

Student Discipline

Discipline in the public charter school is based upon a philosophy designed to produce behavioral changes that will enable students to develop the self-discipline necessary to remain in school and to function successfully in their educational and social environments.

Students are subject to discipline for conduct while traveling to and from school, at the bus stop, at school-sponsored events, while at other schools in the public charter school and while off campus, whenever such conduct causes a substantial and material disruption of the educational environment or the invasion of rights of others.

The major objectives of the public charter school's discipline program are to teach the following fundamental concepts for living:

1. Understanding and respect for individual rights, dignity and safety;
2. Understanding and respect for the law, Board policies, administrative regulations and school rules;
3. Understanding of and respect for public and private property rights.

The public charter school board seeks to ensure a school climate which is appropriate for learning and which assures the safety and welfare of personnel and students. The public charter school superintendent will develop administrative regulations whereby those students who disrupt the educational setting or who endanger the safety of others will be offered corrective counseling and be subject to disciplinary sanctions that are age appropriate, and to the extent practicable, use approaches that are shown through research to be effective to correct behavioral problems, while supporting a students' attendance to school and classes. Examples include, but are not limited to, reprimands, conferences, detention and denial of participation in cocurricular and extracurricular activities. Titles and/or privileges available to or granted to students may be denied and/or revoked (e.g., valedictorian, salutatorian, student body, class or club office positions, field trips, senior trip, prom, etc.).

The public charter school shall enforce consistently, fairly and without bias all student conduct policies, administrative regulations and school rules.

A student whose conduct or condition is seriously detrimental to the school's best interests may be suspended. . Students may be expelled for any of the following circumstances: a) when a student's conduct poses a threat to the health or safety of students or employees; b) when other strategies to change student behavior have been ineffective, except that expulsion may not be used to address truancy; or c) when required by law. The public charter school shall consider the age of the student and the past pattern of the student's behavior prior to imposing the suspension or expulsion. The public charter school will ensure careful consideration of the rights and needs of the individual concerned, as well as the best interests of other students and the school program as a whole.

The use of out-of-school suspension or expulsion for discipline of a student in the fifth grade or below, is limited to:

1. Nonaccidental conduct causing serious physical harm to a student or employee;
2. When a school administrator determines, based on the administrator's observation or upon a report from an employee, the student's conduct poses a threat to the health or safety of students or employees; or
3. When the suspension or expulsion is required by law.

When an out-of-school suspension is imposed on a student in the fifth grade or lower¹, the public charter school shall take steps to prevent the recurrence of the behavior that led to the out-of-school suspension, and return the student to a classroom setting to minimize the disruption of the student's academic instruction.

Parents, students and employees shall be notified by handbook, code of conduct or other document of the acceptable behavior, behavior subject to discipline and the procedures to address behavior. These procedures will include a system of consequences designed to correct student misconduct and promote acceptable behavior.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 243.650](#)
[ORS 332.061](#)
[ORS 332.072](#)

[ORS 338.115](#)
[ORS 339.115](#)
[ORS 339.240 to -339.280](#)
[ORS 659.850](#)

[OAR 581-021-0045](#)
[OAR 581-021-0050 to -0075](#)

Tinker v. Des Moines Sch. Dist., 393 U.S. 503 (1969).

Shorb v. Grotting and Powers Sch. Dist., Case No. 00CV-0255 (Coos County Circuit Ct.) (2000).

Ferguson v. Phoenix Talent Sch. Dist. #4, 172 Or. App. 389 (2001).

Cross Reference(s):

JFC - Student Conduct
JFCJ - Weapons in the Schools
JGD - Suspension
JGE - Expulsion

¹This is required language for public charter schools that service students in grades K-8.