



Wednesday, September 9, 2026
Pennridge School District - Policy Committee Meeting

Pennridge School District
Board of School Directors
Finance Committee

Committee Chairperson: Mrs. Carly Taylor

Committee Members: Mr. Brian McMullen, Mr. Bradley Merkl-Gump, Mrs. Leah Rash,
and Mrs. Carolyn Sciarrino

Co-Cabinet Liaisons: Mr. Ernest Johnson

Location: Pennridge School District Board Room

Time: 6:30 PM

1. Public Comment on Agenda Items

1.A. Public Comment According to Policy #903

Description: According to Policy #903, public comment on matters of concern, official action or deliberation is limited to three minutes should be directed to the entire School Board following the announcement of your name and municipality. Under this policy, the presiding officer has the authority to warn or stop a public commenter when violation of this policy occurs.

2. Policy Update Plan

2.A. Policy Update Plan

3. Review of Policy for First Reading

3.A. Policy #218 Student Discipline

4. Public Comment

5. Next Meeting

5.A. The next Policy Committee Meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 5, 2026.

PSD Policy Update Plan

As we review and develop policies for our district, we will work with the administration, key stakeholders, legal counsel, and each other to ensure our policies are:

- Safe for all students – Does not allow for, or put our students at risk of physical or mental harm
- Fair – Does not put a group of students at an advantage or disadvantage
- Clear – limit vague wording, provide definitions
- Can be implemented – ensure effected staff, facilities, etc. have the tools needed or updates necessary prior to policy approval
- Can be enforced – how do we ensure the policy is being followed?
- Does not make the district susceptible to litigation – Does any aspect of the policy, its implementation or enforcement, violate legal precedent, staff or student’s rights, our own policies, etc.

Policy Updates:

To be transparent with each other and the community, we will maintain a priority list of policies to be addressed. This list will identify policies that require updates based on PSBA, as well as “Board Initiated” policies that will need more extensive discussion and updating.

Policy	Type of Update	First Read Second Read	Comments	Solicitor Review?
Policy 315.2 Staff Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Education	Board Initiated	Board Approved 8/31/26	Board Initiated	
Policy 218 Student Discipline	PSBA	First Read 9/9/26	PSBA update	
Policy 246 School Wellness	PSBA	October 2026	PSBA update	
Policy 249 Bullying/Cyber Bullying	PSBA	October 2026	PSBA update	
Policy 204.1 Virtual Attendance	PSBA	November 2026	PSBA update	
Policy 910 Code of Civility	New Policy	November 2026	District Administration	
Policy 803 School Calendar	PSBA	January 2027	PSBA update	
Policy 805.2 School Security Personnel	PSBA	January 2027	PSBA update	
Policy 102 Academic Standards	PSBA	TBD	PSBA update	

Policy 105 Curriculum	PSBA	TBD	PSBA update	
Policy 123 Interscholastic Athletics	PSBA	TBD	PSBA update	
Policy 209 Health Exams	PSBA	TBD	PSBA update	
Policy 822 Automated External Defibrillators (AED)/Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)	PSBA	TBD	PSBA update	
Responsible Contractor Policy	Board Initiated	TBD		

This is a working document that will be updated for each meeting.

9.9.26



BOARD POLICY

218 Student Discipline

POLICY NUMBER	ADOPTED	REVISED	VERSION
218	6/18/2012	9/27/2022	v1.5
DOCUMENT STATUS	PRINTED		
DRAFT	9/1/2026		

■ Proposed addition ■ Proposed deletion

Purpose

The Board ~~finds~~ recognizes that student conduct is closely related to learning. An effective educational program requires a safe and orderly school environment.

Authority

The Board shall establish fair, reasonable and nondiscriminatory rules and regulations regarding the conduct of all students in the ~~school district, during the time they are under the supervision of the school or at any time while on school property, while present at school-sponsored activities, and while traveling to or from school and school-sponsored activities.~~ [1] [2] [3] [4] [5]

The Board shall adopt a Code of Student Conduct to govern student discipline, and students shall not be subject to disciplinary action because of race, sex, color, religion, sexual orientation, national origin or handicap/disability. Each student must adhere to Board policies and the Code of Student Conduct governing student discipline. [1] [2] [4] [5] [6] [7]

{ } The Board shall approve the inclusion of restorative practices in the Code of Student Conduct to address violations where applicable.

The Board prohibits the use of corporal punishment by district staff to discipline students for violations of Board policies, the Code of Student Conduct and district rules and regulations. [8]

Any student disciplined by a district employee shall have the right to be informed of the nature of the infraction and the applicable rule or rules violated. [\[9\]](#)

When suspensions and expulsions are imposed, they shall be carried out in accordance with Board policy. [\[7\]](#) [\[9\]](#)

In the case of a student with a disability, including a student for whom an evaluation is pending, the district shall take all steps required to comply with state and federal laws and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with law enforcement and Board policies.

