



Responsible Office: Office of Student Services

BOARD POLICY 5100

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

PURPOSE

The Board of Trustees believes that every student has the right to learn in a respectful, safe and inclusive learning environment and that every teacher has the right to teach in an environment that is free from distractions and disruptions that impede learning. The home, school, and community must work together to enhance the quality of the educational experience of all of our students in all of our schools. A positive school climate and culture characterized by mutual respect and the building of relationships will result in academic, social, and emotional growth for all students.

POLICY

1. Guiding Principles:

- a. Positive student behavior is an integral part of overall academic success.
- b. Student behavior is best shaped through proactive teaching, positive interventions, relationships, and individualized support.
- c. Behavior that jeopardizes the safety of any member of the school community will not be tolerated.
- d. Through equitable practices, school officials and teachers act *in loco parentis* during the time students are under their supervision.
- e. The District is committed to encouraging, protecting and ensuring student freedom of speech, press and expression, and rights under the U.S. Constitution.
- f. Members of the Board of Trustees, the Superintendent, principals, faculty and staff have responsibilities, along with peace officers, for the protection of students in school, at school sponsored events, on their way to and from school, and for the enforcement of order and behavior among such students.
- g. Certain infractions as outlined in Nevada Revised Statutes warrant removing a student from his/her school of enrollment.

2. Guiding Practices:

- a. A District behavior matrix identifying potential interventions and consequences for student behavior will be developed, reviewed annually, and revised as needed to ensure that student discipline is equitable throughout the District.
- b. A District code of honor for students relating to cheating, plagiarism, and academic dishonesty on examinations and course work will be developed, reviewed annually, and revised as needed.
- c. Schools will develop School Progressive Discipline Plans that will be reviewed annually and will support positive behavior with a focus on keeping students in school whenever possible.
- d. The District will utilize a multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) to ensure students are provided individualized support, re-teaching, and appropriate interventions for behavior as well as academics.
- e. The District promotes non-violent, cooperative means of conflict resolution through the use of support programs and restorative practice.
- f. The District will designate a hearing officer to preside over district-level behavior hearings. Hearings will be conducted in a formal, impartial manner with all concerned parties having an opportunity to present their cases and with the hearing officer ultimately rendering a decision.
- g. Students/Families/Schools will be provided an opportunity to appeal decisions made through the district-level behavior hearing process.
- h. The Washoe County School District Police Department will develop and consistently implement procedures which must be followed in arresting a student on school grounds during school hours.
- i. The use of corporal punishment on any student by any staff member of the Washoe County School District is expressly prohibited by the Board of Trustees and NRS 382.465. This does not prohibit a teacher or school district official from using reasonable and necessary force for the purpose of self-defense or the defense of another person, to quell a disturbance that threatens physical injury to any person or the destruction of property, to obtain possession of a weapon or other dangerous object within a student's control, or to escort a disruptive student who refuses to voluntarily leave with the proper authorities.
- j. District administration reserves the right to provide a directed transfer for a student who poses a threat to other students or staff on his or her zoned

campus and to preserve the safety of a student who is at risk of health and welfare issues on his or her own campus.

- k. The District promotes responsible and thoughtful use of personal electronic devices to support student achievement. Teachers and school personnel reserve the right to confiscate a student's electronic device if it is interfering with curriculum/instruction.
- l. The District will provide means for students to report anonymously if the student chooses, any unlawful activity which is being conducted on school property, at a school sponsored activity, or on a school bus.
- m. An action must not be taken pursuant to the provisions of NRS 392.4642 to 392.4648, inclusive, against a pupil with a disability who is participating in a program of special education unless the action complies with: The Individuals with Disabilities Act, The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 as amended, Title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Any other federal law applicable to children with disabilities, and the procedural policy adopted by the Board of Trustees of the District for such matters.
- n. The District prohibits gangs and criminal gang activities on school property. This includes gang-related clothing, jewelry, insignias, colors, paraphernalia and materials. The District shall consult with local law enforcement and other agencies to determine changes in gang appearance, dress and activities.

DEFINITIONS

- 1. District-Level Behavior Hearing: A hearing conducted by a district-level hearing officer for NRS violations and other severe behaviors impacting the safety and welfare of others.
- 2. Positive behavior interventions and supports: A proactive approach to establishing the individual behavioral supports and the equitable and inclusive social culture needed for all students in a school to achieve social, emotional, and academic success. Attention is focused on creating and sustaining systems of support that improve lifestyle results for all youth by making targeted misbehavior less effective, efficient, and relevant, and desired behavior more functional.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

- 1. The District will strive for consistent, equitable practice in student discipline with a goal of reducing disproportionality in student discipline district-wide.
- 2. All students and staff will be provided access to safe, respectful learning environments.

3. The District will strive to reduce out of school suspensions and emergency suspensions by increasing the use of positive behavior interventions and supports in schools.

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES & ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

1. This policy reflects the goals of the District's Strategic Plan and is aligned to District initiatives, resources, guidelines, and documents.
2. This policy aligns with the governing documents of the District, to include:
 - a. Administrative Procedure PATH-P100, Student Discipline
 - b. Administrative Procedure PATH-P101, Prohibited Conduct
 - c. Administrative Procedure PATH-P105, Expulsion
 - d. Administrative Procedure PATH-P106, Suspension
 - e. Administrative Procedure PATH-P107, Substance Abuse Student Discipline
 - f. Administrative Procedure PATH-P109, Corporal Punishment
 - g. Administrative Procedure PATH-P110, Searches of Students
 - h. Administrative Procedure PATH-P114, Student Detention
 - i. Administrative Procedure PATH-P115, Disciplinary Reporting Procedures
 - j. Administrative Procedure PATH-P116, Student Disciplinary Hearing Procedures
 - k. Administrative Procedure PATH-P118, School Staffing for Students on Probation/Parole
 - l. Administrative Procedure PATH-P119, Directed Transfer
 - m. Administrative Procedure TRAN-P102, Student Conduct on School Bus
 - n. Administrative Procedure PATH-P108, Violence Intervention Program
 - o. Administrative Procedure PATH-P122, Gangs and Gang Activity
3. This policy complies with Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) and Nevada Administrative Code (NAC), to include
 - a. Chapter 392, Pupils, and specifically:
 - i. NRS 392.461 – 392.4675: Behavior and Discipline.

REVIEW AND REPORTING

1. This document shall be reviewed as part of the bi-annual review and reporting process, following each regular session of the Nevada Legislature. The Board of Trustees shall receive notification of any required changes to the policy as well as an audit of the accompanying governing documents.
2. Administrative regulations, and/or other associated documents, will be developed as necessary to implement this policy.

REVISION HISTORY

Date	Revision	Modification
2/18/2009	1.0	Adopted
5/19/2010	2.0	Pursuant to change in state law, <i>Policy</i> No. 4(a) was revised regarding bullying
10/25/2011	3.0	Pursuant to change in state law, <i>Policy</i> No. 4(a) was revised regarding gender identity
9/22/2015	4.0	Revised: related to statutory changes; Number changed from 5039 to 5100; Name changed from Student Discipline to Student Behavior