

SOARING HEIGHTS CHARTER SCHOOL  
PUPIL DISCIPLINE POLICY/CODE OF CONDUCT

Students are expected to act in a responsible manner at all times. It is not possible, nor is it desirable, to delineate rules covering every possible situation which a student will encounter. Common courtesy and sensitivity to the rights of others will guide students properly in most situations. However, it should be clearly understood that all pupils are held accountable for their actions.

To that end, the Soaring Heights Charter School Board of Trustees adopts this Pupil Discipline/Code of Conduct policy to establish standards and procedures for positive pupil development and behavioral expectations on school grounds, including on a school bus or at school-sponsored functions, and as appropriate, for conduct away from school grounds.

The following behaviors shall be considered "inappropriate behavior" subject to discipline in accordance with this policy:

- Defying an adult;
- Fighting, kicking, spitting, scratching, threatening, bullying, shoving other students;
- Name-calling or other inappropriate language;
- Biting, tripping pinching or any behavior that could result in harm to the student or to others;
- Disruption in the learning environment;
- Theft or possession of stolen property;
- Destruction of property;
- Truancy;
- Lewdness;
- Possession of a weapon or prohibited item, including the possession, sale or distribution, or being under the influence of any illicit substance;
- All types of harassment; and
- Any other conduct deemed by School officials to be inappropriate.

Students who commit one of the above infractions, or other conduct deemed to be inappropriate, will be disciplined accordingly.

Every pupil enrolled in Soaring Heights shall observe rules and regulations necessary for the general operation of the School and submit to discipline imposed for infractions of those rules. This policy is intended to act in concert with other School policies, including the "Policy Prohibiting Threats of Violence," "Policy Prohibiting Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying,"

and the "Sexual Harassment Policy," each of which, including the offenses and corresponding discipline set forth in those policies, are incorporated into this Code of Conduct as if they were fully repeated in this Code.

The Board of Trustees shall develop and implement this policy in the manner by which it deems best to foster an environment which promotes learning, respect and discipline by and between the students of the School and between students and staff. This policy shall be reviewed and updated annually, with parent, pupil and community involvement which represents, where possible, the composition of the School, and shall be based on locally determined and accepted core ethical values.

The School Lead Person shall report on the implementation of this policy to the Board of Trustees in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1(a)(5).

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, pupil discipline and the code of conduct shall be implemented in accordance with the components of the applicable plans of the individual students.

The School Lead Person, or his or her designee, shall have the authority to assign discipline to pupils for a school violation or an offense as set forth in N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2, *et seq.* School authorities also have the right to impose a consequence on a pupil for conduct away from school grounds, including on a school bus or at a school-sponsored function, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6. This authority shall be exercised only when it is reasonably necessary for the pupil's physical or emotional safety, security and well-being or for reasons relating to the safety, security and well-being of other pupils, staff or school grounds, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:25-2 and 18A:37-2. This authority shall only be exercised when the conduct which is the subject of the proposed discipline materially and substantially interferes with the requirements of appropriate discipline in the operation of the school.

Any pupil to be disciplined shall be provided the due process procedures for pupils and their families as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.2 through 7.6. Except as otherwise set forth in any other School policy, including the above-referenced policies, for instances of "minor" discipline, up to and including suspensions of less than 10 school days, School staff shall meet with the student, explain the infraction and appropriate discipline, and give the student an opportunity to explain his or her action(s). The student's parent or guardian shall also be notified of the infraction and attendant discipline. If a student is suspended for a period longer than 10 school days, the student and his or her parent/guardian shall be given the above-noted pre-discipline meeting, as well as the opportunity to appeal the decision to the Board of Trustees at a hearing of

