

**ADOPT STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT FOR CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
FOR THE 2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR**

**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:**

That the Chicago Board of Education adopt the Student Code of Conduct ("SCC") for the 2009-2010 school year which is attached hereto. This SCC has been updated to reflect the Board's current organizational structure and policies. The 2009-2010 SCC will become effective September 17, 2009.

**DESCRIPTION:** Modifications from the previous year's Student Code of Conduct are summarized below.

**Student Code of Conduct:** has been modified to replace all references to the position of "Area Instruction Officer" with reference to the "Chief Area Officer."

**Overview of the Student Discipline Process:** *Step 6: Appeals* has been modified to clarify a student's/parent's right to report sexual harassment to the Board's Title IX Officer.

**Appendices:** name of Appendix F has been changed from "Notice to Parents and Students Regarding Student Records, Student Interventions and Student Surveys" to "Notice to Parents and Students Regarding Board Policies."

**Appendix F:** has been modified to include language that defines the position "school official" for the purposes of the Student Records/FERPA notice. Adds *Notice of Search and Seizure Policy* to give notice about the Board's Search and Seizure policy.

**LSC REVIEW:** The Local School Council Advisory Board has reviewed these amendments.

**Approved for Consideration:**



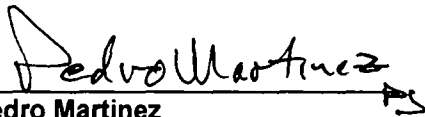
Barbara Eason-Watkins  
Chief Education Officer

**Respectfully submitted:**



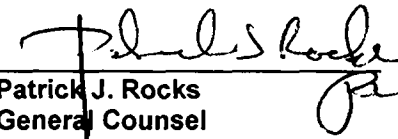
Ron Huberman  
Chief Executive Officer

**Noted:**



Pedro Martinez  
Chief Financial Officer

**Approved as to Legal Form:**



Patrick J. Rocks  
General Counsel

September 11, 2008

Dear Students, Parents, Teachers and Administrators:

~~As we begin an exciting new school year, I encourage you to take time to review the Chicago Public Schools Student Code of Conduct ("SCC").~~

~~The SCC was adopted by the Chicago Board of Education ("Board") to help create a safe environment for all students and school personnel by providing a set of expected behaviors for students and a transparent process for administrators for correcting inappropriate behavior. However, the SCC is only a resource. It will take the efforts of students, parents, teachers and administrators to create and maintain a safe school environment.~~

~~Administrators are expected to ensure that each student and parent receives a copy of the SCC. Administrators shall collect from each student a signed Acknowledgment of Receipt of the Student Code of Conduct ("Receipt") that is located in Appendix H of the SCC. When student misconduct occurs, administrators should be guided by the parameters set forth in the SCC to ensure that students receive due process. Also, administrators are encouraged to use restorative justice practices whenever possible.~~

~~Parents are expected to review the SCC with their children, sign the Receipt, and encourage their children to conduct themselves appropriately at all times. Students are also expected to sign the Receipt and exhibit appropriate behavior by observing school rules and Board policies.~~

~~I hope that you will find the SCC to be a useful, not punitive, guide in setting forth expected student behavior and outlining the process for correcting misconduct. By working together, students, parents, teachers and administrators can create a safe school environment where all students can excel.~~

Sincerely,

Arne Duncan  
Chief Executive Officer

September 17, 2009

Dear Students, Parents, Teachers and Administrators:

Welcome back to another exciting school year at the Chicago Public Schools ("CPS"). Please take time to review the 2009-2010 CPS Student Code of Conduct ("SCC").

The SCC was adopted by the Chicago Board of Education ("Board") to help create a safe environment for all students and school personnel. The SCC sets forth the expected behaviors for students and a transparent process for administrators to redirect inappropriate behavior. The SCC has been updated this year to reflect the Board's current policies and organizational structure.

However, the SCC is only a resource. It will take the collective efforts of students, parents, teachers and administrators to create a safe learning environment where all students can excel.

Administrators are expected to ensure that each student and parent receives a copy of the SCC. Administrators shall collect from each student a signed Acknowledgment of Receipt of the SCC ("Receipt"), located in Appendix H. When student misconduct occurs, administrators shall be guided by the parameters set forth in the SCC to ensure that students receive due process. Also, administrators are encouraged to use, where appropriate, the balanced and restorative justice practices outlined in the SCC.

Parents are expected to review the SCC with their children, sign and return the Receipt, and encourage their children to conduct themselves appropriately at all times. Students are also expected to sign the Receipt and exhibit appropriate behavior by following all school rules and Board policies.

I hope you will find the SCC to be a useful guide to expected student behavior and the process for correcting misconduct. Working together, we will create a safe school climate for the 2009-2010 school year.

Sincerely,



Ron Huberman  
Chief Executive Officer

**THE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**  
**Effective ~~September 11, 2008~~ September 17, 2009**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO**  
**POLICY STATEMENT**

The Board of Education of the City of Chicago ("Board"), the governing body of the Chicago Public Schools, is responsible for establishing policies under which schools operate. To promote desirable student conduct and behavior, the Board has adopted the Student Code of Conduct ("SCC" or "Code").

The SCC is consistent with Illinois School Code, the Rules of the Board of Education of the City of Chicago, negotiated agreements with employee groups, and all other applicable state and federal laws.

This Code recognizes that the Chicago Public Schools has the responsibility to ensure that the school environment is safe for all students and school personnel and that it is important to provide students with a consistent set of expectations for behavior. The Board expects all students to respect the rights of fellow students, personnel and others, and to behave in a manner that does not violate school rules, procedures, Board policy or the law. Students shall be encouraged to seek assistance from school personnel to prevent or resolve conflicts and to report incidents or activities that may threaten or disrupt the educational environment. The SCC requires all students enrolled in the Chicago Public Schools to accept responsibility and the appropriate consequences for their actions and behavior.

The disciplinary process set forth in this SCC is intended to be instructional and corrective, not punitive. All students shall be entitled to receive due process in disciplinary reassignment, in-school or out-of-school suspension and expulsion. Moreover, students shall be entitled to appeal the issuance of certain intervention or consequences, as provided herein. Pursuant to Board of Education Rule 6-21, "no employee of the Board of Education may inflict corporal punishment of any kind upon persons attending the public schools of the City of Chicago."

Schools are also encouraged to establish a team to assist school officials with the development of local school regulations, provided those regulations do not conflict with the SCC. A positive and safe school climate significantly contributes to student academic achievement. The Board strongly encourages schools to establish measures designed to foster incident avoidance. Where possible, schools should explore the use of prevention strategies aimed at minimizing the number of incidents requiring student discipline.

### **PURPOSE AND GOALS**

Through the establishment of the SCC, the Board seeks to: (1) create a consistent set of expectations for student behavior for the Chicago Public Schools system and all students; (2) outline the interventions and consequences for students who engage in inappropriate behavior; and (3) reinforce positive behavior and provide students with opportunities to develop appropriate behavioral skills.

### **SCOPE OF THE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

The SCC is not intended to address the entire spectrum of student misbehavior that may occur at school or on school property. Instead, the SCC outlines a range of appropriate responses for certain inappropriate behaviors. Local school officials retain the discretion to address student misconduct that is not specifically included in the SCC. However, poor academic achievement is not considered an act of misconduct. Therefore, the SCC may not be used to discipline students for poor academic progress or failure to complete assignments. Similarly, students must not be disciplined based totally or in part on the refusal of a student's parent or guardian to administer or consent to the administration of medication to the student.

The SCC applies to all students. However, discipline for students with disabilities must be administered in accordance with the procedures set forth in Appendix E.

The SCC applies to actions of students during school hours, before and after school, while on school property, while traveling on vehicles funded by the Board, at all school-sponsored events, and while using the CPS Network or any computer or Information Technology Devices, when the actions affect the mission or operation of the Chicago Public Schools. Students may also be subject to discipline for Group 5 or 6 Inappropriate Behaviors that occur either off campus or during non-school hours when the misconduct disrupts or may disrupt the orderly educational process in the Chicago Public Schools.

Students who are suspended or expelled from school may not participate in extracurricular activities or school-sponsored events during the period of the suspension or expulsion. However, students on suspension during the administration of state assessments shall be provided an opportunity to enter the school for the purpose of taking the test and may be allowed to participate in related test preparation activities, upon approval by the ~~Area Instruction Officer~~ Chief Area Officer. Students are subject to the requirements and obligations set out in the Policy on Student Acceptable Use of the CPS Network (<http://policy.cps.k12.il.us/documents/604.2.pdf>). For violations of the SCC that involve improper use of Information Technology Devices, the student may be subject to discipline pursuant to the SCC, in addition to having his/her network privileges suspended.

The SCC provides a variety of interventions and consequences to address student misconduct that range from the least severe to expulsion. Before any intervention or consequence is issued, school officials shall consider all mitigating circumstances and shall ensure that the student receives due process. Mitigating circumstances include, but are not limited to, the following factors:

- the student's age, health, maturity, and academic placement;
- the student's prior conduct and record of behavior;
- the student's attitude;
- the level of parent/guardian cooperation and/or involvement;
- the student's willingness to make restitution;
- the seriousness of the offense; and
- the student's willingness to enroll in a student assistance program.

Moreover, the following require special application of the SCC:

### **Age Appropriate Discipline**

The Board recognizes that students of different grades and ages are at different developmental levels, thus their behavior will be different and may call for different responses. In determining the appropriate level of interventions and consequences, in addition to mitigating circumstances, school officials should consider the grade level and age of the student. This approach may result in a less severe intervention and consequence for a lower grade or younger student as compared to a higher grade or older student.

