

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT



**BRISTOL TOWNSHIP
SCHOOL DISTRICT**



bristoltwpsd.org

Adopted June 29th, 2022

OUR MISSION



Bristol Township School District will prepare and empower our students to be productive, competitive members in an ever-changing global society.

Every Student, Every Day

We believe ...

All individuals can learn and achieve.

Understanding and respecting diversity strengthens our educational community.

A safe and healthy learning environment is essential for success.

Students require high-quality, standards-based instruction.

An effective partnership of families, staff, and community will improve opportunities for student success.

Students must be empowered to become life-long learners and effective members of society.

All successes should be acknowledged and celebrated.

BRISTOL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT CODE OF CONDUCT

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Title IX Compliance



The Bristol Township School District will provide an equal opportunity for all students to achieve their maximum potential through the programs offered in the schools without discrimination on the basis; of race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity or expression), sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy, or handicap/disability, or genetic information. The Board is further committed to maintaining high expectations for all students and eliminating persistent disparities among students based on race, ethnicity, language, or disability.

Bristol Township School District strives to maintain a safe, positive learning environment for all students that is free from discrimination. Discrimination is inconsistent with the educational and programmatic goals of the District and is prohibited on school grounds, at school-sponsored activities and on any conveyance providing transportation to or from a school entity or school-sponsored activity.

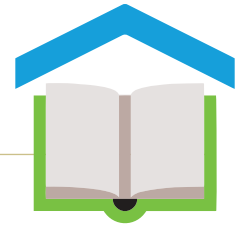
The District shall provide all students, without discrimination, course offerings, counseling, assistance, services, employment, athletics, and extracurricular activities. The equitable distribution of District resources is one way that the District shall use to ensure all students receive a quality education. The District shall make reasonable accommodations for identified physical and mental impairments that constitute handicaps and disabilities, consistent with the requirements of federal and state laws and regulations.

Individuals with complaints of sexual harassment and/or sexual misconduct should follow the complaint investigation procedures set forth in Board Policy 103. All complaint forms can be found on the district website. Complaints alleging a violation of the District's Sexual Harassment Policy should be directed to the District's Title IX Coordinator using the contact information below.

Title IX Coordinator / Director of Pupil Services
Bristol Township School District
5 Blue Lake Rd
Levittown, PA 19057 267-599-2011



Educational Value Statements



Students will:

- Determine their strengths and needs, and develop goals based on their needs.
- Identify personal strengths and how their personal strengths contribute to the community.
- Comply with district requirements generated in their schools. Students will make gains toward individual goals and seek opportunities for new learning experiences.
- Work collaboratively with family, staff, and community-based services in working toward the achievement of their goals.
- Participate in college and career exploration activities in preparation for life after high school.

Staff will:

- Conference with students to review performance and assist them in individual goal setting relative to their strengths and needs.
- Acknowledge the strength of diversity when working with students, parents, and the community.
- Review student data, identify decreasing trends in student performance, and utilize Tier I, Tier II, or Tier III strategies in support of students.
- Deliver research-based, high quality, standards-based instruction.
- Build and maintain effective partnerships with families and the community.
- Empower students to become lifelong learners and active members of society.
- Recognize all successes.

Administration will:

- Support all student learning and achievement.
- Promote understanding and respect for the strength that diversity brings to our educational community.
- Assist staff in creating a safe supportive and collaborative educational environment.
- Support high-quality, standards-based instruction.
- Facilitate effective partnerships with families and the community to improve opportunities for student success.
- Empower students to become lifelong learners and productive members of society.
- Recognize the success of students, staff, peers, and community.
- Acknowledge the importance of staff well being.

Parents/Guardians/Families will:

- Support their child's learning.
- Promote understanding and respect diversity in our educational community.
- Provide a safe learning environment at home.
- Support high quality instruction for their child through effective communication with the school, partner with school and community to improve opportunities for student success.
- Empower their child to become a life-long learner and a productive member of society.
- Celebrate successes for their child, school and community.

