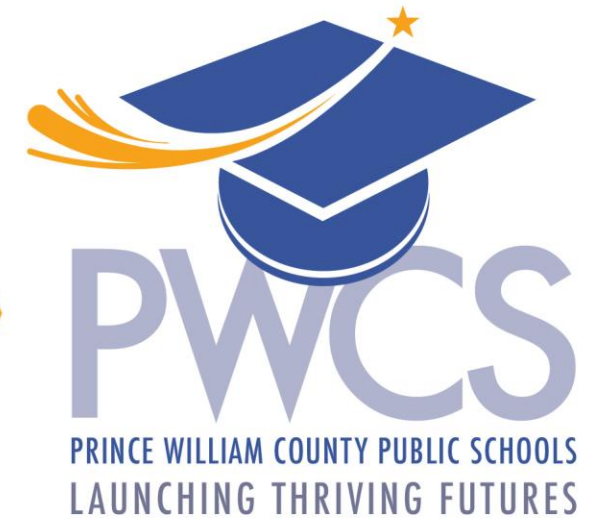


2025-26 Code of Behavior Proposed Revisions

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Purpose of the Student Code of Behavior

The PWCS Code of Behavior (COB)

- Establishes the expectations for student behavior to enhance school safety.
- Supports preventative and age-appropriate responses to discipline before resorting to exclusionary practices.
- Provides access to quality education and behavioral interventions for students who are removed from the classroom.
- Encourages partnerships with students and families to improve school climate and learning conditions.

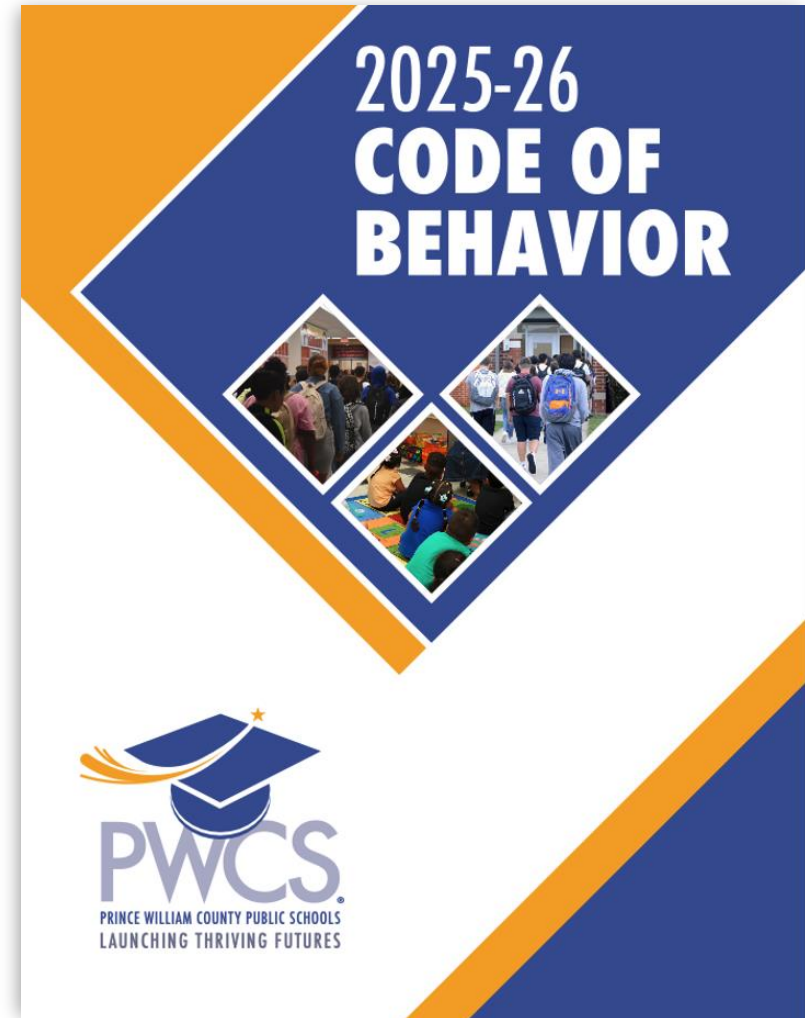


2025-26 Proposed Code of Behavior Revisions



[§ 22.1-279.6](#) Board of Education guidelines and model policies for codes of student conduct; school board regulation.

- A. In Virginia, the Code of Virginia [§ 22.1-279.6](#) requires school boards to biennially review their codes of student conduct. This section mandates that school boards include procedures for suspension, expulsion, and exclusion decisions in their regulations on codes of student conduct. The review process aims to incorporate discipline options and alternatives to preserve a safe, nondisruptive environment for effective teaching and learning.
- B. School boards shall adopt and revise, as required by [§ 22.1-253.13:7](#) and in accordance with the requirements of this section, regulations on codes of student conduct that are consistent with, but may be more stringent than, the guidelines of the Board.