The SCC does not apply to students attending pre-kindergarten and kindergarten and strict application of the Code to pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students is prohibited. School officials may refer to the SCC as a guide and may exercise discretion to issue appropriate interventions and consequences for students in pre-kindergarten or kindergarten who engage in inappropriate behavior. However, any decision to suspend, expel or reassign a pre-kindergarten or kindergarten student must be reviewed and approved by the appropriate ~~Area Instruction Officer~~ Chief Area Officer or designee or Office of New Schools Director of School Support for Charter, Contract and Performance schools.

### **Balanced and Restorative Justice and the SCC**

The Code also reflects alternative approaches to classroom management and student discipline. Specifically, the Board recognizes and embraces the philosophy of restorative justice. Restorative justice principles involve those who have a stake in a specific offense in collectively identifying and addressing the harm done and the needs and obligations of all involved in order to heal and correct the situation as fully as possible. The Board encourages principals and administrators to adopt and implement restorative justice philosophies and practices as additional tools to address student misconduct. When restorative justice practices are available and adequate and when all parties voluntarily embrace and participate in restorative justice practices, these practices should be utilized as outlined in the SCC. For a list of examples of restorative practices please see Appendix G in the Appendix of this policy.

### **Student Uniforms and Dress Code Policies**

Schools are allowed to institute a uniform policy that requires students to wear a specific uniform. Except as provided below in the section on Discipline in Military Academies and JROTC Programs, students who fail to abide by a school's uniform policy may not be given in-school or out-of-school suspension or detention or otherwise be barred from attending class. However, students who fail to adhere to such policies may be subject to the loss of extracurricular activities.

Schools may also institute dress code policies that do not require students to wear a specific uniform, but that prohibit students from wearing certain items or particular styles of attire and/or accessories. A dress code violation may be considered an inappropriate behavior under the SCC. Dress codes are often designed to address gang-related activities or to prevent serious disruption to the orderly educational process of the school. Students who wear clothing or accessories that display affiliation with gangs or other criminally motivated organizations or students who dress in a manner that causes serious disruption to the orderly educational process may be subject to discipline in accordance with the terms of the Code.

### **Discipline in Military Academies and JROTC Programs**

In addition to the standards of conduct and intervention or consequences described in this Code, Board-designated military academies and other JROTC programs may enforce standards of conduct and intervention or consequences that are consistent with the military nature of those schools and programs. Students enrolled in a military academy who repeatedly engage in acts of gross misconduct or insubordination, or who repeatedly fail or refuse to wear the required military uniform, may be subject to administrative transfer by the military academy principal to another school (or in the case of a JROTC program, dismissal from the program). Prior to an administrative transfer, a conference must be held with the parents/guardians, student, military academy principal, and a designee of the Chief Executive Officer. Students who have been transferred for administrative reasons from any military academy must be accepted by their attendance area school. Students who have been given an administrative transfer to another Chicago public school or expelled from the Chicago Public Schools lose all rank and privileges at the JROTC military academies and must reapply to the JROTC program and the military academies for enrollment.

Upon their child's enrollment at a military academy, parents/guardians shall be informed of the uniform policy, expectations of the military academy, and the administrative transfer policy, and shall indicate by signature their agreement to adhere to the terms of these policies.

**Discipline in Charter, Contract and Performance Schools**

Pursuant to the Charter Schools Law, Illinois School Law, 105 ILCS 5/27A, all Charter schools are exempt from local school board policies, including the Student Code of Conduct. Charter schools are free to adopt the SCC or to establish their own discipline policies.

Charter schools are not exempt from IDEA or from federal and state regulations as they pertain to discipline of students with disabilities. If a Charter school establishes their own discipline policies, they must incorporate language, and comply with the guidelines for suspension and expulsion of students with disabilities outlined in Appendix E of the SCC. Charter schools must also comply with policies and procedures established by the Office of Specialized Services for the discipline of students with disabilities.

Contract and Performance Schools are Chicago Public Schools and must follow the SCC.

**Anti-Bullying Statement**

Students are expected to act with consideration and respect for other students, staff and their property. School personnel are responsible for creating a safe, civil and respectful learning environment where students can gain the knowledge and interpersonal skills they need to succeed. Bullying creates a climate of fear and hostility, disrupts the educational process, inhibits the ability to learn, adversely affects student participation in educational programs and activities, has as negative effect on a school's social environment and leads to antisocial behavior.

Bullying behaviors may focus on an actual or perceived characteristic such as race, disability, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or gender identity/expression (lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) students), or other reasons related to a student's distinguishing characteristic. Bullying may also occur with the intent to force gang involvement. The Chicago Public Schools prohibits any and all forms of bullying by students and will not tolerate acts of retaliation for making a report of bullying.

School staff shall identify and stop bullying behavior and refer perpetrators for appropriate discipline in accordance with this Student Code of Conduct.

**Dating Violence Statement**

Any school employee who is notified by a parent, guardian or student, or who reasonably suspects, that a student has been the victim of dating violence shall immediately report that information to the principal/designee. Dating violence includes violent and controlling behavior such as threats, name-calling, threats of suicide, physical or sexual abuse and stalking. School staff shall promptly and reasonably investigate allegations of dating violence and issue appropriate discipline based on their findings. The principal shall ensure that the student victim of dating violence receives appropriate support services in accordance with the Board's Policy on Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Court Orders of Protection, Restraint or No Contact (08-0625-PO2).

## **OVERVIEW OF THE STUDENT DISCIPLINE PROCESS**

### **Step 1: School Officials Investigate**

- ◆ The local school official in charge of discipline should talk to all students, teachers, school personnel and other witnesses to the incident.
- ◆ The local school official in charge of discipline must make every reasonable effort to notify the parent/guardian of a student who has been injured as a result of an act of misconduct.
- ◆ The investigation may necessitate a search of the student, his/her locker, desk or personal belongings. A search should be conducted only if necessary and any search that is conducted shall be performed in compliance with Board Policy 02-0227-PO1, Procedures for Search, Seizure and the Use of Metal Detectors at School Facilities.

### **Step 2: School Affords Student Due Process**

- ◆ The school official should assess the information gathered through the investigation, determine whether the student's behavior falls within the scope of the SCC, identify the student's misconduct among the list of inappropriate behaviors and determine whether the student's behavior should be addressed by the SCC.
- ◆ If the SCC applies, the school official should inform the student of the allegation(s) being made and the range of sanctions the student faces. The student must be afforded an opportunity to respond to the charges, and the school official should make a reasonable effort to contact the parent/guardian to alert him/her to what is happening before any sanction is enacted. No disciplinary action may be taken against a student before the student has been afforded the opportunity to respond to the allegations.
- ◆ If necessary, and only after a reasonable effort has been made to contact the student's parent/guardian, the Chicago Police Department should be notified.
- ◆ School officials should inform the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) that the student has the right to appeal the disciplinary decision.

### **Step 3: Fill Out the Necessary Paperwork**

- ◆ The school official must complete an official CPS Misconduct Report for ALL inappropriate behaviors under the SCC (Groups 1-6). See Appendix A for sample Misconduct Report.
- ◆ The school official must also send a copy of the Misconduct Report home to the parent/guardian.

### **Step 4: Discipline According to the SCC**

- ◆ Any disciplinary action taken against a student must conform to the interventions or consequences outlined in the SCC.
- ◆ Suspensions may not exceed 10 days for one incident for any reason. In-school suspensions may not exceed five days for one incident.
- ◆ Students may not attend school-sponsored events and are not allowed on school grounds during the term of suspension. They must be allowed to return for statewide assessment testing periods unless the student is available to take the tests during a scheduled make-up testing period.
- ◆ Students must be assigned homework during in-school or out-of-school suspension and must be given the opportunity to make up any statewide tests, final exams and in-class tests or quizzes given during the period of suspension.

### **Step 5: Expulsion or Alternative Placement/Reassignment Hearings (For Groups 5 and 6 ONLY)**

- ◆ If a student's misconduct falls within the Group 5 SCC Category, a school principal retains the discretion to refer a student for expulsion or alternative placement/reassignment, but any decision to do so must be approved by the ~~Area Instruction Officer~~ Chief Area Officer or designee.
- ◆ If a student's misconduct falls within the Group 6 SCC Category, a hearing must be held prior to a student's expulsion, assignment to SMART or issuance of any other sanction that results in a student's alternative placement or reassignment.
- ◆ For additional information about Expulsion or Alternative Placement/Reassignment Hearings, see Appendix B, Expulsion Hearing and Emergency Alternative Placement Guidelines.



**Step 6: Appeals**

- ◆ If a student, parent, or guardian feels that the intervention or consequence taken is unwarranted or excessive, he or she has the right to ask the principal to review the matter and to reconsider the decision.
- ◆ In the event that a parent or guardian wishes to appeal a principal's decision to suspend a student or refer a student for expulsion, he or she must appeal to the ~~Area Instruction Officer~~ Chief Area Officer or designee (in writing if requested). The Director of School Support of the Office of New Schools shall be the designee for charter, contract and performance schools.
- ◆ Any appeal of the final determination of a student's expulsion must be made in writing and sent, along with any additional evidence not available at the time of expulsion, to the Chief Executive Officer or designee. The Chief Executive Officer or designee's decision regarding the appeal shall be final.
- ◆ The term of a student's suspension or expulsion is not halted by an appeal to the ~~Area Instruction Officer~~, Chief Area Officer, the Chief Executive Officer, the Director of School Support or the Executive Director of New Schools.
- ◆ ~~In the event that parents or guardians of victims of sexual harassment feel that they have not received an adequate response to their sexual harassment claim, they must appeal to the Title IX Officer. A student who has been harassed based upon race, color, national origin, sex, gender, sexual orientation, religion or disability, or that student's parent/guardian, may make a complaint to the Principal, Assistant Principal or the Board's Equal Opportunity Compliance Office ("EOCO"), 125 S. Clark St., 11<sup>th</sup> floor, Chicago, IL 60603, telephone: 773-553-1013. If a student, parent or guardian is not satisfied with the decision made by the Principal or Assistant Principal, they may appeal to the EOCO.~~
- ◆ The parent/guardian of a student that attends a Contract School or a Performance, Turnaround or Professional Development School not assigned to an Area Office should direct any suspension appeals to the Director of School Support of the Office of New Schools or her designee. In the event that the parent wishes to appeal the decision of the Director of School Support or designee, such appeal should be made to the Executive Director of the Office of New Schools.