Community stakeholders will:

- Support the learning and achievement of all students.
- Support a safe and healthy community.
- Offer opportunities for students to participate with the community.
- Partner with the district to provide opportunities for student success.
- Support students as lifelong learners and effective members of society.
- Join the district and parents and recognize student success.

Student Rights & Responsibilities



Students Have a Right to:

- Equitable educational opportunities and freedom from discrimination in all phases of the educational process.
- Learn in a safe and positive learning environment.
- Access a rigorous course of study that is consistent with district and state standards in order to achieve at the highest levels.
- Know the requirements of each course of study and how the grade will be determined.
- Have access to their appropriate educational records.
- Express themselves and assemble without causing disruption to the learning environment.
- Consult with educational staff at appropriate times.
- Be involved in school activities by meeting the standards of the sponsoring organization.
- Students have the opportunity to utilize their time in school to achieve their goals, grow into leadership roles in their community and contribute to society.

Students Have a Responsibility to:

- Attend school daily, arriving on time ready to fully participate in the daily activity;
- Respect all members of the school community
- Strive and behave in a manner that promotes academic and personal growth
- Contribute positively to the school environment, allowing all students to have equal opportunity
- Conduct themselves in a manner which will not disrupt their education or disrupt the education of others
- Follow the district's dress code policy
- Identify themselves upon request to any school district personnel or authorities of Bristol Township School District
- Be aware of school rules governing behavior and conduct themselves accordingly with those rules and regulations
- Ask for help in matters that affect the health, safety, and welfare within the school community, and report concerns to a staff member. For example:
 - Administration
 - Teachers
 - Counselors
 - School Social Workers
 - Safe2Say <https://www.safe2saypa.org/>





STUDENT EXPRESSION-DISTRIBUTION AND POSTING OF MATERIALS



The right of public school students to freedom of speech is guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the Commonwealth. The Board respects the right of students to express themselves in word or symbol and to distribute and post materials in areas designated for posting as a part of that expression. The Board also recognizes that exercise of that right must be limited by the district's responsibility to maintain an orderly school environment and to protect the rights of all members of the school community.

School Board [Policy 220](#)

DRESS AND GROOMING



The Board recognizes that each student's mode of dress and grooming is a manifestation of personal style and individual preference. The Board has the authority to impose limitations on students' dress in school. The Board will not interfere with the right of students and their parents/guardians to make decisions regarding their appearance, except when their choices disrupt the educational program of the schools or constitute a health or safety hazard. A dress code shall be established for students and shall be disseminated in student handbooks. Students who violate the dress code will be referred to the building principal's office, where appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.

School Board [Policy 221](#)

UNLAWFUL HARASSMENT/BULLYING/HAZING



The Board strives to provide a safe, positive learning climate for students in the schools. Therefore, it shall be the policy of the district to maintain an educational environment in which harassment in any form is not tolerated. The Board prohibits all forms of unlawful harassment of students, staff members, and third parties by all district students and staff members, contracted individuals, vendors, volunteers, and third parties in the schools.

School Board [Policy 247](#), [248](#), [249](#)

SEARCHES



The Board acknowledges the need to respect the rights of students to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures while fulfilling the district's interest in protecting and preserving the health, safety and welfare of the school population, enforcing rules of conduct, and maintaining an appropriate atmosphere conducive to learning. School officials have the authority to lawfully search students or their belongings, including lockers, automobiles, electronic devices, purses, backpacks, clothing, and other possessions, without a warrant, when in school, on school grounds or when otherwise under school supervision, if there is a reasonable suspicion that the place or thing to be searched contains prohibited contraband, material that would pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of the school population, or evidence that there has been a violation of the law, Board policy, or school rules.

