

2010-2011

PINEYWOODS COMMUNITY ACADEMY/ PARAMUS ECHS

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Because the Student Code of Conduct is adopted by the Pineywoods Community Academy Board of Directors, it has the force of policy; therefore, in case of conflict between the Code and the student handbook, the Code will prevail. The student code of conduct must be posted and prominently displayed at each school campus or made available for review at the office of the campus principal.

Please Note: The discipline of students with disabilities who are eligible for services under federal law (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973) is subject to the provisions of those laws.

School District Authority and Jurisdiction

School rules and the authority of the Academy to administer discipline apply whenever the interest of the Academy is involved, on or off school grounds, in conjunction with or independent of classes and school-sponsored activities. The Academy has disciplinary authority over a student:

1. During the regular school day and while the student is going to and from school on Academy transportation;
2. While the student is in attendance at any school-related activity, regardless of time or location;
3. For any school-related misconduct, regardless of time or location;
4. When retaliation against a school employee or volunteer occurs or is threatened, regardless of time or location;
5. When criminal mischief is committed on or off school property or at a school-related
6. For certain offenses committed within 300 feet of school property as measured from any point on the school's real property boundary line;
7. For certain offenses committed while on school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity of another district in Texas;
8. When the student commits a felony, as provided by Education Code 37.006 or 37.0081; and
9. When the student is required to register as a sex offender.

PCA has the right to search a vehicle driven to school by a student and parked on school property whenever there is reasonable cause to believe it contains articles or materials prohibited by the Academy. The Academy has the right to search a student's backpack or desk when there is reasonable cause to believe it contains articles or materials prohibited by the PCA.

Reporting Crimes

School administrators will report crimes as required by law and will call local law enforcement when an administrator suspects that a crime has been committed on campus.

Standards for Student Conduct

Each student is expected to:

- Demonstrate courtesy, even when others do not.
- Behave in a responsible manner, always exercising self-discipline.
- Attend all classes, regularly and on time.
- Prepare for each class; take appropriate materials and assignments to class.
- Meet campus standard of grooming and dress.
- Obey all campus and classroom rules.
- Respect the rights and privileges of students, teachers, and other Academy staff and volunteers.
- Respect the property of others, including Academy property and facilities.
- Cooperate with and assist the school staff in maintaining safety, order, and discipline.
- Adhere to the requirements of the **Student Code of Conduct**

General Conduct Violations

The categories of conduct below are prohibited at school and all school-related activities, but the list does not include the most serious offenses. In the subsequent sections on Out-of-School Suspension, Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Serious Offenses, and Expulsion, severe offenses that require or permit specific consequences are listed. Any offense, however, may be serious enough to result in Removal from the Regular Educational Setting as detailed in that section.

Disregard for Authority

Students shall not:

- Fail to comply with directives given by school personnel (insubordination).
- Leave school grounds or school-sponsored events without permission.
- Disobey rules for conduct on school buses.
- Refuse to accept discipline management techniques assigned by a teacher or principal.
- Skip class but remain on campus.
- Be tardy to class.
- Fail to identify.

Mistreatment of Others

Students shall not:

- Use profanity or vulgar language or make obscene gestures.
- Fight or scuffle.
- Threaten an Academy student, employee, or volunteer, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
- Engage in bullying, harassment, or making hit lists. (See glossary for all three terms)
- Engage in conduct that constitutes sexual harassment or sexual abuse, whether by word, gesture, or any other conduct, directed toward another person, including an Academy student,

employee, or volunteer.

- Engage in conduct that constitutes dating violence, including the intentional use of physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control another person with whom the student has or has had a dating relationship.
- Engage in inappropriate or indecent exposure of private body parts.
- Participate in hazing.
- Cause an individual to act through the use of or threat of force (coercion).
- Commit extortion or blackmail (obtaining money or an object of value from an unwilling person).
- Engage in inappropriate verbal, physical, or sexual conduct directed toward another person, including a district student, employee, or volunteer.
- Record the voice or image of another without the prior consent of the individuals being recorded or in any way that disrupts the educational environment or invades the privacy of others.