**POLICE NOTIFICATION**

When certain misconduct by a student amounts to a criminal act or poses danger to the health, safety or welfare of other students and staff at a school, it may be necessary and appropriate to contact the Chicago Police Department (CPD) and to seek their assistance. The inappropriate behaviors that require a school official to notify the CPD are identified throughout the SCC by the placement of an asterisk (\*) preceding the specific inappropriate behavior. If a student engages in such behavior, a school official must contact the CPD. Whenever the school notifies the police concerning student misconduct, the school must also immediately attempt to contact the parent/guardian of that student. If questions arise concerning police notification, please consult the appropriate Area Office or the Law Department at (773) 553-1700.

However, there are other inappropriate behaviors by students where it is necessary for a school official to assess the nature of the misconduct and the extent to which the health, safety or welfare of other persons are placed in danger by a student's actions. In those instances, school officials must make a judgment call as to whether contacting CPD is appropriate. To assist school officials in making this determination, the inappropriate behaviors preceded by double asterisks (\*\*) are those the SCC considers possible violations of criminal law, depending on the specific facts and circumstances, and **may** require police notification. School officials should consider whether the misconduct is particularly egregious and/or the student persists in misconduct after being told to cease such behavior and continues to endanger the health, safety or welfare of others.

The discretionary exercise of a school official's authority to notify the CPD should involve the consideration of a variety of factors. Those factors include, but are not limited to:

- The age of the student engaging in misconduct;
- The extent to which the student acted intentionally or recklessly;
- Whether the student has received prior warnings; and
- Whether the student's misconduct is specifically intended to cause others physical harm or endanger the health, safety or welfare of others.

If a school official has any questions regarding the decision of whether to notify the police, he or she should contact the appropriate Area Office or, if necessary, the Law Department, as soon as possible and before notifying the police. However, at no time should the safety of students and/or staff be compromised to adhere to this provision of the SCC.

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

It shall be the responsibility of each school principal to:

- ◆ Confer with school personnel, parents, students, and appropriate community agencies to formulate procedures and programs that will foster socially acceptable student conduct;
- ◆ Prepare and submit copies of Incident Reports for Group 4, 5 and 6 violations of the SCC to the Office of the Chief Executive Officer or designee. The Office of School Safety and Security should review Incident Reports for Group 4, 5, and 6 violations of the SCC;
- ◆ Prepare and submit copies of Misconduct Reports to the Office of School Safety and Security and the Office of the Chief Executive Officer or designee for any violation of the SCC. All Misconduct Reports must be prepared, recorded, and sent to the student's parent/guardian for every occurrence of inappropriate behavior;
- ◆ Notify the Chicago Police Department as necessary to protect the safety, health and welfare of students and staff;
- ◆ Assist central office and the Law Department with expulsion proceedings by identifying and producing witnesses and transmitting documents to the Chief Executive Officer or designee and by reviewing all documentation regarding an incident to ensure that it is complete, accurate and properly written;
- ◆ Ensure compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA) and applicable Illinois procedural safeguards for discipline of students with disabilities.
- ◆ Make a reasonable effort to meet with the student's parent/guardian or to ensure that another school official meets with the student's parent/guardian following every act of misconduct;
- ◆ Encourage positive behavior by students; and
- ◆ Ensure that students who are suspended receive homework assignments and are given the opportunity to participate in any statewide assessments given during the period of a student's suspension.

It shall be the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer or designee to accomplish the following:

- ◆ Review school intervention or consequences and hear appeals regarding such actions;
- ◆ Monitor the implementation of prevention strategies and the safety/security program in each school;
- ◆ Systematically monitor suspension, expulsion, and other disciplinary data by race, ethnicity, and sex of student, and prepare recommendations for improvement of school discipline; and
- ◆ Provide assistance to the Law Department in expulsion proceedings, including transmittal of documents and monitoring of school compliance.

These acts of misconduct include *inappropriate* student behaviors in the classroom or on the school grounds, such as the following:

- 1-1 Running and/or making excessive noise in the hall or building
- 1-2 Leaving the classroom without permission
- 1-3 Displaying any behavior that is disruptive to the orderly process of classroom instruction
- 1-4 Loitering
- 1-5 Failing to attend class without a valid excuse
- 1-6 Persistent tardiness to school or class
- 1-7 Use of the CPS Network for the purpose of accessing non-educational materials<sup>1</sup>

### INTERVENTIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

(Sanctions may be modified based on the age or grade level of the student.)

#### FIRST VIOLATION

- ◆ Teacher-Student Conference
- ◆ Teacher-Student-Parent Conference
- ◆ Balanced and restorative justice strategies may be used where appropriate and approved by the school administration, provided that all participation is voluntary. (see Appendix G).

#### REPEATED VIOLATIONS

- ◆ Teacher-Student-Resource Person- Administrator Conference
- ◆ In-school Suspension (one to three days)
- ◆ Detention
  - Before School -After School -Saturday
- ◆ Referral to School Peer Jury in lieu of suspension (if available and approved by principal)
- ◆ Suspension of CPS Network privileges for improper use of the CPS Network for one to five days, in addition to any other disciplinary action listed.<sup>2</sup>
- ◆ Balanced and restorative justice strategies may be used where appropriate and approved by the school administration, provided that all participation is voluntary. (see Appendix G).

---

<sup>1</sup> Non-educational materials include, but are not limited to, games, pornographic material, or other inappropriate material.

<sup>2</sup> Disciplinary actions regarding network privileges only apply to network offenses.

**GROUP 2 - INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIORS**

These acts of misconduct include those student behaviors that *disrupt* the orderly educational process in the school or on the school grounds, such as the following:

- 2-1 Posting or distributing unauthorized or other written materials on school grounds
- 2-2 Leaving the school without permission
- 2-3 Interfering with school authorities and programs through walkouts or sit-ins
- 2-4 Initiating or participating in any unacceptable minor physical actions
- 2-5 Failing to abide by school rules and regulations not otherwise listed in the SCC
- 2-6 Exhibiting or publishing any profane, obscene, indecent, immoral, libelous, or offensive written materials, language or gestures
- 2-7 Possession and/or use of tobacco products, matches, cigarette lighters, or rolling papers
- 2-8 Defying (disobeying) the authority of school personnel
- 2-9 Failing to provide proper identification
- 2-10 Unauthorized use of school parking lots or other areas
- 2-11 Use of the CPS Network for the purposes of distribution or downloading non-educational material
- 2-12 Possession of pagers or cellular telephones without prior permission of the Principal<sup>3</sup>

**INTERVENTIONS AND CONSEQUENCES**

**(Sanctions may be modified based on the age or grade level of the student.)**

**FIRST VIOLATION**

- ◆ Teacher-Student Conference
- ◆ Teacher-Student-Parent Conference
- ◆ Teacher-Student-Resource Person-Administrator Conference
- ◆ Suspension of CPS Network privileges for improper use of the CPS Network or Information Technology Devices for five to ten days, in addition to any disciplinary action listed.<sup>4</sup>
- ◆ In-school Suspension (one to five days)
- ◆ Detention
  - Before School -After School -Saturday
- ◆ Balanced and restorative justice strategies may be used where appropriate and approved by the school administration, provided that all participation is voluntary. (see Appendix G).

**REPEATED VIOLATIONS**

- ◆ In-school suspension (one to five days)
- ◆ Detention
  - Before School -After School -Saturday
- ◆ Suspension (one to five days)
- ◆ Referral to School Peer Jury in lieu of suspension (if available and approved by the principal)
- ◆ Suspension of CPS Network privileges for improper use of the CPS Network or Information Technology Devices for up to one semester, in addition to any disciplinary action listed.<sup>5</sup>
- ◆ Balanced and restorative justice strategies may be used where appropriate and approved by the school administration, provided that all participation is voluntary. (see Appendix G).

<sup>3</sup> Upon written request from a parent or legal guardian, a principal may authorize a student to possess a pager or cellular telephone for medical and other family emergencies, or for any other good cause. A denial of authorization for possession or use of pagers or cellular telephones may be reviewed by the Chief Executive Officer or designee.

<sup>4</sup> Disciplinary actions regarding network privileges only apply to network offenses.

<sup>5</sup> Disciplinary actions regarding network privileges only apply to network offenses.

These acts of misconduct include those student behaviors that *seriously disrupt* the orderly educational process of the Chicago Public Schools, such as the following:

- 3-1 Disruptive behavior on the school bus<sup>6</sup>
- \*\*3-2 Gambling
- 3-3 Fighting - two people, no injuries
- 3-4 Profane, obscene, indecent, and immoral or seriously offensive language and gestures, propositions, behavior, or harassment based on race, color, national origin, sex, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, gender identity, gender expression or disability
- 3-5 Persisting in serious acts of disobedience or misconduct listed in Groups 1 through 3 of this Code
- 3-6 Any behavior not otherwise listed in Groups 1 through 3 of this Code, the commission of which is seriously disruptive to the educational process
- \*\* 3-7 Forgery
- 3-8 Plagiarizing, cheating and/or copying the work of another student or other source
- 3-9 Overt Display of Gang Affiliation (see glossary for definition)<sup>7</sup>
- 3-10 Bullying behaviors (see glossary for definition)
- 3-11 Unauthorized activation or use of pagers, cellular telephones or other electronic devices
- 3-12 Inappropriately wearing any JROTC or Military Academy Uniform<sup>8</sup>
- 3-13 Use of the CPS Network or any Information Technology Device for any unauthorized purpose not otherwise listed in this Code

### INTERVENTIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

(Sanctions may be modified based on the age or grade level of the student.)