Code of Behavior Revision Timeline



January 6-21: Feedback from Central Office Staff, including Executive Cabinet Members

January 9-17: Principal Zoom sessions

February 2-14: Stakeholder Feedback

February 11-17: Legal Team Review and Select Principal Feedback

March 4: Instructional Leadership Team Review

March 18: Executive Cabinet Review

March 24: Superintendent's Principal Advisory Council Update on Cell Phone Guidance in the COB.

April 2: Principal's Zoom / Feedback Sessions with School Leaders and Stakeholders

May 7: Presentation to School Board (First Reading)

May 21: Board Vote - Code of Behavior on Consent Agenda

Edits for Organization and Readability

- Section titles updated for clarity.
 - Example: Exclusionary Discipline now reads: Exclusionary Discipline (Long-Term Suspension, Expulsion, and School Reassignment).
- Revision of Responding to Student Behavior Section.
 - Available responses are outlined by grade levels (PK-2, 3-5, 6-12).

Enhanced Information

- Updated cell phone information to align with new Policy for 2025-26 School Year.
- Implementation of Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Student Behavior Administrative Response (SBAR) Codes.
 - Violation Codes added and are aligned with behaviors for which students can be disciplined.
 - Language was added by each behavior to add additional context to the coding and recommended leveled discipline responses.
- Increased visibility of reporting links for Discrimination, Harassment, and Bullying.

Proposed Code of Behavior



Proposed changes in the Code of Behavior are reflected in **red text**.

Assault and Battery

The assault and battery, or intentional verbal and/or physical abuse by a student on another student or staff member is strictly prohibited. An assault is a threat of bodily injury. Battery is when a person intentionally causes harmful or offensive contact with another person. Battery includes but is not limited to biting, hitting, kicking, punching, or any other from of physical aggression including contact. Note: Behavior that is developmentally expected should not be labeled as assault or battery.

The assault and/or battery (as defined here) of any school division employee, including substitutes, is strictly prohibited. This includes any intentional physical contact that is harmful or offensive. **Assaults or batteries on staff require a mandatory referral to the Student Hearings Department for consideration of expulsion.**



SBAR Code	Offenses	Grade	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Mandatory Report to Law Enforcement
BESO1	Assault: Intending to cause physical injury to another person	PK-2		X	X			NO
		3-5			X			NO
		6-12			X	X*		NO
BESO2	Assault and Battery: Causing physical injury to another person	PK-2			X	X	X	YES
		3-5			X	X	X	YES
		6-12				X	X	YES
BESO4	Striking Staff: The use of force against a staff member when no injury is caused	PK-2		X	X	X	X*	NO
		3-5			X	X	X*	NO
		6-12					X*	NO
BSC17	Shoving, pushing, striking, biting another student with no visible injury	PK-2	X	X	X			NO
		3-5		X	X			NO
		6-12		X	X			NO

Online Code of Behavior



1. Enhanced the "Hot Linked" Index to be more user friendly.
2. Updated language to be more transparent to parents.
 - Ex: Exclusionary Discipline now reads: Exclusionary Discipline (Long-Term Suspension, Expulsion, and School Reassignment).
3. Added a link to Cell Phone and Wireless Communication Guidelines.

Code of Behavior

Search

English

START HERE

REPORTING BULLYING, DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT

School Conference →

Teacher Removal of Students from Class →

Search and Seizure →

Self-Defense →

Use of Seclusion and Restraint →

Disciplinary Policies, Regulations, and Procedures

Notice of Disciplinary Policies and Regulations →

Exclusionary Discipline (Long-Term Suspension, Expulsion, and School Reassignment)

General provisions related to all suspensions.

Due Process →

Continuing Education During Suspensions →

Presence on School Property Prohibited During the Term of the Suspension →

Authority to Modify Disciplinary Decisions →

Suspension or Expulsion of Students in Preschool Through Grade Three →

Suspension of Students Grade Four and Above →

Expulsion Procedures →

Exclusions from School →

Reassignment/Placement by SMAPD for Certain Criminal Offenses →

Appeals of Student Matters →

Appendix

Bullying Frequently Asked Questions →

Out of School Suspension Discipline Flow Chart →

Cell Phone and Wireless Communication Device Usage Guidelines →

Online Code of Behavior



Enhanced features within the sections of the online Code of Behavior to draw attention to linked reporting resources.

Note:
The proposed 2025-26 draft takes the online format into consideration.

The screenshot shows the PWCS Code of Behavior website. A red arrow points from the text 'Enhanced features...' to the 'REPORTING BULLYING, DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT' button. Another red arrow points from this button to the 'Report bullying online.' link. A third red arrow points from the same button area to the 'Report discrimination or harassment online.' link.

codeofbehavior.pwcs.edu/right-to-be-free-from-bullying-discrimination-and-harassment-0

PWCS Sites | Login Page - Boar... | Copilot

PWCS
PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
LAUNCHING THRIVING FUTURES

Code of Behavior

Search

English

START HERE

REPORTING BULLYING, DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT

- [Harassment](#)
- [Sex-Based Harassment and Sex-Based Misconduct](#)

Bullying

PWCS is committed to creating an environment in which students are free from bullying. Bullying is any aggressive and unwanted behavior intended to harm, intimidate, or humiliate the victim; involves a real or perceived power imbalance between the aggressor or aggressors and victim; and is repeated over time or causes severe emotional trauma. Bullying includes cyberbullying. It does not include ordinary teasing, horseplay, argument, or peer conflict. Students who believe they have been bullied are strongly encouraged to report such conduct to the school administration. The school administrator will take appropriate steps to respond quickly and decisively to student reports of bullying. Students or parents can [report incidents of bullying online](#).

