



Clinton Central School District Policy Committee Cover Page

Policy Number: 5300

Policy Title: Code of Conduct on School Property

Background and Rationale for Change:

The current Code of Conduct exists as multiple policies embedded in the policy manual. Although it is permissible to include the full Code of Conduct as a Board policy, it is not legally required. It is our recommendation that having the Code as a stand-alone document will provide several advantages to the District.

First, the Board is required to review the Code of Conduct on an annual basis, and update it as necessary, taking into consideration the effectiveness of code provisions and the fairness and consistency of its administration (8 NYCRR 100.2(1)(2)(iii)). If the Board chooses to amend the Code, they must follow the statutory public hearing process described above. However, if the Code is also included in the Board policy manual, the Board must, in addition, follow its own policy review process every time the Code is updated.

Board Policy No. 2410 dictates that a proposed policy must be placed on the Board's agenda for a first reading, and then a subsequent reading, prior to the Board taking action (unless a majority of the Board deems it necessary to take action at the first reading). This means that if revisions are made to the Code following the Board's annual review, it will require both a public hearing and a first and second policy reading. Particularly because the Code of Conduct currently contained in the Board policy manual is actually composed of seventeen separate policies (Policy Nos. 5300 - 5300.85), any amendments to the Code will require an inordinate amount of time and administrative red tape. By maintaining the Code as a stand-alone document, the District would significantly reduce the time and energy required to amend the Code.

Second, the Code of Conduct must be posted on the School District's website, and a complete copy must be made available for review by students, parents, school staff or other community members. If the Code is included in the Board policy manual, and then also posted separately on the website, the District runs the risk of these two versions of the Code becoming inconsistent over time. If the two documents become inconsistent, particularly with regard to disciplinary infractions and penalties, the District may have difficulty enforcing the Code and prosecuting student misbehavior. A single, stand-alone document reduces this risk.

In addition, we are recommending the replacement of Board Policy No. 5300 with a general summary of the provisions of the Code. Embedded below you will find a policy that would replace the full Code and references the new stand-alone document.

Recommended Action: Adopt the recommended policy as indicated with a first reading on May 17, 2022 and a second reading on June 21, 2022. Also, adoption by resolution the new Code of Conduct after the new Policy 5300 is adopted on June 21, 2022.

[New Policy No. 5300 Code of Conduct on School Property](#)

[Clinton Central School District Code of Conduct - Posted 05.03.22](#)

[Current Policy 5300 and embedded Code of Conduct](#)