

Student Code of Conduct SY2018-2019

Purpose: To support consistent implementation of effective disciplinary practices that address root causes of behaviors, maximize learning time, repair harm, and promote social & emotional learning.



Background

SCC Timeline:

2012: Greater emphasis on restorative practices and reduced the number of allowable days of suspensions. Leads to reduction in average number of days of suspensions.

2014: Limited suspensions of Pre-K to 2nd grade students and removed suspension as an option for lower-level behaviors. Guidelines for Effective Discipline released and all principals and deans trained in implementation.

2016: State legislation (“SB100”) eliminates zero tolerance and puts tighter restrictions on suspensions and expulsions. Requires annual review of SCC.

2018: CPS reports 76% reduction in suspensions from 2012 to 2017. University of Chicago CCSR research finds that reductions led to higher test scores and attendance, and did not decrease safety.¹

SY2018 SCC Review:

- Students and youth (Student Advisory Council, Mikva Challenge, Voices of Youth in Chicago Education - VOYCE)
- School administrators, staff, deans/disciplinarians
- Community partners including:
 - Lurie Children’s Hospital/Preventing Alcohol Abuse in Chicago Teens (PAACT)
 - Community Organizing & Family Issues (COFI) Power-Pac
 - Communities United
 - Chicago Lawyers Committee
 - Umoja
 - University of Chicago
- Local School Council Advisory Board (vote of confidence in SCC updates, 12-0)
- Central Office departments: Teaching & Learning, Language & Cultural Education, Safety & Security, etc.
- Network Chiefs, Deputies and Social & Emotional Learning specialists



Proposed Updates for SY2018-2019:

1. Anti Bullying Policy: Updates provide guidance and protections against bias-based harassment, and clarify steps for schools to follow when responding to bullying allegations.

- **“Immigration status”** added to list of groups protected against harassment
- **Definition of bullying** clarified and aligned to national definitions
- **Prejudice or bias** included as a form of harassment/bullying.
- **Step-by-step guidance** provided for documenting, investigating, and responding to allegations of bullying. Schools are required to notify involved parents/guardians in writing of the outcomes of bullying investigations.



Proposed Updates for SY2018-2019:

2. Out of School Suspensions: Updates aimed at increasing clarity of documentation and reducing racial disproportionality in suspension practices.

- Network-level approval is required before a school can issue an out of school suspension for **“catch-all code”** SCC Sections 3-6 or 4-9 (any behavior not otherwise listed).
- The SCC intervention and consequence menus provides clarifying language to reflect state law and remind schools of **“last resort” criteria** for assigning suspensions.



Proposed Updates for SY2018-2019:

3. Trauma-Sensitive and Therapeutic Responses:

Updates reflect a trauma-sensitive approach to discipline.

- General requirements section identify trauma as one possible root cause and **trauma-focused interventions** as potential response.
- **Repeat possession of illegal drugs** is removed from SCC Section 6-6 (sale of alcohol or drugs) to distinguish between drug usage and sale. Repeat drug usage may indicate addiction, trauma, or other underlying mental health factors, which may require a therapeutic response. The Guidelines for Effective Discipline provides additional guidance and support to schools for addressing therapeutic needs when responding to incidents.



Proposed Updates for SY2018-2019:

4. Eliminate Zero Tolerance: Updates align to current practices, reflect state law, and codify the district's position against “zero tolerance” discipline policies.

- Explicit statement **prohibits the use of zero tolerance** practices.
- Behavior incidents categorized as Group 6 (most severe and illegal) no longer automatically trigger a “request for expulsion hearing” but a **review by the student adjudication committee**. This cross-departmental committee meets weekly to assess each individual case and support schools in an appropriate response. School principals may continue to use their discretion to request an expulsion hearing or district intervention program for any Group 5 or 6 infraction.



Proposed Updates for SY2018-2019:

5. Office of Student Protections & Title IX: Updates provide safeguards and advocacy for students who are victims of student-on-student sexual harassment, assault, abuse, and bullying.

- Language provides clear guidance on the role of the newly created Office of Student Protections and Title IX (OSP) in providing **direct support and assistance to schools** in responding to allegations of student-on-student sexual harassment, assault, abuse, and bullying.
- Specific infraction codes related harassment, assault, abuse and bullying will have a note signaling that a **call to the OSP will be required**, when the allegation involves behavior based on sex, gender, sexual orientation or gender expression.

