written documentation from a Mental Health Professional that he or she poses no safety concerns to him or herself or to others. Parents or guardians are responsible for all costs for a Mental Health Evaluation. **Refer to draft Procedure S-12.**

OD: Office Detention:

An office detention is a self-contained classroom environment that is typically held after school. Administrators may, however, assign the OD at any time during the day at their discretion.

OSS: Out of School Suspension:

The Principal or designee has the authority to suspend a student for violation of school policies/regulations or for committing an unlawful act. Principals may suspend a regular education student for a maximum of ten (10) school days to include five (5) days home instruction. The Principal or designee should consult with the Child Study Team in all discipline matters involving Classified Students. All recommendations by the Principal to extend a suspension period beyond ten (10) days shall be referred to the Superintendent by the Principal.

Glossary of Terms

PC: Parent/Guardian Conference:

When a student has been suspended, the Principal or designee may require the parent or guardian and the student to attend a re-admittance conference with the appropriate school administrator, as a condition for returning to school.

PCT: Parent/Guardian Contact: (Telephone)

The Principal or designee shall initiate a telephone contact to the parent/guardian of a student who has been suspended. The parent/guardian shall be informed of the reason for suspension as well as the terms for suspension. A letter documenting the reason for suspension and number of days suspended shall also be sent to the student's parent or guardian, in addition to the telephone contact.

PE: Psychological Evaluation:

The Principal or designee has the discretion to refer a student for a Psychological Evaluation in those circumstances when a student demonstrates physical threats to him or herself or others for the health and safety of the student and school. If the Principal or designee recommends a referral, for Psychological Evaluation, the student shall not return to school until the Principal receives a written report from a Licensed Mental Health Professional, usually a Psychiatrist, that the student poses no threat to him/herself or others within the school community. **Refer to Administrative Procedure S-12**

PL: Parent/Guardian Letter:

A letter from the appropriate school administrator shall be sent to the parent or guardian of the suspended student. The letter shall document the reason(s) for suspension and the number of days the student has been suspended. Recommendations for suspension beyond ten (10) days shall be referred to the Superintendent for review.

SAC: Student Assistance Counselor (SAC): (Referral)

The Principal may refer a student to a Student Assistance Counselor (SAC) as a condition of suspension or an alternative to suspension. The SAC may coordinate a support meeting with other members of the school staff to include School Counselors, Child Study Team, Psychologist, Mental Health Professional or I&RS Team

SRO: School Resource Officer:

The Director of Security should be notified in lieu of the School Resource Officer.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
Cherry Hill, New Jersey**

Policy 5131

CODE OF CONDUCT

The Cherry Hill Board of Education believes that an effective instructional program requires an orderly school environment and that the effectiveness of the educational program is, in part, reflected in the behavior of the students. The emphasis on positive behaviors creates an atmosphere of mutual respect and the appreciation of individual differences among staff, students and parents for individuals as well as district and community property.

The Cherry Hill Board of Education expects students to conduct themselves, in keeping with their level of maturity, and in such a way as to demonstrate proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students. Students are expected to conduct themselves in keeping with the educational purpose underlying all school activities, including the care of school facilities and equipment. The Cherry Hill Board of Education believes that the standards of student behavior must be set cooperatively by interaction among students, parents/guardians, staff and community producing an atmosphere that encourages students to grow in self-discipline and character development.

1. The Superintendent of Schools shall develop general guidelines for student conduct on school property and shall direct development of detailed regulations suited to the age level of the students and the physical facilities of the individual schools.
2. The Superintendent of Schools or designee shall provide to students and their parents/guardians the rules of this district regarding student conduct and the sanctions that may be imposed for breach of those rules.
3. All students shall adhere to the rules and regulations established by the Superintendent of Schools. Non-compliance will result in disciplinary action.
4. Disciplinary action shall be applied consistently and uniformly with necessary due process in accordance with the regulations of the New Jersey Administrative code. Staff shall comply with the regulations of the New Jersey Administrative code when dealing with discipline and/or suspension of classified pupils.
5. Certain infractions shall be reported to the local law enforcement agency in accordance with the District's Memorandum of Agreement that is on file with the Director of Security. Student/Staff confidentiality shall be protected in accordance with federal and state law.

Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying

The Cherry Hill Board of Education expects pupils, staff members and community to treat one another with civility and respect, and will not tolerate acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying. Like other disruptive or violent behaviors, this conduct interferes with an individual's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate its pupils in a safe environment.

Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying (Cont'd)

“Harassment, intimidation or bullying” (HIB) is defined as any gesture or written, verbal, electronic communication or physical act that is reasonably perceived as being motivated either by any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical or sensory handicap, or by any other distinguishing characteristic, that takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function or on a school bus. The policy and procedures may address and impose consequences for acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying that occur off school grounds, such as cyber-bullying (e.g., the use of electronic or wireless devices to harass, intimidate or bully), to the extent that the policy comports with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6, Conduct away from school grounds, and the Cherry Hill Board of Education’s code of student conduct, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16:7.1. In all instances of HIB behavior occurring off school grounds, the consequences may be exercised when it is reasonably necessary for the victim and offending student’s physical or emotional safety and well-being or for reasons relating to the safety and well-being of other students, staff or school grounds, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:25-2 and 18A:37-2, and when the conduct which is the subject of proposed consequence materially and substantially interferes with the requirements of appropriate discipline in the operation of the school. All acts of HIB that include the use of school property (e.g., school computers, other electronic or wireless communication devices) apply to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-14-15 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.9, HIB, whether the subject or recipient of the bullying is on or off school property.

The Cherry Hill Board of Education prohibits acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying against any pupil on school property, at any school sponsored activity or while using district provided transportation.

Examples of bullying and harassment may include:

- Verbal abuse including name-calling, racist remarks, teasing, etc.
- Physical attacks including pushing, hitting, punching, hair pulling, scratching, spitting, etc.
- Social exclusion including ostracism, ignoring, alienating, etc.
- Psychological abuse including acts that instill a sense of fear or anxiety
- Any other act that has the effect of insulting or demeaning any individual or group of individuals in such a way as to cause distress, a reluctance to attend school, a decline in work standards or problem behaviors
- The use of electronic communication devices that include, but are not limited to, a telephone, cellular phone (e.g. text), computer (e.g. Instant Messaging, email) to harass, intimidate or bully.

The Cherry Hill Board of Education requires the principal and/or the principal's designee at each school to be responsible for receiving complaints alleging violations of this policy. All school employees as well as all other members of the school community, including students, parents, volunteers and visitors, shall report alleged violations of this policy to the principal/designee. While submission of the Incident Report form is not required, the reporting party is encouraged to use the report form available from the principal of each building. Oral reports also shall be considered official reports. Reports may be made anonymously, but formal action for violations of the code of student conduct *may not* be based solely on the basis of an anonymous report. N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15(3)(b)(5) and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.9 (a)2vii

The Cherry Hill Board of Education recognizes that some acts of HIB may be isolated incidents requiring that the school respond appropriately to the individuals committing the acts. Other acts may be so serious or parts of a larger pattern of HIB that they require a response either at the classroom, school building, district level, or by law enforcement officials. Consequences and appropriate remedial actions for a student who commits an act of HIB may range from positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension or expulsion, as permitted under N.J.S.A. 18A:37-1, Discipline of Pupils as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.2, Short-term suspensions, N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.3, Long-term suspensions and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.5, Expulsions. In considering whether a response beyond the individual is appropriate, the administrator shall consider the nature and circumstances of the act, the degree of harm, the nature and severity of the behavior, past incidences or past continuing patterns of behavior, and the context in which the alleged incident(s) occurred.

The Cherry Hill Board of Education prohibits reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports an act of HIB. The consequence and appropriate remedial action for a person who engages in reprisal or retaliation shall be determined by the administrator after consideration of the nature, severity and circumstances of the act, in accordance with case law, Federal and State statutes and regulations N.J.S.A 18A:37-15(3)(b)(8) and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.9(a)2x.