Cyberbullying and any mistreatment or bullying behavior that occurs on school property, at a school-sponsored activity, or that prevents a student from going to or from school safely violates the COB and will be investigated and responded to by school officials. However, not all mistreatment or bullying behavior constitutes discrimination or discriminatory harassment.

All complaints will be followed by an investigation. Those accused and the parent(s) of students involved will be informed of complaints, witnesses will be interviewed, and all information will remain confidential except for that which must be shared as part of the investigation.

School administrators must notify parents of any student involved in an incident of alleged bullying as soon as practically possible but no later than 24 hours after learning of the allegation of bullying.

Report bullying online.

Discrimination

Discrimination occurs when one or more individuals are treated differently or not given fair consideration or the same opportunity as others because of their race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions including lactation, age, marital status, veteran status, disability, genetic information, or any other basis prohibited by law. Discrimination against students or staff is strictly prohibited. Students who believe they have been discriminated against are encouraged to report the matter to the school principal or to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Compliance at TitleIXEquity@pwcs.edu or 571-374-6839.

Report discrimination or harassment online.

Implementation of the Code of Behavior



- Teacher-Reported Incident Platform
- Required Training for New Administrators and Security Specialists
- Ongoing Professional Learning for School Leaders
- Improved Data Platforms and Data Literacy Training
- Discipline Norming Scenarios
- Dean of Students Position- SY26
- Additional Administrator Resources

Implementation of the Code of Behavior



Resources for Administrators

A GUIDE FOR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

Responding to Student Behavior

Published 2/13/2025

As school administrators, it is vital to have a comprehensive understanding of how to respond effectively and appropriately to student behavior. This guide aims to provide a structured approach to managing student behavior, offering administrators a clear framework for interventions, consequences, and support systems. It will help in fostering a safe and supportive learning environment for all students.

The Virginia Board of Education, as per Virginia Code § 22.1-279.6, established guidelines and model policies for student conduct to assist local school boards. These include criteria for student removal, suspension, expulsion, and exclusion, as well as standards for policies on alcohol, drugs, gang activity, bullying, and disciplining students with disabilities.

In 1994, the Board developed the Student Conduct and Policy Guidelines, revised in June 2021 to the Model Guidance for Positive and Preventive Code of Student Conduct Policy and Alternatives to Suspension. This document aims to guide school boards in creating a positive and preventive approach to student conduct.

The Model Guidance promotes a safe and supportive school environment, professional learning for staff, and clear expectations for behavior. It focuses on prevention, providing a system of responses to discipline incidents, and ensuring students removed from the classroom can access educational services and behavioral interventions. It also encourages partnerships with students, families, and community members to improve school climate.

Documenting and Addressing Student Behaviors (DASB)

Guide to Documenting and Addressing Student Behaviors

Admin Reporting Page

Admissions/Readmissions Process

Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management

Best Practices for MTSS Implementation - Secondary Schools

Bullying Procedures and Guidelines

Cell Phone and Wireless Device Use Toolkit

Code of Behavior (Online)

Code of Behavior Resources and Videos

Further Disciplinary Action (FDA)

Guidelines for Investigating and Responding to Student Complaints

Investigating Incidents (Video)

Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Framework

Reassignment Brochure

Reassignment Process

Reporting Bullying, Discrimination, and Harassment

Report NON-SEX BASED Discrimination Harassment

Report SEX-BASED Harassment

School Administrator Guide on Responding to Student Behavior

Student Support in the HUB

Supportive Measures (Reporting Discrimination/Harassment)

Investigation and Fact Gathering Process

When a behavioral incident occurs, it is crucial to conduct a thorough investigation to gather all relevant facts. This process includes interviewing witnesses, reviewing video footage, and collecting physical evidence if applicable. Administrators must ensure that the investigation complies with Virginia Code § 22.1-279.6, which outlines the requirements for reporting and investigating student disciplinary actions. The steps for conducting an investigation include:

- Receiving and documenting the initial report of the incident.
- Notifying relevant parties, including parents, staff, and law enforcement if necessary.
- Interviewing witnesses, including students, staff, and any other individuals who may have relevant information.
- Reviewing any available evidence, such as video footage, written statements, and physical evidence.
- Documenting all findings and actions taken during the investigation.
- Communicating the outcome of the investigation to relevant parties and determining appropriate disciplinary actions.

Guidelines for Investigations



Investigation and Fact Gathering Process

Investigating discipline incidents in schools is a critical task for administrators. Here are some tips to help ensure the process is thorough and fair:

- ✓ Take All Allegations Seriously: Always take initial allegations seriously, even if they seem minor. Document every step of the process to ensure transparency.
- ✓ Understand Relevant Laws and Policies: Be well-versed in our PWCS division regulations and policies that govern student behavior and disciplinary actions.