School Board [Policy 226](#)

SUSPENSION & EXPULSION



The principal or person in charge of the school may suspend any student for disobedience or misconduct for a period of one (1) to ten (10) consecutive school days and shall immediately notify the parent or guardian. No student may be suspended without notice of the reasons for which they are suspended and an opportunity to be heard on their own behalf before the school official who holds the authority to reinstate the student. Prior notice is not required where it is clear that the health, safety, or welfare of the school population is threatened. When a suspension exceeds three (3) school days, the student and parent/guardian shall be given the opportunity for an informal hearing with the designated school official. Such a hearing shall take place as soon as possible after the suspension, and the district shall offer to hold it within the first five (5) days of the suspension.

School Board [Policy 233](#)

Parent/Guardian



A cooperative relationship between home, school and community is essential to each student's successful development and achievement.

Parents Have a Right to:

- Be notified of their student's academic and behavioral progress in school.
- Be notified of their student's school attendance.
- Be notified when their student has been involved in any disciplinary referral.
- Be notified when their student has been suspended and the reason for the suspension.
- Call to arrange a conference with the building administrator and teacher to discuss questions or concerns regarding their student.
- Request a special education evaluation or 504 service plan meeting.

Parents Have a Responsibility to:

- Teach students self-respect, respect for others, respect for the law, and public and private property.
- Demonstrate a supportive and positive attitude toward education and school personnel; build a good working relationship between home and school.
- Set realistic standards of behavior, and be firm, fair, and consistent.
- Help students understand that rules are a necessary part of our society and cooperate with the school in resolving any problem(s).
- Insist on prompt and regular attendance.
- Encourage students to develop good health habits.
- Encourage students to develop good study habits and take pride in their school work and assignments.
- Encourage students to promptly bring home all school communications and to respond to them as necessary.
- Assume responsibility for any financial obligations incurred by their student in school. This includes lost books, damages to property, etc.
- Monitor student's progress in school.
- Understand and support these Discipline & Attendance Guidelines.
- Engage in open communication with school personnel whenever special services are indicated for the student.



Staff/Administrator Responsibilities



Each member of the district staff should understand the Code of Conduct

Staff Have a Right to:

- Be treated fairly and with respect.
- Work in an environment conducive to effective teaching and learning.
- Receive support from Administration to implement effective teaching and learning.
- Request a meeting with their supervisor.
- Determine and enforce classroom expectations and procedures in line with school and district policies.

Staff and Administrators have a Responsibility to:

- Promote a climate of mutual respect and dignity.
- Welcome every parent and guardian to the school and school meetings, and provide assistance that enables parents and guardians to be partners in their child's school experience. Develop cooperative relationships with parents for the benefit of students and keeping parents informed of their child's progress.
- Provide training for staff in creating and maintaining a respectful school climate, de-escalation techniques, understanding trauma, and professional development on restorative practices and other training requested by staff with a purpose of improving student experiences and outcomes.
- Ensure all students are being afforded equitable access to all opportunities to school with full preparation and support and are not subject to harassment or disproportionate exclusion from class consistent with Bristol Townships commitment to dismantle systematic racism that will hinder students achievement.
- Thoroughly investigate all Code of Conduct violations.
- Report any reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect to the Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-932-0313.
- Maintain confidentiality of student records.
- Administration will establish and maintain necessary building security and develop procedures which reduce the likelihood of student misconduct.
- Model appropriate dress, behavior, and language.
- Listen to students, be sensitive to changing behavior patterns.
- Maintain professional ethics in relationships.
- Ensure fair, equitable, and consistent application of these District-wide Code of Conduct guidelines.
- Teach and maintain a learning environment that leads to academic success.
- Hold students accountable for disruptive behavior in school and on school grounds in accordance with school board policy.
- Address Code of Conduct violations with multiple strategies and interventions to keep students in school.

TIER 1

Prevention Strategies

Schools create safe and supportive environments that promote healthy and successful students. The foundation of this work is Tier I of the MTSS process.