The Cherry Hill Board of Education requires school officials to annually disseminate the policy to all school staff, students and parents along with a statement explaining that it applies to all applicable acts of HIB that occur on school property, at school sponsored functions or on a school bus. The Superintendent of Schools shall develop an annual process for discussing the policy on HIB with students. The HIB policy and procedure will also be posted on the district and school's websites.

The Cherry Hill Board of Education requires its school administrators to develop and implement procedures that ensure *both* the appropriate consequences and remedial responses to a student or staff member who commits one or more acts of HIB. The following factors, at a minimum, shall be given full consideration by school administrators in the development of the procedures for determining appropriate consequences and remedial measures for each act of HIB.

Factors for Determining Consequences

- Age, developmental and maturity levels of parties involved;
- Degrees of harm;
- Surrounding circumstances;
- Nature and severity of the behaviors;
- Incidents of past or continuing patterns of behavior;
- Relationships between the parties involved; and
- Context in which the alleged incidents occurred.

Factors for Determining Remedial Measures*Personal*

- Life skill deficiencies;
- Social relationships;
- Strengths;
- Talents;
- Interests;
- Hobbies;
- Extra-curricular activities;
- Classroom participation; and
- Academic performance.

Environmental

- School culture;
- School climate;
- Student-staff relationships and staff behavior toward the student;
- General staff management of classrooms or other educational environments;
- Staff ability to prevent and manage difficult or inflammatory situations;
- Social-emotional and behavioral supports;
- Social relationships;
- Community activities;
- Neighborhood situation; and
- Family situation.

For students with disabilities, subject to Individualized Education Programs in accordance with 20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq., the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act, and accommodation plans under 29 U.S.C. 794 and 705 (20), the code of student conduct shall be implemented in accordance with the components of the applicable plans.

Implementation

The Superintendent of Schools shall ensure that the rules for this policy are applied consistently and uniformly, and that all disciplinary sanctions are carried out with necessary due process.

The board shall review all related policies on a regular basis.

Adopted: 12/21/99

Revised: 8/26/03, 6/26/07, 2/24/09

CHERRY HILL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Cherry Hill, New Jersey

S-15

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE
SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS

A. SUSPENSIONS

The building principal is the only school official who may suspend a student. The building principal may delegate to an assistant, who holds the appropriate certificate and endorsement, authority to implement and administer procedures that lead to suspension. The building principal, however, must assume full responsibility for ensuring that due process is afforded to a student in each case.

The term “suspension” shall include in-school suspensions, short-term suspensions and long-term suspensions. A short-term suspension is defined as an out-of-school suspension for a period not to exceed ten (10) consecutive school days and may be imposed by the building principal. A long-term suspension is defined as an out of school suspension in excess of ten (10) consecutive school days. Parents or guardians are to be informed immediately of all suspensions.

It is anticipated that, in the absence of specific, egregious violations, lesser penalties shall be imposed upon a student who violates school rules, District policies or the Student Code of Conduct. Principals shall conduct conferences with students, parents, teachers, and pupil services staff as part of their responsibility for attempting to resolve problems involved in student discipline.

Grades cannot be lowered as a disciplinary sanction or because of work missed while the student was suspended. The student must be given the opportunity to make up the work missed because of an out of school suspension. However, a student may be denied credit for a course where the student is excluded from class for disciplinary reasons, has cut classes, had excessive absences or otherwise does not meet the requirements for course credit.

Before any suspension is imposed, the building principal must determine whether the student is classified or *recently* has been, or should be, referred to the Child Study Team for evaluation. If the incident involves such a student, the procedures set forth in Section F1 of this document shall be followed.

The building principal or designee must document his/her investigation of the incident giving rise to the discipline, including the names of any witnesses, reports and/or copies of any statements made by any student/staff, any student admission(s), any involvement of law enforcement officers, and all steps taken during the investigation.

