

The Student Code of Conduct serves a number of important purposes.

- It sets expectations for student behavior on school property, at school events and on transportation to and from school.
- It establishes standards of personal conduct for all students.
- It supports the development of ethically sensitive and responsible students.
- It recognizes that students are a vital part of the school community and should have healthy relationships with the school.
- It provides guidelines for consequences depending on the severity of the infraction and recommends interventions for problem behaviors.

The latest revisions to the Student Code of Conduct were developed over multiple years and involved input from teachers, students, principals, families, community members and external partners. It is important to note that for several years, schools had already been following many of the guidelines articulated in the revised code.

What Has Changed

The revisions bring Providence Public Schools' Code of Conduct into compliance with state law R.I.G.L 16-19-1, which does not allow the use of out-of-school suspensions for attendance-related infractions. It is important to stress, however, that there are clear instances, such as all zero-tolerance infractions, when out-of-school suspensions should and must be enacted.

The revised code of conduct highlights the value of restorative practices for minor infractions. Restorative practices teach students to build their own self-awareness of their actions and their impact on others. This deeper understanding has the power to give students the skills to take positive actions to repair harm and change their behavior.

The revised code aligns well with our newly adopted Multi-Tiered System of Supports, which offers levels of student support to build social emotional skills, address problem behaviors and offer outside interventions when needed.

The code now gives an in-depth explanation of the Student Affairs Office hearing and the appeals process.

The code also provides more detailed discipline guidelines for students with disabilities.

Other changes: The maximum time for level-one suspensions has been shortened from 10 to five days. Chronic level-one behavior can no longer be used as a reason for a referral to the Student Affairs Office.

What Has Remained the Same

Student infractions are grouped by level, depending on severity.

Level-one infractions include, but are not limited to insubordination, disrespect and disorderly conduct. Level-one infractions are handled exclusively at the school level and are not referred to the Student Affairs Office. Formal apologies, community service, detention and out-of-school suspensions of up to five days are all examples of possible consequences.

Level-two infractions are more serious in nature and include but are not limited to bullying, inciting riots and hazing. For these infractions, the maximum time for out-of-school suspension is 10 days. Level-two infractions can be referred to our Student Affairs Office for impartial hearings.

Level-three infractions are the most serious and include but are not limited to using controlled substances, pulling false fire alarms or engaging in physical assault. In some level-three cases, students may face school exclusion from 10 to 180 days.

The Student Code of Conduct is available for review in its entirety on our electronic school board, pesb.ppsd.org. Click on the "Policies and Regulations" link on the right, then choose "J-Students" from the policy drop-down menu.