#### FIRST VIOLATION

- ◆ Teacher-Student-Resource Person-Administrator Conference
- ◆ In-School Suspension (one to five days)
- ◆ Detention
  - Before School -After School -Saturday
- ◆ Suspension (one to five days)
- ◆ Suspension of CPS Network privileges for improper use of the CPS Network or Information Technology Devices for up to one semester, in addition to any disciplinary action listed<sup>9</sup>
- ◆ Balanced and restorative justice strategies may be used where appropriate and approved by the school administration, provided that all participation is voluntary- (see Appendix G).

#### REPEATED VIOLATIONS

- ◆ Suspension (one to ten days) and/or disciplinary reassignment per Area approval
- ◆ Referral to School Peer Jury in lieu of suspension (if available and approved by the principal)
- ◆ Suspension of CPS Network privileges for improper use of the CPS Network or Information Technology Devices for up to one year, in addition to any disciplinary action listed<sup>10</sup>
- ◆ Balanced and restorative justice strategies may be used where appropriate and approved by the school administration, provided that all participation is voluntary- (see Appendix G).

\*\* Inappropriate Behaviors marked with two asterisks indicate that the school may use its discretion in notifying police about the incident. Police notification is not required for these Inappropriate Behaviors.

<sup>6</sup> In addition to other disciplinary actions, a student who engages in disruptive behavior on the school bus may be subject to suspension from bus service for a period to be determined by the school principal with review by Chief Executive Officer or designee.

<sup>7</sup> Repeated violations of Inappropriate Behavior 3-9 of the SCC may result in a referral for an expulsion hearing and should be submitted as a 5-6 Inappropriate Behavior.

<sup>8</sup> Students may be subject to disciplinary action for violations of Inappropriate Behavior that occur either on or outside of school grounds.

<sup>9</sup> Disciplinary actions regarding network privileges only apply to network offenses.

<sup>10</sup> Disciplinary actions regarding network privileges only apply to network offenses.

These acts of misconduct include those student behaviors that *very seriously disrupt* the orderly educational process of the Chicago Public Schools, such as the following:

- \*\*4-1 False activation of a fire alarm that does not cause a school facility to be evacuated or does not cause emergency services to be notified
- \*\*4-2 Extortion
- \*\*4-3 Assault
- \*4-4 Vandalism or criminal damage to property resulting in damages not exceeding \$500
- \*\*4-5 Battery or aiding or abetting in the commission of a battery which does not result in a physical injury
- \*\*4-6 Fighting - more than two people and/or involves injury or injuries
- \*\*4-7 Theft or possession of stolen property not exceeding \$150 in value
- \*\*4-8 Possession, use, or delivery of fireworks
- 4-9 Any behavior not otherwise listed in Groups 1 through 4 of this Code, the commission of which is very seriously disruptive to the educational process
- \*\*4-10 Disorderly conduct
- \*\*4-11 Trespassing on CPS property
- \*4-12 Knowingly or intentionally using the CPS Network or Information Technology Devices to spread viruses to the CPS Network
- 4-13 Possession of any dangerous object for purposes of this Code<sup>11</sup>

#### INTERVENTIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

(Sanctions may be modified based on the age or grade level of the student.)

- ◆ Teacher-Student-Resource Person-Administrator Conference
- ◆ In-School Suspension (one to five days)
- ◆ Detention
  - Before School -After School -Saturday
- ◆ Suspension (one to ten days) and/or Disciplinary Reassignment per Area approval
- ◆ Suspension of CPS Network Privileges for improper use of the CPS Network or Information Technology Devices for up to one year in addition to other disciplinary actions listed<sup>12</sup>
- ◆ Balanced and restorative justice strategies may be used where appropriate and approved by the school administration, provided that all participation is voluntary- (see Appendix G)

---

\* Inappropriate Behaviors marked with a single asterisk indicate that the school must notify the police of the incident.

\*\* Inappropriate Behaviors marked with two asterisks indicate that the school may use its discretion in notifying police about the incident. Police notification is not required for these Inappropriate Behaviors.

<sup>11</sup> Second or repeated violations of Inappropriate Behavior 4-13 may result in an expulsion hearing and should be submitted as an Inappropriate Behavior 5-11.

<sup>12</sup> Disciplinary actions regarding network privileges only apply to network offenses.

These acts of misconduct include those student behaviors that *most seriously disrupt* the orderly educational process in the Chicago Public Schools, such as the following:

- \*5-1 Aggravated assault
- \*5-2 Burglary
- \*5-3 Theft or possession of stolen property exceeding \$150 in value
- \*\*5-4 Use of intimidation, credible threats of violence, coercion, persistent severe bullying
- 5-5 Gross disobedience to the authority of school personnel
- \*5-6 Gang activity, including overt displays of gang affiliation
- \*\*5-7 Inappropriate sexual conduct
- \*5-8 Engaging in any other illegal behavior which interferes with the school's educational process<sup>13</sup>
- \*5-9 Persistent or severe acts of sexual harassment
- \*5-10 False activation of a fire alarm which causes a school facility to be evacuated or causes emergency services to be notified
- 5-11 Second or repeated violation of Inappropriate Behavior 4-13, possession of any dangerous object, for purposes of this Code<sup>14</sup>
- \*5-12 Battery, or aiding or abetting in the commission of a battery, which results in a physical injury
- \*\*5-13 Initiating or participating in any inappropriate, minor physical contact with school Personnel<sup>15</sup>
- \*5-14 Hacking into the CPS Network or use of any computer or information technology device to stalk, harass, or otherwise intimidate others, to access student records or other unauthorized information, and/or to otherwise cause a security hazard
- \*5-15 Vandalism or criminal damage to property that results in damage exceeding \$500 or that is done to personal property belonging to any school personnel
- 5-16 Inappropriate consensual sexual activity

### INTERVENTIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

For violations of Group 5 Inappropriate Behaviors, a student shall be suspended for five to ten days, and may be referred for expulsion and/or disciplinary reassignment.<sup>45</sup> For offenses involving the improper use of the CPS Network or Information Technology Devices, network privileges may be revoked for up to two years, in addition to other disciplinary actions available.

For Group 5 Inappropriate Behaviors for which a student in the sixth grade or above is referred for expulsion, the student may be recommended by an expulsion hearing officer to attend the Board-sponsored SMART program in lieu of expulsion if he or she has no prior Group 5 or Group 6 violations and/or has not engaged in behaviors which involve violence or the threat of violence within the previous nine months. Such recommendations are subject to approval of the Chief Executive Officer. A student who is recommended for participation in the SMART program in lieu of expulsion but who fails to successfully complete the program shall be expelled. If a student is expelled, Alternative Safe School Placement may be recommended for the period of the expulsion.

---

\* Inappropriate Behaviors marked with a single asterisk indicate that the school must notify the police of the incident.

\*\* Inappropriate Behaviors marked with two asterisks indicate that the school may use its discretion in notifying police about the incident. Police notification is not required for these inappropriate behaviors.

<sup>13</sup> Any attempt at an illegal behavior is an illegal behavior itself, and so is included as punishable under this code.

<sup>14</sup> First-time violations of Inappropriate Behavior 5-11 by a student in the fifth grade and below will result in a maximum of ten days suspension at the school level, and the student will not be referred for an expulsion hearing.

<sup>15</sup> An example of behavior that would constitute a 5-13 violation is a student pushing school personnel out of the way in order to physically fight with another student.

These acts of misconduct include illegal student behaviors that not only *most seriously disrupt* the orderly educational process in the Chicago Public Schools but also mandate the disciplinary action described below:

- \*6-1 Use, possession, and/or concealment of a firearm/destructive device or other weapon or "look-alikes" of weapons as defined in this Code, or use or intent to use any other object to inflict bodily harm
- \*6-2 Intentionally causing or attempting to cause all or a portion of the CPS Network to become inoperable
- \*6-3 Arson
- \*6-4 Bomb threat
- \*6-5 Robbery
- \*6-6 Use, possession, sale, or delivery of alcohol, illegal drugs, narcotics, controlled substances, "look-alikes" of such substances, or contraband, or use of any other substance for the purpose of intoxication
- \*6-7 Sex violations or aiding and abetting in the commission of a sex violation
- \*6-8 Aggravated battery, or aiding and abetting in the commission of an aggravated battery
- \*6-9 Murder
- \*6-10 Attempted murder
- \*6-11 Kidnapping

### INTERVENTIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

Suspension for ten days and expulsion for a period of not less than one calendar year, or as modified on a case-by-case review by the Chief Executive Officer or designee. Alternative Safe School Placement may be recommended for the period of the expulsion.

For first-time offenses of Group 6 Inappropriate Behaviors by students in the sixth grade or above which do not involve violence or the threat of violence or the use, possession, and/or concealment of a firearm/destructive device, or the sale or delivery of illegal substances, a student may be recommended by the expulsion hearing officer to attend the Board-sponsored SMART program in lieu of expulsion if he or she has no prior Group 5 or Group 6 violations during the previous nine months. A student who is recommended for participation in the SMART program in lieu of expulsion but who fails to successfully complete the program shall be expelled. For offenses involving the improper use of the CPS Network or Information Technology Devices, network privileges may be revoked indefinitely.