On and Off-Campus Activities

This policy and the Code of Student Conduct apply to the behavior of students at all times during the time they are under the supervision of the school or at any time while on school property, while present at school-sponsored activities, and while traveling to or from school and school-sponsored activities or at other times while riding in school-provided means of transportation ("on-campus"). This policy and the Code of Student Conduct also apply to student behavior that occurs at other times and places ("off-campus") when:[\[3\]](#)

1. The conduct involves, threatens or makes more likely violence, use of force or other serious harm directed at students, staff, or the school environment;
2. ~~1.~~ The conduct materially and substantially disrupts or interferes with the school environment or the educational process, such as school activities, school work, discipline, safety and order on school property, on district transportation, or at school functions;
3. ~~2.~~ The conduct interferes with or threatens to interfere with the rights of students or school staff or the safe and orderly operation of the schools and their programs;
4. ~~3.~~ The conduct involves the theft or vandalism of school property; or
5. ~~4. Outside of the conduct above, this policy shall not apply to any religious or political speech, social media, or any other speech that occurs outside of school or a school program or activity that does not materially or substantially interfere with the school environment or threaten the rights of other students and/or school staff.~~

The proximity, timing, or motive for the conduct in question or other factors pertaining to the conduct otherwise establish a direct connection to attendance at school, to the school community or to a school-sponsored activity. This would include, for example, but not be limited to, conduct that would violate the Code of Student Conduct if it occurred in school that is committed in furtherance of a plan made or agreed to in school, or acts of vandalism directed at the property of school staff because of their status as school staff.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that reasonable and necessary rules and regulations are developed to implement Board policy governing student conduct.

The Superintendent or designee shall publish and distribute to all staff, students and parents/guardians the rules and regulations for student behavior contained in the Code of Student Conduct, the sanctions that may be imposed for violations of those rules, and a listing of students' rights and responsibilities. A copy of the Code of Student Conduct shall be available in each school library and school office and may be included in student handbooks and on the district website.^[1]

The building principal or designee shall have the authority to assign discipline to students, subject to the Board policies, school rules, administrative regulations, the Code of Student Conduct of the district, and to the student's due process right to notice, hearing, and appeal.^{[7] [9] [10] [11]}

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 in accordance with Board policy, administrative regulations, the Code of Student Conduct and school rules.^[10]

Reasonable force may be used by teachers and school authorities under any of the following circumstances: to quell a disturbance, obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects, for the purpose of self-defense, and or for the protection of persons or property.

~~Reasonable force shall mean the same degree of physical control over a pupil that a parent would be legally privileged to exercise but shall be limited and in no event exceed the amount of physical control reasonably necessary to protect the physical safety of teachers or others. This policy shall not apply to any approved accommodations for a disabled student or student with special needs.~~

~~When conduct so warrants, the building principal shall, in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct and the memorandum of understanding, contact the police department who has jurisdiction over the school's property.~~^{[12] [13]}

~~The memorandum of understanding shall provide procedures for local law enforcement response including, but not limited to, investigation of the incident, interrogation and custody of the student.~~ ^[14]

Referral to Law Enforcement and Reporting Requirements

For reporting purposes, the term **incident** shall mean an instance involving an act of violence; the possession of a weapon; the possession, use, or sale of a controlled substance or drug paraphernalia as defined in the Pennsylvania Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act; the possession, use, or sale of alcohol or tobacco products; or conduct that constitutes an offense listed ~~under the Safe Schools Act~~ in the safety and security provisions of School Code.^{[13][15][16]}

The Superintendent or designee shall immediately report required incidents and may report discretionary incidents committed by students on school property, at any school-sponsored activity or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored activity to the ~~local police department~~ law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction over the school's property, in accordance with state law and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with ~~local~~ law enforcement and Board policies.^{[12][13][14][15][17][18]}

The Superintendent or designee shall notify the parent/guardian of any student directly involved in an incident as a victim or suspect immediately, as soon as practicable. The Superintendent or designee shall inform the parent/guardian whether or not the ~~local police department~~ law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction over the school property has been or may be notified of the incident. The Superintendent or designee shall document attempts made to reach the parent/guardian. ^{[14][15][19]}

In accordance with state law, the Superintendent shall annually, by July 31, report all new incidents to the Office for Safe Schools on the required form.^{[13][14][20][21][22][23]}

When a student's behavior indicates a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community or others, district staff shall report the student to the threat assessment team, in accordance with applicable law and Board policy. ^{[24][25]}

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.

Legal Footnotes

[1] 22 PA Code 12.3
LEGAL REFERENCE

[2] 22 PA Code 12.4
LEGAL REFERENCE

[3] 24 P.S. 510
LEGAL REFERENCE

[4] Pol. 103 – Nondiscrimination in School and Classroom Practices
POLICY REFERENCE

[5] Pol. 103.1 – Nondiscrimination – Qualified Students With Disabilities
POLICY REFERENCE

[6] 22 PA Code 12.2
LEGAL REFERENCE

[7] Pol. 113.1 – Discipline of Students With Disabilities
POLICY REFERENCE

[8] 22 PA Code 12.5
LEGAL REFERENCE

[9] Pol. 233 – Suspension and Expulsion
POLICY REFERENCE

[10] 24 P.S. 1317
LEGAL REFERENCE

[11] 24 P.S. 1318
LEGAL REFERENCE

[12] 24 P.S. 1302.1-A
LEGAL REFERENCE

[13] 24 P.S. 1303-A
LEGAL REFERENCE

[14] Pol. 805.1 – Relations With Law Enforcement Agencies
POLICY REFERENCE

[15] 22 PA Code 10.2
LEGAL REFERENCE

[16] 35 P.S. 780-102
LEGAL REFERENCE

[17] 22 PA Code 10.21
LEGAL REFERENCE

[18] 22 PA Code 10.22
LEGAL REFERENCE

[19] 22 PA Code 10.25
LEGAL REFERENCE

[20] Pol. 218.1 – Weapons
POLICY REFERENCE

[21] Pol. 218.2 – Terroristic Threats
POLICY REFERENCE

[22] Pol. 222 – Tobacco and Vaping Products
POLICY REFERENCE

[23] Pol. 227 – Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia
POLICY REFERENCE

[24] 24 P.S. 1302-E
LEGAL REFERENCE

[25] Pol. 236.1 — Threat Assessment
POLICY REFERENCE

Legal References

No additional references listed.