If the student is a general education student, the building principal shall provide the student with either oral or written notice of the charges as soon as practicable and immediately hold an informal hearing with the student, i.e., the student shall be given an explanation of the evidence of the violation and be given the opportunity to explain the situation. The building principal shall then

determine, on the basis of the incident itself, or in conjunction with the student’s past disciplinary history, whether an in-school, short-term or long-term suspension is warranted.

If the student’s continued presence in school poses a continuing danger to District property, staff or students, or threatens to interrupt the educational process, the building principal may suspend the student immediately and have the student removed from District property. In such an event, the informal hearing shall be held as soon as practicable, but in no case more than *two* days after the initial suspension. All students being removed from District property shall be supervised while waiting for their parent or the proper authorities to arrive at school to remove the student.

If at any time during the course of a student’s suspension, a parent requests, or District staff determines that an evaluation by the Child Study Team is warranted, the building principal shall notify the Director of Special Services, who shall arrange for the expedited evaluation of the student.

In the event a student is to be suspended for more than five (5) days, the building principal shall arrange to provide home or out-of-school instruction for that student consistent with the requirements of applicable New Jersey regulations. The student’s absence shall be marked as excused and the student is responsible for making up all work missed during the time of suspension.

B. SHORT-TERM SUSPENSION

If, after the informal hearing, the building principal determines that a short-term suspension is appropriate, written notice shall be provided to the parent/guardian, or the student if s/he is over the age of eighteen (18), which shall state that the student has been suspended, the reason(s) for and terms of the suspension, the length of the suspension and the student’s/parents’ right to appeal the suspension in accordance with law. The letter shall provide notice that further engagement by the student in conduct warranting suspension or expulsion shall amount to a knowing and voluntary waiver of his/her right to a free public education.

The building principal shall immediately inform the Superintendent of any pupil suspension. The Superintendent shall report the suspension to the Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

C. LONG-TERM SUSPENSION

If, after the informal hearing, the building principal determines that a long-term suspension is warranted, written notice to the parent/guardian, or the student if over the age of eighteen (18), shall be provided within *two* days of the informal hearing, which shall state that the student has been suspended, the reason(s) for and terms of the suspension, the length of the initial suspension (which shall not exceed thirty (30) days) and notification of the student’s right to a formal hearing before the Board of Education. The letter shall provide notice that further engagement by the student in conduct warranting suspension or expulsion shall amount to a knowing and voluntary waiver to his/her right to a free public education.

The building principal shall arrange to provide home or out-of-school instruction for the student consistent with the requirements of New Jersey regulations. The student’s absence shall be marked as excused and the student is responsible for making up all work missed during the time of suspension.

The building principal shall immediately transmit a copy of the written notice(s), a copy of any incident report(s), witness statements, and a copy of the student’s file, including the disciplinary file, to the Superintendent with the building principal’s recommendation relative to the length of the

suspension. The Superintendent shall transmit these materials to the Board Solicitor and schedule the formal hearing to be held no later than thirty (30) days from the date of the initial suspension.

In no event shall a student suspension continue past the second regular meeting of the Board, after the date of suspension, unless it is continued by action of the Board.

If at any time, it is found that the student did not commit the violation/offense, the student shall be immediately returned to the general education program.

D. BOARD-LEVEL HEARING

The Board Solicitor shall cause the appropriate notice scheduling the formal hearing to be sent to the student and/or the student's parent/guardian. In addition to providing all necessary due process notifications, the notice may provide for the exercise of an option to waive the student's right to the hearing or to request a postponement of the hearing. The student's suspension may be continued beyond thirty days by agreement of the parent/guardian or adult pupil.

The formal hearing shall be held at the time and place specified in the notice unless otherwise agreed between the Board and the parent/adult pupil and/or the pupil's representative. The student has the right to be represented by counsel at the hearing. The Board shall determine whether any further suspension/action is warranted based upon the preponderance of the competent and credible evidence presented at the hearing.