---

\* Inappropriate Behaviors marked with a single asterisk indicate that the school must notify the police of the incident.



- Appendix A Sample Misconduct Report
- Appendix B Expulsion Hearing and Emergency Alternative Placement Guidelines
- Appendix C Glossary of Terms
- Appendix D Reference Guide for Groups 4, 5 and 6 Inappropriate Behaviors Involving Dangerous Objects, Weapons or Look-Alike Weapons
- Appendix E Procedural Guide for Students with Disabilities
- Appendix F Notice to Parents and Students Regarding ~~Student Records, Student Interventions and Student Surveys~~ Board Policies
- Appendix G Balanced and Restorative Justice Strategies
- Appendix H Acknowledgement of Receipt of the SCC

Appendix A

SAMPLE MISCONDUCT REPORT

B.S.S. 158 (Revised 4/99)  
Comm. No. 100

Chicago Public Schools  
Bureau of Safety and Security

MISCONDUCT REPORT

SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_ STUDENT/OFFENDER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First

UNIT NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Misconduct No: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_  Non CPS Student

Incident Report Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Narrative (if needed): \_\_\_\_\_ ACCIDENT REPORT COMPLETED:  Yes  No

GANG RELATED:  Yes  No

DISCIPLINARY ACTION TAKEN:

- Teacher/Student Conference
- Teacher/Student/Parent Conference
- Teacher/Student/Parent/Res/Adm Conference

Area where misconduct occurred:

- (Check one)  Classroom  Halls  Bus  Washroom  
 Out-of-school  Other \_\_\_\_\_

In-School Suspension \_\_\_\_\_ Days  
 Suspension \_\_\_\_\_ Day(s)  
**NOTE: NUMBER OF DAYS MUST BE STATED**

Disciplinary Reassignment

Hearing/Conference Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Participants: \_\_\_\_\_  Police Notification

Report completed by: \_\_\_\_\_  Arrest: P.D. RD.#

Suspension Homework Assigned by: \_\_\_\_\_  Expulsion

APPROVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

DEAR PARENT OR GUARDIAN:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ Chicago, IL 606 \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

In accordance with the provisions of the Rules of the Board of Education as authorized by the Illinois School Code \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ a student in this school residing at \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Room/Division: \_\_\_\_\_ has been suspended from school this day for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ school days until the opening of school on \_\_\_\_\_. The cause of his action is listed above. You are invited to attend a conference regarding this suspension. Please call me at \_\_\_\_\_ to discuss this matter.

NOTE: \_\_\_\_\_

Sincerely,

Principal

Telephone Number

SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENT ONLY: \_\_\_\_\_ total days suspended this year.

THE REGIONAL EDUCATION OFFICER OF REGION NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ WHOSE OFFICE IS LOCATED AT: \_\_\_\_\_ HAS BEEN NOTIFIED OF THE SUSPENSION

**EXPULSION HEARING AND EMERGENCY ALTERNATIVE PLACEMENT GUIDELINES****Hearing Procedures**

- ◆ If a student engages in inappropriate behavior, a Misconduct Report is prepared and the parent or guardian and student are contacted, notifying them of the misconduct.
- ◆ When a student engages in an Inappropriate Behavior that results in a referral for a disciplinary hearing, the parent/guardian of the student will be sent a Notice of Request for Disciplinary Hearing letter and a Notice of Disciplinary Hearing letter. These notices will provide a description of the incident, the date of the incident, the SCC misconduct number, and the time and date for the disciplinary hearing.
- ◆ At the hearing, testimony from all witnesses for the Chief Executive Officer, as well as for the student, will be heard and documentary evidence may be introduced.
- ◆ After the hearing, the hearing officer provides an opinion to the Chief Executive Officer for final approval. The hearing officer's opinion shall set forth his or her recommended consequence or intervention for the student's misconduct.
- ◆ If a student in Grades 6-12 has not incurred any Group 5 or 6 violations during the previous nine months and the behavior for which the student was referred for expulsion does not involve violence or the threat of violence, the hearing officer may recommend that the student attend the Board-sponsored SMART program in lieu of expulsion. Such recommendations are subject to approval of the Chief Executive Officer. A student who is recommended to attend the SMART program in lieu of expulsion but who fails to successfully complete the program shall be expelled.
- ◆ The hearing officer may also issue a recommendation that a student be expelled for up to two calendar years or as modified on a case-by-case basis by the Chief Executive Officer or designee. If a student is expelled, Alternative Safe School Placement may be recommended for the period of the expulsion.

**Emergency Referral to Alternative Placement**

- ◆ Students who commit extremely serious infractions of Groups 5 and 6 of the Student Code of Conduct may be referred for placement in an interim alternative setting in addition to being referred for expulsion. This placement would be effective following a student's designated term of suspension and would not be considered permanent; therefore, no hearing is required prior to referring a student for emergency alternative placement.
- ◆ A general education student may be referred for emergency placement in an alternative school if the student commits a serious act of misconduct that presents a serious and credible threat of harm to themselves or others.
- ◆ Students with disabilities may also be referred for emergency alternative placement when in possession of weapons, or large amounts of drugs; or for causing serious bodily injury to another person when the misconduct occurred on school grounds or at a school-sponsored event. For students with disabilities whose misconduct presents a danger to themselves or others in a manner other than those specified above, please consult with the Office of Due Process and Mediation. Students with disabilities may be placed in an interim alternative educational setting for a maximum period of up to 45 school days even in instances where the student's misconduct is ultimately determined to be a manifestation of his or her disability.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Aggravated assault** - Any assault done with a deadly weapon or done by a person who conceals his/her identity, or any assault against school personnel.

**Aggravated battery** - Any battery to another that either causes great harm, is done with a deadly weapon, or is done by a person who conceals his/her identity; or the use of physical force against school personnel.

**Alternative school placement** - Disciplinary reassignment to the Safe Schools Alternative Program; serves students in Grades 6-12 and offers specialized curriculum, smaller teacher-student ratios, and support services.

**Arrest** - Detention of a person by a police officer resulting from a criminal charge and a complaint filed with the police by school personnel or the victim. When an act of misconduct warrants arrest, the victim, principal or his designee must serve as a complaining witness.

**Arson** - The act of knowingly damaging, by means of fire or explosive, a building and/or the personal property of others.

**Assault** - An attempt or reasonable threat to inflict injury on someone which is accompanied by a show of force which would cause the victim to expect an immediate battery. An assault may be committed without actually touching, striking or injuring the victim.

**Attempted murder** - Any act which constitutes a substantial step toward intended commission of murder.

**Ballistic knife** - A device that projects a knifelike blade as a projectile by means of a coil spring, elastic material, or compressed gas.

**Battery** - The act of causing bodily harm to, or unwanted bodily contact with, another without legal justification, such as self-defense.

**Bomb threat** - A false indication that a bomb or other explosive of any nature is concealed in a place that would endanger human life if activated.

**Bullying behaviors** - Acts of repeated intentional behavior that occurs in order to intentionally harm others through verbal or non verbal harassment, physical assault, or other more subtle methods of coercion. Such behavior may include, but is not limited to, manipulation, teasing, taunting, threatening, hitting, stealing, destroying personal property, sending threatening/abusive emails or cyber bullying.

**Burglary** - Knowingly and without authority entering or remaining within a building or vehicle with intent to commit therein a felony or theft.

**Chicago Public Schools' Electronic Network-Related Technologies and Access ("CPS Network")** - The system of computers, terminals, servers, databases, routers, hubs, switches and distance learning equipment connected to the CPS Network. These components may function in conjunction with established hardware or wireless systems running over access lines owned or leased by CPS.

**Contraband** - Property which is illegal to possess.

**Delivery** - The act of selling or distributing fireworks, alcohol, illegal drugs, narcotics, controlled substances, contraband or "look-alikes" of such substances to others for the purpose of intoxication or profit.

**Dating Violence** - A violent or controlling behavior that an individual uses against a girlfriend or boyfriend and can include emotional, physical and sexual abuse, stalking, yelling, threats, name-calling, threats of suicide, obsessive phone calling or text messaging, extreme jealousy and possessiveness.

**Disciplinary Reassignment** - The transfer of a student from his or her current CPS school to another CPS school for disciplinary reasons. Disciplinary Reassignments are reserved only for students who have been determined, pursuant to the SCC, to have engaged in continually disruptive or very serious acts of misconduct. All Disciplinary Reassignments must be approved and facilitated by the AIO or their designee, or if an AIO is not assigned to the school, the Chief Executive Officer or designee. For further information, refer to the Board's Comprehensive Policy on the Enrollment and Transfer of Students in the Chicago Public Schools (as may be amended).

**Disorderly conduct** - An act done in an unreasonable manner so as to alarm or disturb others and which provokes a breach of the peace.

**Due process** - The notification to the student and the parent concerning alleged act(s) of misconduct, the right to appeal, the opportunity to answer the charges, and the reason as to why intervention or consequence is necessary.

**Expulsion** - The removal of a student from school for 11 or more consecutive days, to a maximum of two calendar years. An expulsion requires a due process hearing including written notification of charges. The student and parent are informed of the due process hearing by registered or certified mail or by personal delivery. This definition does not apply to exclusion of a student from school for failure to comply with immunization requirements.

**Extortion** - The obtaining of money or information from another by coercion or intimidation.

**Fighting** - Physical contact between two or more individuals with intent to harm. (It is not an act of misconduct to defend oneself as provided by the law.)

**Firearm** - The term "firearm/destructive device" as defined in 18 U.S.C. Section 921 includes, but is not limited to, handguns, rifles, automatic weapons, bombs, or other incendiary devices and parts thereof.