Classroom Strategies

- Change classroom organization/set-up
- Intentional seating
- Structured academic tasks
- Clear and explicit directions
- Strategy instruction
- Mnemonic strategies
- Classroom system of positive reinforcement
- Full-class redirection
- Increasing opportunities to respond
- Hook (i.e start the lesson with a engaging task/activity)
- Chunk lessons
- Differentiation/modification
- Less lecture, more facilitation
- "Gamify" lesson
- Display student work
- Assign class jobs
- Art integration
- Explicit help protocol
- Preview schedule
- Gradual release of responsibility (I do, we do, you do)
- Teacher or student conferences
- Modeling, Rehearsal, and Feedback
- Mindfulness exercises (i.e: GoNoodle, brain breaks, etc.)
- Create and review daily agenda
- Redirect and reteach with care and respect
- Empathetic listening
- Group contingency
- Create a community of cultural humility.
- Corrective Feedback
- Formative Assessment strategies
- Student engagement strategies
- Errorless teaching
- Behavior Specific Praise (5:1 rule)
- EMR - Establish, Maintain, Restore (Clay Cook)
- Precorrection
- Students should not lose recess at any point.
- Family Engagement - positive communication home

School-Wide Strategies

- Student choice
- Student Voice in co-creating school wide programs and events.
- Morning Meeting (Responsive Classroom)
- Explicit, modeled, taught expectations/procedures - via RR and SWPBIS
- Use of voice levels
- Active supervision
- Establish buddy teacher system
- Intentionally taught skills - SWPBIS Lessons
- Transition procedure
- Increasing student interaction
- Restorative justice (RJ) community-building circleGrowth Mindset
- Opportunities for movement - Honor student need for flexible seating.
- Community building activities
- Clear, consistent, predictable consequences - if-then chart?
- Modeling desired behavior
- Reward/incentive system -
- Verbal/Non-Verbal De-escalation strategies
- Restorative practice methods -
- Student agency/ Self advocacy
- Previewing
- Sequential prompting - prompt hierarchy
- Incorporating student interest and preferred activities and assignments
- Choice - making opportunities
- Group Contingency
- Use of free time
- Refocus desk/space
- Implementing School-Wide PBIS
- Redirect and reteach with care and respect
- Empathetic listening
- Positive communication home
- Create a community of cultural humility.
- Zones of Regulation



Early Intervention/Group Strategies

Schools identify and respond to students who are at-risk or have been exposed to trauma and/or loss in ways that meet their unique exposures, experiences, developmental, and personal needs. Tier 2 supports will include access and participation on Tier I supports.

- ### Classroom Strategies
- Classwide peer tutoring
 - Refocus desk/structured break
 - Cooperative learning
 - Peer-assisted learning strategies
 - Peer assessment
 - Peer modeling
 - Academic or social contracting
 - Written reflection or apology
 - Loss of earned privileges
 - Family engagement/support with intervention implementation
 - Goal Setting
 - Self-Monitoring
 - Self-Evaluation/Self Graphing
 - Self-Instruction
 - Non-verbal redirection
 - Precorrection

- ### School-Wide Strategies
- Conflict resolution
 - Peer mediation
 - Restorative justice harm & conflict circles
 - Student support team interventions and responses
 - Group discussion with appropriate administrator
 - Intentionally taught replacement behavior (group)
 - Check-In, Check-Out (CICO)
 - Check-In, Check - Up, Check - Out
 - Social Skills Groups - SIM, Second Step
 - Self-Regulation Skills
 - Peer Mediators

- ### Classroom or School-Wide Strategies
- Pre-taught use of refocus location/ structured break
 - Service-based restitution
 - Referral to student support team
 - Group assignment of work projects
 - Group mentoring
 - Referral to substance abuse counseling group
 - Restorative conversation with peers and/or adults
 - Use of proximity and active supervision
 - Peer tutoring
 - Detention
 - Redirect and reteach
 - Classroom assigned seats or seat change
 - High levels of praise vs. corrections (5:1)
 - Peer Reinforcement
 - Group goal setting
 - Differential reinforcement
 - Behavior modification
 - Academic or social contracting
 - Intentionally taught skills
 - Verbal correction and feedback
 - Group reminders and redirection
 - Peer conflict resolution



Intervention

Schools provide support to those students whose behaviors necessitate intensive interventions and aim to meet their individualized needs.