The Board shall notify the parents in writing of its decision within five (5) days of the hearing. If the Board determines that no further action is warranted, the student shall be immediately returned to the general education program following the determination.

E. EXPULSION

A recommendation for the expulsion of a pupil will be made in strict compliance with the law and District Policy and only when all other means of discipline have been exhausted, or if the nature of a single act presents a clear danger to others such that immediate, definitive action is required.

The student and, if applicable, the parent/guardian shall be afforded all due process rights set forth in Sections C & D above.

The District must continue to provide an appropriate educational program and/or educational services that are comparable to those provided by the District for students in the same grade, until final action is taken by the Board, or in the event of an appeal of the Board's decision, the final decision of the Commissioner of Education.

F. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Certain behaviors and actions warrant special disciplinary procedures.

1. Classified Students

Before making any formal recommendation for suspension of a student who has been classified or who has been referred to the Child Study Team for evaluation within the current academic year, the building principal must determine whether the student has been suspended for 10 consecutive or

cumulative school days during the current school year. The building principal, in consultation with the CST case manager, shall determine whether a series of short-term suspensions constitutes a change of placement sufficient to meet the “10 day” period before any formal recommendation of suspension is made to the Superintendent. **See Administrative Procedure S-25g for the procedures which must be followed with respect to discipline of students with disabilities.**

2. Firearms/Weapons/Dangerous Instruments and Assault

If a student is found or observed to be in possession of a firearm, weapon, deadly weapon or dangerous instrument, or assaults any individual, the building principal shall immediately contact local law enforcement personnel and the Director of Security and follow Administrative Procedure S-15a.

3. Drug Possession

If a student is found to be in possession of an illegal drug, the building principal shall immediately contact the Director of Security and follow Administrative Procedure D-8: Substance Abuse and Administrative Procedure S-15b: Discipline: Alcohol and Drug Possession.

4. Homicidal/Suicidal Threats

If a student makes a homicidal or suicidal threat, the building principal shall immediately contact the Director of Security and follow Administrative Procedure S-15c.

Related Policies:

Policy 5114: Suspension and Expulsion

Policy 5131.5: Substance Abuse

Policy 5131.7: Firearms, Weapons and Dangerous Instruments

Policy 6171.4: Special Education

Approved: 6/23/09

Revised: 8/25/09

CHERRY HILL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Cherry Hill, New Jersey

S-25g

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE
SPECIAL EDUCATION
DISCIPLINE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

These procedures relate to the Policies listed in Policy 5114: Suspension and Expulsion and Policy 6171.4: Special Education.

1. All children with disabilities are subject to the same discipline procedures as the general student population, unless otherwise exempted or modified within the child's Individualized Education Program (IEP), with the exception of preschool children, who are not to be suspended under any circumstances.
2. There is no applicability of an IEP modification or exemption in situations that involve the possession or use of a weapon, the possession or use of an illegal drug, or the inflicting serious bodily injury to others.
3. Children with disabilities may be suspended/removed from their educational placement for up to 10 days within a school year under the same rules that apply to all children, according to the district's code of conduct.
4. Whenever a school official suspends/removes a child with a disability under the discipline policy, he/she must notify the case manager and the parent in writing of the removal, provide a reason, and specify the number of days.
5. When a child with a disability has been removed for 10 days within a school year, the following shall apply:
 - a. If the 10 days are non-consecutive, the school official in collaboration with the case manager will determine whether or not the pattern of removals constitute a change in placement, taking into consideration the length of each removal, the total amount of time for the removals, and the proximity of the removals to one another. If the determination is a NO, thus there has not been a change in placement, the child may be further disciplined under the same rules that apply to all children, according to the district's code of conduct. However, educational services must be provided to ensure IEP implementation.
 - i. If that determination is a YES and therefore there has been a change in placement, the child may not be further suspended/removed, and the district must follow specific steps as outlined below starting with a meeting of the IEP team; or