**Forgery** - The false and fraudulent making or altering of a document or the use of such a document.

**Gambling** - Participation in games of chance or skill for money and/or things of value.

**Gang** - Any ongoing organization or group of three or more persons having as one of its primary activities the commission of one or more criminal acts, which has an identifiable name or identifying sign or symbol, and whose members individually or collectively engage in or have engaged in a pattern of criminal activity.

**Gang activity** - Any act, e.g., recruitment with use of intimidation, tagging or marking, assault, battery, theft, trespassing, or extortion, performed by a gang member or on behalf of a gang, and intended to further a common criminal objective. Intent can be implied from the character of the individual's acts as well as the circumstances surrounding the misconduct.

**Hacking** - Intentionally gaining access to a computer or computer network by illegal means or without authorization.

**Inappropriate sexual conduct** - Includes unwelcome sexual contact, indecent exposure or other sexual activities which do not involve the use of force.

**Indecent proposition** - An unsolicited sexual proposal.

**Information Technology Devices** - These include, but are not limited to: computers, cellular phones used to exchange or access information, pagers, and personal digital assistants, that are used to access the internet, electronic mail or other information sites and that may or may not be physically connected to the network infrastructure.

**Inoperable Network** - A network is considered inoperable for purposes of this Code when it is unable to perform at the level of functionality intended by its maintainers.

**In-school suspension** - The student remains in school. All privileges are suspended, classes are not attended. The action is recorded in the student's file. In-school suspension shall not exceed five days and parents must be notified. (subject to review by the Chief Executive Officer or designee-).

**Insubordination** - The act of a student enrolled in a military academy or JROTC program which defies a lawful and appropriate direct order of a superior ranked officer, staff member, or another student.

**Intimidation** - Engaging in behavior that prevents or discourages another student from exercising his/her right to education. Such prohibited behavior includes the use of threats, coercion, or force against students, school personnel and school visitors.

**Kidnapping** - Secret confinement of another against his/her will or transportation of another by force or deceit from one place to another with the intent to secretly confine.

**Leaving the grounds without permission** - "School grounds" refers to the school and the school property adjacent to the building.

**Loitering** - Occupying an unauthorized place in the school or on the school grounds.

**“Look-alike” substance** - Any substance which by appearance, representation, or manner of distribution would lead a reasonable person to believe that the substance is an illegal drug or other controlled substance.

**Murder** - Killing of an individual without legal justification.

**Overt display of gang affiliation** - Any act, e.g., wearing clothing or paraphernalia, the display of gang signs, symbols, and signals that signifies or exhibits an individual's affiliation with a gang that seriously disrupts the educational process. Gang affiliation can be implied from the character of the individual's acts as well as the circumstances surrounding the misconduct.

**Police notification** - A report filed with the Police Department. The action is recorded in the student's file.

**Possession** - Physical control over real or personal property (whether lost, found, mislaid, or stolen), such as clothing, lockers, or bags.

**Prohibited devices** - Prohibited devices, such as pagers, are listed in the Illinois School Code Section 34-18.9.

**Restorative Justice** - A way of thinking and responding to conflict and problems that involves all participants in figuring out what happened, how it affected everyone and how to make things right--everyone involved is part of the problem-solving process.

**Robbery** - The taking of personal property in the possession of another by use of force or by threatening the imminent use of force.

**School Peer Juries** - School Peer Juries are used in student courts as an alternative to other intervention or consequence. The hearings may be held in the school that is attended by the offender or in a school within the Area of the offender's school. In order to appear before a School Peer Jury, the offending student must admit to committing the misconduct, and the student and parent must agree to abide by the decisions of the School Peer Jury and complete the disciplinary actions it recommends. To participate in School Peer Juries, a student must be referred by the principal, or other school discipline administrator, as approved by the principal. Any individual school's program must be approved by the Chief Executive Officer or designee before a School Peer Jury is put into use, and School Peer Jury members must receive specialized training.

**Security Hazard** - Anything that undermines, disrupts, or circumvents an information security system, regardless of intent.

**Sex violations** - Sex crimes which include the use of force such as criminal sexual assault, aggravated criminal sexual assault, criminal sexual abuse, and aggravated criminal sexual abuse.

**Sexual harassment** - Unwelcome sexual or gender-based conduct (either physical or verbal) and/or conduct of a sexual nature which is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive so as to limit a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the educational program or which creates a hostile or abusive school environment.

**SMART** (Saturday Morning Alternative Reach-Out and Teach Program) - A comprehensive and integrated eight-session Saturday morning program which includes the attendance of an adult representative at two meetings and the completion of outside community service. The SMART program provides students with character building and conflict resolution skills as well as prevention, intervention, referral, and support services for amelioration of alcohol- or drug-related problems and misconduct in general.

**Suspension** - The involuntary removal of a student from class attendance or school attendance for 10 days or fewer. (Any such removal requires parent notification and minimal due process, including oral or written notification of the charges and an opportunity for the student and/or parent to respond to the charges.) Suspension may not be used serially for a single act of misconduct. A student may be considered as trespassing if present on school grounds during the period of suspension. Appeals to suspensions may be made to the Chief Executive Officer or designee. Schools should attempt to ensure the student's receipt of class assignments for the period of the suspension, and the academic grade will not be affected when class assignments are completed satisfactorily.

**Switchblade knife** - A knife with a blade that opens automatically by hand pressure applied to a button, spring, or other device in the handle of the knife.

**Theft** - The obtaining or exerting of unauthorized control over the personal property of another.

**Trespassing** - Entrance onto school grounds when previously prohibited or remaining on school grounds after receiving request to depart.

**Vandalism** - The willful or malicious destruction or defacing of school property or the property of others.

**Weapon** - Any object that is commonly used to inflict bodily harm, and/or an object that is used or intended to be used in a manner that may inflict bodily harm, even though its normal use is not as a weapon. See Appendix D for more detail.

**REFERENCE GUIDE FOR GROUPS 4, 5 AND 6 INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIORS INVOLVING  
DANGEROUS OBJECTS, WEAPONS OR LOOK-ALIKE WEAPONS**

**SECTIONS 4-13 AND 5-11**

If a student simply has any of these objects in his or her possession, but does not use them, (s)he should be charged with a violation of Section 4-13 of the SCC for a first-time violation or 5-11 of the SCC for a second or repeated violation. *If a student uses, or intends to use, any of these objects to inflict harm on someone, the student should be charged with a violation of Section 6-1.*

**Knives - these include but are not limited to:**

- Steak knife or other kitchen knives
- Pen knives/Pocket knives
- Hunting knives
- Swiss Army knife
- Box cutters
- Razors

**Tools - these include but are not limited to:**

- Hammers
- Screwdrivers
- Saws
- Crowbars/Metal pipes
- Other objects commonly used for construction or household repair

**Other Objects - these include but are not limited to:**

- Mace/Pepper spray
- Broken bottles or other pieces of glass
- Wooden sticks/boards

**SECTION 6-1**

If a student has any of these objects in his or her possession or uses any of these objects, (s)he should be charged with a violation of Section 6-1 of the SCC.

**Firearms - these include:**

- Pistol
- Revolver
- Other firearms
- Live ammunition/Live bullets
- Any part or portion of a machine gun or rifle

**Knives - these include only the following types of knives:**

- Switchblade knives
- Ballistic knives (knives that are operated by an air or gas pump)

**Explosive Devices/Gases - these include:**

- Tear gas guns
- Projector bombs
- Noxious liquid gas
- Grenades
- Other explosive substances



**Other Objects - these include:**

- Blackjack
- Slingshot
- Sand club
- Sandbag
- Metal/brass knuckles
- Throwing stars
- Tasers/stun guns

**“Look-Alike” Firearms - these include:**

- B.B. guns
- Air guns
- Other objects, including “toys” or replicas that reasonably resemble real firearms

**6-1 SPECIAL CONSIDERATION**

If a student simply has any of these objects, or any other similar object in his/her possession, (s)he should not be charged with a violation of the SCC. *If a student uses, or intends to use, any of these objects to inflict bodily harm on someone, the student should be charged with a violation of Section 6-1.*

**Sporting Equipment - these include but are not limited to:**

- Baseball bats
- Golf clubs

**Personal Grooming Products - these include but are not limited to:**

- Nail clippers/files
- Combs with sharp handles
- Tweezers

**School Supplies - these include but are not limited to:**

- Scissors
- Laser pointers
- Pens/Pencils
- Rulers
- Padlocks/Combination locks
- Other objects commonly used for educational purposes

### PROCEDURAL GUIDE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

School officials may suspend students with disabilities and cease educational services for a total of up to 10 consecutive or 10 cumulative school days in one school year without providing special education procedural safeguards. Saturday, and before- and after-school detentions do not count toward the 10-day limit. Additionally, as long as students with disabilities are being provided with special education services, in-school suspensions do not count towards the 10-day limit. Principals do not have to suspend students with disabilities for the mandatory periods set forth in this Code for a single offense. The Principal has discretion to be flexible in the amount of days of suspension given to each student with disabilities. Students with disabilities can be suspended in excess of 10 school days in certain circumstances. **In order to suspend a student with a disability in excess of 10 school days, the Office of Due Process and Mediation at (773) 553-1905 MUST first be consulted for approval.** When school officials anticipate a referral for expulsion or for emergency alternative placement, the following apply:

1. Provide written notice to the parent/guardian or surrogate parent of the intervention or consequence being considered and the date of an Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting, which must be held within 10 days of the date of the decision to discipline the student.
2. The IEP team must:
  - A. Determine whether the misconduct is related to the student's disability by reviewing evaluation and diagnostic results, information from the parent/guardian, observations of the student, and the student's IEP. The behavior is a manifestation of the student's disability if:
    - 1) the conduct in question was caused by the student's disability or has a direct and substantial relationship to the student's disability: and/or
    - 2) the conduct in question was the direct result of the school's failure to implement the student's IEP.
  - B. Review and revise, if necessary, the student's existing behavior intervention plan or, develop a functional behavior assessment and intervention plan to address the misconduct. The behavior intervention plan must address the misconduct for which the student is being disciplined.