School-Wide Interventions

- Change in schedule or class
- Development of or revision to student support team plan
- Community conferencing by trained adult
- RJ (Restorative Justice) circle of support and accountability
- RJ (Restorative Justice) welcome circle
- Referral SAP (Student Assistance Program)
- Referral to substance abuse counseling
- Referral to appropriate community organization (e.g., mentoring programs)
- Use of restorative practice
- Development of or revision to student support team plan. - Documentation and data.
- Create district-wide student support team plan. Student and guardian must agree to plan.
- Mentor/Mentee
- Check and Connect

Classroom Interventions

- Teacher provides input in planning process of Behavior Intervention Plans
- Teacher supports implementation of Behavior Intervention Plans



Code of Conduct Misconduct Response Structure

The examples provided in this Code of Conduct are not to be construed as limiting the behaviors which may require disciplinary action by school personnel. The following misconduct/response structure includes four levels. Level I, II, III, and IV represent a continuum of misbehaviors based on the seriousness of the act and the frequency of the occurrence. Students should avoid the behaviors listed as examples under each level and, instead, exhibit good conduct. Any student found in violation of Board Policy or District rules and regulations will receive an appropriate disciplinary action.

Level I

Misbehavior on the part of the student which impedes classroom procedures or interferes with the orderly operation of the school. These misbehaviors are usually handled by individual staff members, but sometimes require the intervention of other school support personnel.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Classroom/school disruptive/inappropriate behavior
- Non-defiant failure to complete or carry out directions
- Using cell phones, cameras, and other electronic devices without authorization
- Littering
- Loitering
- Using forged notes or excuses
- Plagiarism/Cheating
- Unauthorized presence in the halls or other school areas
- Verbal pestering of others
- Inappropriate touching
- Unauthorized sale of non-harmful items
- Disorderly bus conduct
- Classroom tardiness and first offense class cut
- Lying
- Inappropriate language

Examples of Disciplinary Options

- Reteaching Appropriate Behavior
- Restorative Circle/Conference
- Denial of privilege/extra curricular
- Verbal or written reprimand
- Special assignment
- Behavioral Contract



Level II

Misbehavior whose frequency or seriousness tend to disrupt the learning climate of the school.

These infractions, which usually result from the continuation of Level I misbehaviors, require the intervention of personnel on the administrative level because the execution of Level I disciplinary options has failed to correct the situation. Also included in this level are misbehaviors which do not represent a direct threat to the health and safety of others, but whose educational consequences are serious enough to require corrective action on the part of administrative personnel.

Examples Include, but Not Limited to:

- Extreme Level I misconduct
- Repetitive Level I misconduct
- Abusive, obscene, or disrespectful language, writing, or gestures
- Unsafe bus conduct
- Leaving school property without permission • 2nd offense cutting class
- Failure to serve detentions
- Unauthorized possession or use of school property, facilities, lockers
- Hazing
- Inappropriate touching
- Bullying/Cyberbullying
- Misbehavior during field trips or school programs
- Violation of dress guidelines
- Abuse of vehicular privileges
- Inappropriate use of electronic devices
- Using, installing, or downloading unauthorized software (i.e. games, music, etc.)
- Other violations of the Student Acceptable Use Policy

Examples of Disciplinary Options

- Reteaching Appropriate Behavior/Restorative Circle/Conference
- Detention/Denial of privileges/extra-curricular activities
- Confiscation
- Mandatory Parent Conference
- In School Suspension
- Out of School Suspension



Level III

Acts whose frequency or seriousness tend to disrupt the learning climate of the school and/or acts directed against persons or properties and whose consequences could endanger the health of others in the school.