Property Offenses

Students shall not:

- Damage or vandalize property owned by others.
- Deface or damage school property—including textbooks, furniture, and other equipment—with graffiti or by other means.
- Steal from students, staff, or the school.
- Commit or assist in a robbery or theft even if it does not constitute a felony according to the Texas Penal Code.
- Littering or leaving cafeteria trash.

Possession of Prohibited Items

Students shall not possess or use:

- fireworks of any kind, smoke or stink bombs, or any other pyrotechnic device;
- firearms, knives, clubs or other prohibited weapons under the law;
- a razor, box cutter, chain, or any other object used in a way that threatens or inflicts bodily injury to another person;
- a “look-alike” weapon;
- an air gun or BB gun;
- ammunition;
- a stun gun or shocking device;
- a pocketknife or any other small knife;
- mace or pepper spray;
- pornographic material;
- tobacco products;
- matches or a lighter
- a laser pointer for other than approved use; or
- any articles not generally considered to be weapons, including school supplies, when the principal or designee determines that a danger exists.

Possession of Telecommunications Devices

Students shall not:

- Display, turn on, or use a telecommunications device, including a cellular telephone, or other electronic device on school property during the school ***day unless specifically authorized by school personnel.***
- Possess a telecommunications device, including a cellular telephone, or other electronic device at school or at a school-related or school-sponsored event unless an exception is granted by the principal for extenuating circumstances.

Illegal, Prescription, and Over-the-Counter Drugs

Students shall not:

- Possess, ***use, sell, or give away*** seeds or pieces of marijuana ***in a useable*** or less than a usable amount
 - ***Be under the influence of marijuana***
 - ***Possess, use, sell, or give away any drug or narcotic prohibited by local, state, or federal law.***
 - ***Be under the influence of a drug or narcotic prohibited by local, state or federal law***
 - ***Possess, use, sell, or give away alcoholic beverages, including any products that contain alcohol but are not marketed specifically as alcoholic beverages***
 - ***Be under the influence of alcohol***
- Possess, use, give, or sell paraphernalia related to any prohibited substance.
 - Possess, ***use, sell, or give away*** look-alike drugs or attempt to pass items off as drugs or contraband.
- Abuse the student's own prescription drug ***or drug prescribed to another person***, give a prescription drug to another student, or possess or be under the influence of another person's prescription drug on school property or at a school-related event
- Abuse over-the-counter drugs.
- Be under the influence of prescription or over-the-counter drugs that cause impairment of the physical or mental faculties
- Have or take prescription drugs or over-the-counter drugs at school other than as provided by Academy's policy.

Misuse of Computers and the Internet

Students shall not:

- Violate computer use policies, rules, or agreements as communicated in the student handbook.
- Attempt to access or circumvent passwords or other security-related information of the Academy, students, or employees or upload or create computer viruses, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
- Attempt to alter, destroy, or disable Academy's computer equipment, Academy data, the data of others, or other networks connected to the Academy's system, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
- Use the Internet or other electronic communications to threaten Academy students, employees, or volunteers, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.

- Send or post electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
- Use e-mail or Web sites at school to encourage illegal behavior or threaten school safety.

Safety Transgressions

Students shall not:

- Possess published or electronic material that is designed to promote or encourage illegal behavior or that could threaten school safety.
- Engage in verbal (oral or written) exchanges that threaten the safety of another student, a school employee, or school property.
- Make false accusations or perpetrate hoaxes regarding school safety.
- Engage in any conduct that school officials might reasonably believe will substantially disrupt the school program or incite violence.
- Throw objects that can cause bodily injury or property damage.
- Discharge a fire extinguisher without valid cause.

Miscellaneous Offenses

Students shall not:

- Violate dress and grooming standards as communicated in the student handbook.
- Cheat or copy the work of another.
- Gamble.
- Falsify records, passes, or other school-related documents.
- Engage in actions or demonstrations that substantially disrupt or materially interfere with school activities.
- Participate in inappropriate public displays of affection.
- Violate extracurricular standards of behavior.
- Sleep in class or appear that they are sleeping in class.
- Repeatedly violate other communicated campus or classroom standards of conduct.

Pineywoods Community Academy may impose campus or classroom rules in addition to those found in the Code. These rules may be posted in classrooms or given to the student and may or may not constitute violations of the Code.