If the student's behavior is not a manifestation of the disability, school officials may apply the Student Code of Conduct, taking into consideration the student's special education and disciplinary records. In no event, however, may the student be suspended for more than 10 consecutive or cumulative school days in a school year without providing appropriate educational services.

If the student's behavior is a manifestation of the disability, a disciplinary change in placement (expulsion) cannot occur.

Students with disabilities may be placed in an interim alternative educational setting for a maximum of 45 school days, even in instances where the student's misconduct is ultimately determined to be a manifestation of his or her disability.

Students with disabilities may be referred for emergency alternative placement when in possession of weapons, large amounts of drugs, or for inflicting serious bodily injury on another person while on school grounds or at a school sponsored event. The parent or legal guardian may request a due process hearing to challenge the emergency alternative placement.

For students with disabilities whose misconduct presents a danger to themselves or others in a manner other than those specified above, please consult with the Office of Due Process and Mediation, as the Chief Executive Officer may request that a hearing officer order a 45-day emergency alternative placement.

Students with disabilities, even if expelled, must be provided with an appropriate education in an alternative educational setting.

Federal regulations offer some flexibility in suspending students with disabilities in excess of 10 school days in the school year in certain circumstances. In order to determine whether the circumstances permit a suspension in excess of 10 days per school year, consultation by the school with the Office of Due Process and Mediation (773-553-1905) is absolutely necessary. **Without such consultation and approval from the Department, the current procedures limiting suspensions for students with disabilities to 10 school days in a school year will continue to apply.**

**NOTICE TO PARENTS AND STUDENTS  
REGARDING ~~STUDENT RECORDS, STUDENT INTERVENTIONS AND STUDENT SURVEYS~~ BOARD  
POLICIES**

Under the Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") and the Illinois School Student Records Act ("~~ISSRA~~"), students and their parents have certain rights with respect to the student's educational records. These rights transfer solely to the student who has reached the age of 18, graduated from secondary school, married or entered into military service, whichever comes first.

**Student Records**

The law requires the Board of Education of the City of Chicago (the "Board") to maintain educational records, which includes both "permanent records" and "temporary records." A student's permanent record contains the student's name, place and date of birth, address, transcript, parent(s) name(s) and address(es), attendance records, and other information mandated by the Illinois State Board of Education. The student's temporary records include all school-related student information not contained in the permanent record. Student records may include both paper and electronic records.

**Notice of Student Record Retention and Disposal**

According to Board policy, the retention periods for ~~these~~ records are as follows:

- The Student Cumulative (or Temporary) ~~Folder~~ Record for elementary school students shall be kept until the student is 21 years old and for high school students, shall be kept until the student is 27 years old.
- Special education related records for students with disabilities shall be kept until the student is 27 years old.
- Student Permanent records are kept for at least 60 years after the student has transferred, graduated, or otherwise permanently withdrawn from the school.

The Board will follow the above retention schedule and will destroy these student records in the natural course of business when the records are eligible for disposal. Parents will be given notice when students permanently withdraw from school of the record disposal schedule.

**Right to Review and Challenge Student Records**

Parents and students, whether emancipated or not, have the right to inspect and copy all of the student's educational records maintained by the school or the Board unless the parent is prohibited by an order of protection from obtaining those records.

When a student is transferring to a school outside the Chicago Public Schools district, parents have the right to inspect and copy and to challenge their children's temporary and permanent student records prior to the time records are transferred to the out-of-district school.

Schools may not charge to search for or retrieve information, though schools may charge a reasonable fee to copy records. *No parent or student shall be denied a copy of the student records due to their inability to pay.*

Parents have the right to request that a school corrects recorded information (with the exception of academic grades) that they believe is inaccurate, irrelevant or inappropriate through an informal conference at the local school. If the school decides not to amend the records, the parent has the right to request a formal hearing by submitting a written request to the Board. Parents of elementary school students should contact the Office of Elementary Areas and Schools, Chicago Public Schools, 125 S. Clark Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chicago, IL 60603, for a formal hearing, and parents of high school students ~~or~~ should contact the Office of High Schools and High School Programs, 125 S. Clark St., 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chicago, IL 60603. After the hearing, if the Board decides not to amend the record, the parent has the right to place a statement with the records commenting on the contested information in the record. The parent may appeal the Board's decision by contacting the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), Division Supervisor for the Division of Accountability, 100 W. Randolph St., Suite 14-300, Chicago, IL 60601. For more information on how to review and/or challenge a student's record, review the Board's

policy on "Parent and Student Rights of Access to and Confidentiality of Student Records" ([www.policy.cps.k12.il.us/documents/706.3.pdf](http://www.policy.cps.k12.il.us/documents/706.3.pdf)).

### **Release of Student Records**

Generally, schools may not release student records information without written permission from the parent. However, the law allows the disclosure of records, without consent, to select parties, including:

- School district employees or officials<sup>16</sup> who have an academic or administrative interest in the student;
- Schools to which the student is transferring, upon the request of the parent or student;
- Certain government officials as required by State or Federal law;
- Persons conducting studies, provided no student can be individually identified;
- Individuals who have obtained a court order regarding the records, provided the parents are notified;
- Persons who need the information in light of a health or safety emergency; and
- State and local authorities in the juvenile justice system.

A school may also disclose, without consent, certain "Directory Information" such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, and awards and dates of attendance, provided that prior to the release of the Directory Information the parents are given the opportunity to opt out of the release of this information, in which case the information will not be released.

Please note that no person may condition the granting or withholding of any right, privilege or benefit or make as a condition of employment, credit or insurance the securing by any individual of any information from a student's temporary record that the individual may obtain through the exercise of any right secured under ISSRA.

### **Release of Records to Recruiters**

The No Child Left Behind Act ("NCLB") and the Illinois School Code require; school districts to provide the names, addresses and telephone numbers of all 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students to military recruiters or institutions of higher learning upon their request. This information is made available to recruiters only through the Board's Office of High Schools and High School Programs. Parents and students, regardless of whether the student is emancipated or not, may request that their contact information not be disclosed as described below.

If a parent or student does not wish to have the student's contact information released to military recruiters or institutions of higher education, they must submit a written request to the Office of High Schools and High School Programs, Chicago Public Schools, 125 S. Clark St., 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chicago, IL 60603, (773) 553-3540, FAX (773) 553-2148. The request to opt out must include the student's name, ID number and school. For convenience, the Board has developed an opt out form which is available at all Chicago Public Schools high schools. **Parents and students must submit their opt out request to the Office of High Schools and High School Programs by December 1<sup>st</sup> if they wish to opt out of releasing student records to recruiters.**

### **Board Policies on Student Records**

For more information concerning the Board of Education's handling of student records, please review the Board's policies on "Parent and Student Rights of Access to and Confidentiality of Student Records" and "Guidelines for Maintenance of Student Records." For more information on opting out of the release of contact information to recruiters, please review the Board's "Recruiter Access Policy." For a copy of any of these policies, log on to (<http://www.policy.cps.k12.il.us/documents/706.3.pdf>); (<http://www.policy.cps.k12.il.us/documents/706.1.pdf>) or (<http://www.policy.cps.k12.il.us/documents/708.1.pdf>). Copies may also be obtained by writing to the Board Secretary, Board of Education of the City of Chicago, 125 S. Clark St., 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chicago, IL 60603.

---

<sup>16</sup> School officials can include contractors, consultants, volunteers or other parties under the Board's direct control with whom the Board has agreed to outsource certain institutional services or functions, and who have a legitimate educational interest in the specific education records disclosed. The Board's agreement with these contractors, consultants, volunteers or other parties will specifically outline the legitimate educational interest and which educational records are disclosed.

### **Filing of Complaints**

Parents have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education if they believe the school district has failed to abide by the requirements of FERPA by contacting the Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20202-5901.

### **Student Interventions**

The District maintains a policy on the use of momentary physical interventions to maintain the safety of students and staff and to remove disruptive students from the classroom. (<http://policy.cps.k12.il.us/documents/705.7.pdf>) The District also maintains a policy on the use of Behavioral Interventions, Physical Restraints and Isolated Time-Outs with Students with Disabilities (<http://policy.cps.k12.il.us/documents/203.4.pdf>) Copies of these policies can be obtained through the links noted above or by writing to the Board Secretary, Chicago Board of Education, 125 S. Clark St., 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60603.

### **Notice of Search and Seizure Policy**

Any Person who enters onto the property of the Board of Education of the City of Chicago may be subject to a search in accordance with the Board's Search and Seizure Policy, Board Report 02-0227-PO1, as amended.

### **Student Research Surveys**

The District maintains a Research Study and Data Policy to address how individuals may conduct student research activities including surveys in the Chicago Public Schools. This policy has been established to comply with the requirements of the Federal Pupil Protection Rights Act ("PPRA"). A copy of this policy can be obtained through the following link (<http://policy.cps.k12.il.us/documents/203.4.pdf>) or by writing to the Board Secretary, Chicago Board of Education, 125 S. Clark St., 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60603. Parents or guardians who believe their rights under the PPRA may have been violated may file a complaint with: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20202.

## BALANCED AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE STRATEGIES

Following is a listing of generally accepted balanced and restorative justice strategies. Balanced and restorative justice strategies may be used at the discretion of the principal in lieu of certain other non-Group 5 or 6 interventions set forth in the SCC, when all parties voluntarily agree to participate and the appropriate resources are available to support a meaningful effort. These strategies may also be used in conjunction with other interventions. This list is not exhaustive of all balanced and restorative justice strategies.