Examples Include, but Not Limited to:

- Continuation of or extreme Level II misconduct
- Vandalism
- Theft
- Fighting
- Minority, ethnic, racial slurs, gender, or disability intimidation Trespassing on or in school property
- Refusal to leave school property
- Intimidating others
- Hazing ([Policy 247](#))
- Bullying/Cyberbullying ([Policy 249](#))
- Sexting
- Unauthorized or improper use of vehicles on school grounds
- Destruction of the property of others
- Lewdness or indecent exposure
- Possession or use of tobacco, matches, e-cigarettes, lighters, vapes, vaping material, etc. ([Policy 222](#))
- Sexual harassment ([Policy 103](#))
- Spitting on individuals or property
- Inappropriate use of electronic devices

Examples of Disciplinary Options

- Reteaching Appropriate Behavior/Restorative Circle/Conference
- Detention
- Mandatory Parent Conference
- Temporary removal from class
- In-school suspension
- Out of school suspension
- Denial of earned privileges / extra-curricular activities
- Restitution of property or damages
- Referral to police or district magistrate
- Referral to outside agency

In cases of in-school suspension, out of school suspension or exclusion, students shall be entitled to due process rights as outlined in the sections entitled "Student Rights" and "Student Responsibilities." Accumulation of Level II and Level III suspensions may result in a referral to Central Office Administration for a possible School Board Hearing, a possible expulsion, or further disciplinary action.



Level IV

Acts whose frequency or seriousness tend to disrupt the learning climate of the school.
Acts directed against people or property which could or do pose a threat to the health, safety or welfare of others in the school.

Such acts will require administrative action which could result in the immediate removal of the students from school and the possible intervention of law enforcement authorities.

Examples Include, but Not Limited to:

- Continuation of or extreme Level III misconduct
- Extortion or attempted extortion
- Bomb threats, threatening phone calls, or Terroristic threats
- Possession/use/transfer of dangerous weapons ([Policy 218.1](#))
- Assault
- Lighted or ignited objects
- Theft or possession/sale of stolen property
- Arson or attempted arson ([Policy 218.2](#))
- Hacking, cracking, or tampering with the network/ computers
- Inappropriate use of electronic devices ([Policy 237](#))
- Possession, sale, or use of firecrackers or other fireworks
- Disorderly conduct
- Unauthorized use of fire alarm or equipment
- Reckless driving or speeding on school property
- Other violations of federal, state, or local laws
- Terroristic acts ([Policy 218.2](#))
- Repeated incidents of bullying/cyberbullying
- Retaliation against a student for reporting bullying or extortion, or for assisting in an investigation
- Transfer/sale/possession/purchase/procurement/distribution/use or under the influence of unauthorized substances, e.g., drugs, alcohol, drug paraphernalia, or drug look-alikes

Examples of Disciplinary Options

- Reteaching Appropriate Behavior/Restorative Circle/Conference
- Mandatory Parent Conference
- In-school suspension/Suspension
- Due Process/Manifestation Hearing
- Restitution for damages to or loss of property
- Expulsion
- Referral to police or district magistrate
- Referral to outside agency

In cases of in-school suspension, out of school suspension, or exclusion, students shall be entitled to due process rights as outlined in the sections entitled "Student Rights" and "Student Responsibilities." A Level IV suspension may result in a School Board Hearing for further disciplinary action; possibly expulsion.



District Guidelines in Support of the Code of Conduct



Anti-Bullying Policy

The **Bristol Township School Board Policy #249** sets forth the District's commitment to providing all students and employees with the right to a safe and civil educational environment, free from harassment or bullying. The District recognizes that bullying interferes with the learning process and may present an obstacle to the academic, vocational, and social/ emotional development of students.



What is Bullying?

Bullying shall be defined as an intentional and unwelcome electronic (cyber), written, verbal, or physical act, or series of acts that has these characteristics:

- **Physical** – includes hitting, kicking, spitting, pushing and taking personal belongings.
- **Verbal** – includes taunting, malicious teasing, name-calling, and making threatening statements or gestures.
- **Psychological or Relational** – includes spreading malicious rumors, and engaging in social isolations or intimidation.
- **Cyberbullying** – includes any form of verbal or psychological bullying that may occur on the Internet through social media. Cyberbullying includes but is not limited to the following misuses of technology: harassing, teasing, intimidating, threatening, or terrorizing another student by sending or posting inappropriate or derogatory e-mail messages, instant messages, text messages, digital pictures or images, or website postings including any social networking accounts.