- b. If the 10 days are consecutive, in fact there is an “automatic” change in placement, thus the child may not be further suspended/removed, and the district must follow specific steps as outlined below, starting with a meeting of the IEP team.
 - c. At this juncture, upon the 10th day of removal, whether consecutive or non-consecutive, the administrator at the school level must immediately notify the parents in writing of his/her decision, and include a copy of the procedural safeguards statement.
6. For all discipline situations involving children with disabilities, in which there has been a change of placement due to the 10-day removal as outlined above, with the exception of situations as defined in #2. above, a meeting must be convened quickly to include the parent, the student as appropriate, and all other relevant members of the IEP team to review the student’s file including the IEP, any observations by teachers, and consider information provided by the parents, in order to make a determination known as “manifestation determination” (MD) as defined below.
- a. Manifestation determination is a review of the relationship between the child’s disability and the conduct/behavior subject to disciplinary action.
 - b. The IEP team must answer two key questions:
 - i. Whether the conduct was caused by, or had a direct and substantial relationship to the child’s disability;
 - ii. Whether the conduct was a direct result of the district’s failure to implement the child’s IEP.
 - c. If the manifestation determination meeting results in a conclusion that the Child’s conduct does not constitute a manifestation of his/her disability nor resulted from the district’s failure to implement the IEP, the child may be further disciplined under the same rules that apply to all children, according to the district’s code of conduct. However, educational services must be provided to ensure IEP implementation.
 - d. If the manifestation determination meeting results in a conclusion that the Child’s conduct does constitute a manifestation of his/her disability or that it resulted from the district’s failure to implement the IEP, the district may not further suspend/remove the child, and must take further steps as follows:
 - i. Review, the child’s current Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP), if there is one, and modify it as necessary; if there is no plan in place, conduct a Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA);
 - ii. Consider a change in the child’s program to address the persistent behavior issues and modify the IEP accordingly;
 - iii. Unless the parent and the IEP team agrees to change the child’s placement, return the child to the placement which was in effect prior to the manifestation determination meeting.

7. For situations that involve a student's possession or use of a weapon, the possession or use of an illegal drug, or the inflicting of serious bodily injury to others, a school official may remove the student for 45 calendar days to an Interim Alternative Education Setting (IAES). This authority is held by the district regardless of whether or not the manifestation determination resulted in a conclusion that the student's conduct was caused by, or had a direct and substantial relationship to the child's disability.
 - a. The IEP team will make the choice of placement for the 45-day removal, and will ensure that the placement chosen will enable the student to progress appropriately in a general curriculum, and provide sufficient services to enable the student to advance appropriately toward achieving his/her IEP goals.
8. All decisions made via the processes outlined above, including the decision resulting from a manifestation determination meeting, and the decision to remove a student to a 45-day interim alternative education setting may be appealed by parents, as outlined in the procedural safeguards statement provided to the parents when a child has been suspended/removed for a total of 10 days in a school year.
9. The district Board of Education may file an appeal in response to a parent's formal objection to its disciplinary action, when it has determined that keeping a student in the current placement rather than removing him/her to an interim alternative education setting is substantially likely to cause injury to himself/herself or others.

Approved: 6/23/09

CHERRY HILL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Parents’/Guardians’ Signature Page

*Please complete and return this form to your student’s homeroom teacher
By November 9, 2009*

PARENTS OR GUARDIANS

1. As a parent or guardian of a Cherry Hill student, I have received and have read or have had the opportunity to read the *Code of Student Conduct* of the Cherry Hill School District. I have discussed with my child the necessity and importance of following the disciplinary guidelines and procedures as described in this booklet. I understand that a violation of these rules may result in disciplinary action, which may include suspension and/or expulsion depending on the seriousness of the offense.

STUDENT’S NAME (Print) _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME (Print) _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

NOTICE: Failure to sign and return this page will not excuse any student, parent or guardian from adherence to the standards and expectations set forth in the Code of Student Conduct, nor will it prevent imposition of pupil discipline in accordance with the provisions of the Code and District policies and procedures.