Consequences for Violations of Campus Rules, Classroom Rules and the Student Code of Conduct

The following **consequences may be implemented**—alone or in combination—for behavior prohibited by the Student Code of Conduct or by campus or classroom rules:

- Verbal correction, oral or written.
- Cooling-off time or “time-out.”
- Seating changes within the classroom.
- Temporary confiscation of items that disrupt the educational process.
- Rewards or demerits.
- Behavioral contracts.
- Counseling by teachers, counselors, or administrative personnel.
- Parent-teacher conferences.
- Grade reductions for cheating, plagiarism, and as otherwise permitted by policy.
- Detention.
- Sending the student to the office or other assigned area
- Withdrawal of privileges, such as participation in extracurricular activities, eligibility for seeking and holding honorary offices, or membership in school-sponsored clubs and organizations.
- Penalties identified in individual student organizations’ extracurricular standards of behavior.
- Withdrawal or restriction of bus privileges.
- School-assessed and school-administered probation.
 - **Other consequences that are reasonable and appropriate for the conduct violation, considering the student’s age and grade level and any other factors related to the violation including the severity of the offense and a history of any previous infractions.**
 - **Short term In-School Suspension (ISS), not to exceed 20 days**
 - **Long Term In-School Suspension (ISS), not to exceed 120 days**
 - **Emergency removal from school (remainder of the school day)**
 - **Suspension from school, not to exceed 3 days at one time or 10 days total**
 - **Referral to law enforcement**
 - **Referral to juvenile court**
 - **Referral to criminal court**
 - **Expulsion if the offense alone or in combination with other offenses constitutes an expellable offense under section 37.007 of the Texas Education Code**

Offenses under the Texas Penal Code and Violations of Federal Statutes

- Bringing to school a firearm, as defined by federal law. “Firearm” under federal law includes:
 - Any weapon (including a starter gun) that will, is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive.
 - The frame or receiver of any such weapon.
 - Any firearm muffler or firearm weapon.
 - Any destructive device, such as any explosive, incendiary or poison gas bomb, or grenade.
- Using, exhibiting, or possessing the following, as defined by the Texas Penal Code:
 - A firearm (any device designed, made, or adapted to expel a projectile through a **barrel** by using the energy generated by an explosion or burning substance or any device readily

convertible to that use), unless the use, exhibition, or possession of the firearm occurs at an off-campus approved target range facility while participating in or preparing for a school-sponsored shooting sports competition or a shooting sports educational activity that is sponsored or supported by the Parks and Wildlife Department or a shooting sports sanctioning organization working with the department. Pineywoods Community Academy PARAMUS High School currently has NO school-sponsored shooting sports competition or shooting sports educational activity as described above.

- An illegal knife, such as a knife with a blade over 5½ inches; hand instrument, designed to cut or stab another by being thrown; dagger, including but not limited to a dirk, stiletto, and poniard; bowie knife; sword; or spear.
- A club (see glossary) such as an instrument specially designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury or death by striking a person with the instrument, including a blackjack, nightstick, mace, and tomahawk.
- A prohibited weapon, such as an explosive weapon, a machine gun, a short-barrel firearm, a firearm silencer, a switchblade knife, knuckles, armor-piercing ammunition, a chemical dispensing device, or a zip gun. (See glossary)
- Behaving in a manner that contains elements of the following offenses under the Texas Penal Code:
 - Aggravated assault, sexual assault, or aggravated sexual assault.
 - Arson. (See glossary)
 - Murder, capital murder, or criminal attempt to commit murder or capital murder.
 - Indecency with a child.
 - Aggravated kidnapping.
 - Aggravated robbery.
 - Manslaughter.
 - Criminally negligent homicide.
 - Continuous sexual abuse of a young child or children.
 - Behavior punishable as a felony that involves selling, giving, or delivering to another person, or possessing, using, or being under the influence of marijuana, a controlled substance, a dangerous drug, or alcohol; or committing a serious act or offense while under the influence of alcohol.
 - Engaging in retaliation against a school employee or volunteer combined with one of the above-listed mandatory expulsion offenses, with the exception of a federal firearm offense, on or off school property or at a school-related activity.

Consequences

- ***Expulsion (for those offenses labeled as expellable offenses under Texas Education Code section 37.007)***
- ***Referral to law enforcement***
- ***Referral to juvenile court***
- ***Referral to criminal court***