



To: Parents/Guardians and Students of BASD
From: Administration of BASD
Re: Board Policy Changes in Reference to Discipline
Date: 8/17/10

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

As stated in Bellefonte Area School District's Strategic Plan Goal of Positive School Climate, BASD formed a Discipline Review Committee for the 09-10 school year which led to changes to Board Policy for the 2010-2011 school year.

This committee performed three basic functions:

1. Established a district discipline committee to analyze current discipline policies and procedures
2. Provided recommendations for modifications to discipline policy
3. Examined how discipline policies and procedures are implemented across the district

From this committee and process, we wanted to draw your attention to some changes to BASD Board Policy in relation to school discipline.

Below are minimal explanations of the changes; however, we encourage you to read our policies online if you desire to obtain information on the entire policy.

As always, we appreciate your continued support,

BASD Administration

All board policies relating to discipline -

The Board recognizes that there may be situations where disciplinary actions/consequences may require administrative discretion.

Policy 218 Student Discipline

Individuals/students who incite a disciplinary incident are also subject to disciplinary consequences.

Policy 218.1 Weapons

Below is a list of updated trends and a more comprehensive list as what we define, as a weapon, for our district:

Weapon shall include any object, device or instrument designed as a weapon or through its use is capable of threatening or producing bodily harm or which may be used to inflict self-injury including, but not limited to: any firearm, whether loaded or unloaded; pneumatic guns, including but not limited to, pellet, BB, airsoft and paintball guns; knives; blades; clubs; metal/brass knuckles; nunchucks; throwing stars; explosive, incendiary or poisonous gas; any combustible or flammable liquid; fireworks; mace and other propellants; stun guns; ammunition; poisons; chains; arrows; objects that have been modified to serve as a weapon; or any other item which is used to threaten, strike terror, or cause bodily harm or death even though it is normally considered to not present a danger to others

Policy 222 Tobacco

Tobacco violations that involve student athletes or those students participating in extracurricular activities will include additional sanctions.

As an alternative to a fine and costs from District Magistrate/Justice for first time offenders, students will be given the option to attend a smoking cessation program of their choosing and at own expense. Student and parent/guardian are responsible to provide documentation of completion of cessation program, in the form of an official letter from the provider, within four weeks of the violation date to administration. If such documentation is not received in this time frame, the student's tobacco violation will be turned over to the District Magistrate/Justice for fine and court costs. Students, regardless if they choose the cessation option or to go directly to the District Magistrate/Justice, are still subject to suspension as stated in the school discipline code.

Policy 226 Searches

Be advised that Electronic Devices are subject to search if there is reasonable suspicion that policy or law has been violated or is being violated and that evidence of the violation will be disclosed by the search, and the search actually conducted must be reasonable related in scope to the circumstances which justified the search at its inception (Electronic Devices are defined in Board Policy 237).

Policy 243 - Academic Integrity

Bellefonte Area School District expects students to follow ethical academic standards. Academic dishonesty is a serious matter. Academic dishonesty encompasses, but is not limited to: Cheating, Plagiarism, Fabrication or Forgery, and Multiple Submissions.

Consequences for Academic Integrity Violations are listed in the disciplinary chart/guidelines of the school's handbooks.

Policy 249 Bullying/Cyberbullying

A Bullying/Cyber-Bullying Parent Guide is available on our website to help parents/guardians handle bullying situations with their children.