### Circles

#### (Also called Peacemaking Circles, Circles of Understanding)

Circles - sometimes called peacemaking circles - use traditional circle ritual and structure to involve the victim, victim supporters, the offender, offender supporters, police, and all interested community members. Within the circle, people can speak from the heart in a shared search for understanding of the event, and together identify the steps necessary to assist in healing all affected parties and prevent future offenses.

Circles typically involve a multi-step procedure that includes: (1) application by the offender to participate in the circle process; (2) a healing circle for the victim; (3) a healing circle for the offender; (4) a circle to develop consensus on the elements of a healing plan; and (5) follow-up circles to monitor the progress of the offender. The healing plan may incorporate commitments by the school, community, and family members, as well as by the offender. Specifics of the circle process vary from community to community and are designed locally to fit community needs and culture. Circles also may be used in schools to improve school culture and build relationships.

#### Goals

The goals of circles include:

- Promote healing for all affected parties
- Provide an opportunity for the offender to make amends
- Empower victims, community members, families, and offenders by giving them a voice and a shared responsibility in finding constructive resolutions
- Address the underlying causes of offense behavior
- Build a sense of community and its capacity for resolving conflict
- Promote and share community values
- Improve school culture

#### Implementation

A successful circle process depends upon a healthy partnership between the school and the community. Participants from both need training and skill building in the circle process, peacemaking, and consensus building. The school can subsequently customize the circle process to fit local resources and culture.

Circles are not appropriate for all offenses. The connection of the offender to the community, the sincerity and nature of the offender's efforts to be healed, the input of victims, and the dedication of the offender's support group are key factors in determining whether a case is appropriate for the circle process.

#### Community Service

Community service is work performed by an offender for the benefit of the school community as a formal or informal sanction. Just as neighborhoods and school communities are harmed by criminal and delinquent activities, they can be at least partially restored by meaningful service that contributes to their improvement. Community service offers one way an offender can be held accountable to repair some of the harm caused by his or her criminal or delinquent actions.

### **Goals**

The goals of community service are to:

- Hold offenders accountable for the harm they have caused to the school community
- Provide school communities with human resources that can assist in maintaining a positive school climate
- Allow victims a voice and occasionally some direct benefit by recommending the type of community service performed

### **Implementation**

Successful community service programs require a true partnership. Offenders in a school community can enhance efforts of the community by providing meaningful contributions. Examples of community service include: programs that beautify a community's environment such as cleanup efforts or graffiti removal. Truly restorative community service offers crime victims the opportunity to provide input into the types of community service they would like to see the offender perform, including activities that directly benefit the victim or a charity or project of the victim's choice.

### **Peer Juries (Also called Youth, Teen and Student Courts)**

Peer Juries are programs in which youth work together with youthful offenders, victims and the community which is most often the school setting, to repair harm, build competencies and help to create safer schools and/or communities. Youth Courts typically are set up in different configurations resembling courts, while peer juries often resemble BARJ models of Peacemaking Circles or Community Panels. They usually deal with minor delinquent and other problem behaviors.

Most programs require youth to admit guilt or accept responsibility prior to participation. When the program or disposition is completed, charges or consequences are typically dismissed. Agencies operating and administering youth court programs include juvenile courts, juvenile probation departments, law enforcement, private nonprofit organizations, and schools.

### **Goals**

The goals of peer juries are to:

- Determine a fair and restorative sentence or disposition
- Supervise the disposition and monitor the outcome

### **Implementation**

Successful peer juries consist of students who are trained in restorative justice practices, including circles, conferencing, and community panels. Students who participate in peer jury sessions as victims, offenders or community members should be encouraged to participate as volunteers on subsequent panels.

### **Restorative Group Conferencing (Also called Family Group Conferencing or Accountability Conferencing)**

Restorative group conferencing involves the community of people most affected by the offense -- the victim and the offender; and the family, friends, and key supporters of both -- in deciding the resolution of an incident. These affected parties are brought together by a trained facilitator to discuss how they and others have been harmed by the offense and how that harm might be repaired. To participate, the offender must admit to the offense. Participation by all involved is voluntary. The facilitator contacts the victim and offender to explain the process and invites them to the conference; the facilitator also asks them to identify key members of their support systems, who will be invited to participate as well.



The conference typically begins with the offender describing the incident, followed by each participant describing the impact of the incident on his or her life. It is preferable to allow the victim to start the discussion, if they wish. Through these narrations, the offender is faced with the human impact of the behavior on the victim, on those close to the victim, and on the offender's own family and friends. The victim has the opportunity to express feelings and ask questions about the incident. After a thorough discussion of the impact of the behavior on those present, the victim is asked to identify desired outcomes from the conference, and thus help to shape the obligations that will be placed on the offender. All participants may contribute to the problem-solving process of determining how the offender might best repair the harm he or she has caused. The session ends with participants signing an agreement outlining their expectations and commitments.

### **Goals**

The goals of restorative group conferencing include:

- Provide an opportunity for the victim to be directly involved in the discussion of the offense and in decisions regarding appropriate sanctions to be placed on the offender
- Increase the offender's awareness of the human impact of his or her behavior and provide an opportunity to take full responsibility for it
- Engage the collective responsibility of the offender's support system for making amends and shaping the offender's future behavior
- Allow both offender and victim to reconnect to key community support systems

### **Implementation**

In implementing any restorative conferencing program, the facilitators, who may be students or school personnel, must be trained in conferencing preparation techniques. It is critically important that the facilitator do everything possible to ensure that neither the victims nor offenders are harmed in any way. Additionally, the victim's participation must be completely voluntary, as should the participation of the offender. Whenever possible, the victim should be given choices concerning decisions such as when and where the conferencing session will take place, who will be present, who will speak first, etc. The facilitator should conduct in person, pre-conferencing sessions with both parties and make follow-up contacts, including the monitoring of any agreement reached.

### **Victim Impact Panels**

Victim impact panels provide a forum for victims to tell a group of offenders about the impact of the offense on their lives and on the lives of their families, friends, and neighbors. Panels typically involve three or four victim speakers, each of whom spends about 15 minutes telling their story in a nonjudgmental, non-blaming manner. The offenders of the victim presenters are not present. While some time is usually dedicated to questions and answers, the purpose of the panel is for the victims to speak, rather than for the victims and offenders to engage in a dialogue.

### **Goals**

The goals of victim impact panels are to:

- Help offenders understand the impact of their offenses on victims and communities
- Provide victims with a structured, positive outlet to share their personal experiences and to educate offenders, and others about the physical, emotional, and financial consequences of offenses
- Build a partnership among victim service providers and community agencies that can raise the individual and community awareness of the short- and long-term impacts of crime

### **Implementation**

Many criminal and juvenile justice agencies have institutionalized victim impact panels as a sentencing option. Victim service organizations either implement the program for the court, or work in collaboration with justice personnel to conduct panels. Whatever the structure, victim service agencies are usually best prepared to perform the critically important role of screening victims to ensure they are sufficiently healed from their victimization experience not to be re-traumatized by participating in the panel. Other implementation tasks are to prepare the victims for participation, moderate the panels, gather participant feedback information, and provide records of participants and program activities to the sentencing authority.

### **Victim Offender Conferencing (Also called Victim-Offender Mediation, or Victim-Offender Dialogue)**

Victim offender mediation is a process that provides interested victims an opportunity to meet their offender, in a safe and structured setting, and engage in a mediated discussion of the offense. With the assistance of a trained mediator, the victim is able to tell the offender about the offense's physical, emotional, and financial impact; to receive answers to lingering questions about the offense and the offender; and to be directly involved in developing a restitution plan for the offender to pay back his or her financial debt.

This process is different from mediation as it is practiced in civil or commercial disputes, since the involved parties are not "disputants" nor of similar status - with one an admitted offender and the other the victim. Also, the process is not primarily focused upon reaching a settlement, although most sessions do, in fact, result in a signed restitution agreement. Because of these fundamental differences with standard mediation practices, some programs call the process a victim offender "dialogue," "meeting," or "conference."

### **Goals**

The goals of victim offender mediation include:

- Support the healing process of victims by providing a safe and controlled setting for them to meet and speak with the offender on a strictly voluntary basis
- Allow the offender to learn about the impact of the offense on the victim and to take direct responsibility for their behavior
- Provide an opportunity for the victim and offender to develop a mutually acceptable plan that addresses the harm caused by the offense

### **Implementation**

In implementing any victim offender mediation program, it is critically important to maintain sensitivity to the needs of the victim. First and foremost, the mediator must do everything possible to ensure that the victim will not be harmed in any way. Additionally, the victim's participation must be completely voluntary, as should the participation of the offender. The victim should also be given choices, whenever possible, concerning decisions such as when and where the mediation session will take place, who will be present, who will speak first, etc. Cases should be carefully screened regarding the readiness of both victim and offender to participate. The mediator should conduct in person, pre-mediation sessions with both parties and make follow-up contacts, including the monitoring of any agreement reached.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Chicago Public Schools  
Student Code of Conduct  
~~2008-2009~~  
2009-2010

Student Agreement

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print student's name) have received and read the Student Code of Conduct ("SCC") for the Chicago Public Schools. I am aware of my rights and responsibilities under the SCC. Furthermore, I understand that acts of misconduct or inappropriate student behavior will result in interventions and consequences as stated under the SCC.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Parent/Guardian Agreement

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Chicago Public Schools believes that you should be informed regarding our effort to create and maintain a safe and secure learning environment for all students. Please read the SCC and sign the document below to acknowledge your receipt and understanding of the SCC.

I am the parent or guardian of the above named student. I have received and read the SCC. I understand that by signing this document, I agree to support and promote the goals of the SCC and make every effort to work with the school in resolving all disciplinary matters.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date