It is directed at another student or group of students that is reasonably perceived as being motivated either by any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race; color; intellect; religion; ancestry; national origin; gender; sexual orientation; gender identity and expression; or a mental, physical, or sensory disability.

It has the intent to coerce, intimidate, harass, and otherwise cause emotional distress.

It is severe, persistent, or pervasive.

It has the effect of:

- Substantially interfering with a student's education;
- Substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school; or
- Creating a threatening environment.

It occurs in a "school setting." School setting shall mean in the school, on school grounds, in school vehicles, at a designated bus stop, or during any activity sponsored, supervised, or sanctioned by the school and/or District.

The District reserves the right to investigate acts of bullying that occur outside the school setting if those acts meet the requirements of the characteristics as delineated above.



How Should Students Report Acts of Bullying?

Students are encouraged to report bullying complaints to District employees with a written statement.



What Happens if the Policy is Violated?

Students who bully others will be subject to disciplinary options as outlined in the Code of Conduct.

Any student who retaliates against another student for reporting bullying or extortion, or for assisting or testifying in the investigation or hearing may be subject to further disciplinary action as outlined in the Code of Conduct.

Hazing

The purpose of the **Bristol Township School District Policy #247** is to maintain a safe, positive environment for students and staff that is free from hazing. Hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational goals of the District and are prohibited at all times.

Hazing - For purposes of this policy, hazing is defined as any activity that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental health, physical health, or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation or membership in, or affiliation with, any organization.

This policy prohibits any form of initiation or harassment, known as hazing, as part of any school-sponsored student activity. No student, coach, sponsor, volunteer or district employee shall plan, direct, encourage, assist or engage in any hazing activity. Infractions of this policy can result in Level II or Level III consequences.

This policy directs that no administrator, coach, sponsor, volunteer, or district employee shall permit, condone, or tolerate any form of hazing.

Unlawful Harrassment

Bristol Township School Board Policy #248 establishes that "Sexual harassment" is defined as conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following: (1) An employee of the District conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the District on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct; (2) Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the District's education program or activity; or (3) "Sexual assault" as defined in 20 U.S.C. 1092(f)(6)(A)(v) of the Clery Act, "dating violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(10) of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), or stalking as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12991(a)(30) of the VAWA.

“Unwelcome sexual conduct” may include but is not limited to: making sexual propositions or pressuring others for sexual favors; touching of a sexual nature; writing graffiti of a sexual nature; displaying or distributing sexually explicit drawings, pictures, or written materials; performing sexual gestures or touching oneself sexually in front of others; telling sexual or dirty jokes; spreading sexual rumors or rating others as to sexual activity or performance; and circulating or showing emails or websites of a sexual nature. Sexual harassment is forbidden and will not be tolerated, as the District is committed to providing a physically and psychologically safe environment in which students can learn. Should a student wish to file a complaint, they should direct the complaint to the Title IX Coordinator / Director of Student Services in accordance with Bristol Township School Board [Policy #104](#).

Weapons

The **Bristol Township School District** [Policy #218.1](#) strictly prohibits the possession, conveyance, use or storage of weapons or look-alikes on school property, at school-sponsored events, or in or around a school vehicle. This ban applies to students, employees, and visitors, even those who may have a legal permit to carry a weapon.

What is a Weapon? The Administration retains final authority in determining what constitutes a weapon, especially when evaluating potential danger. However, all of the following are considered weapons: knife blades, mace, pepper spray, cutting instruments, cutting tools, nun-chuck sticks, electroshock weapons, razor-blades, brass knuckles, acid, metal pipes, sharpened wood, stun guns, firearms, pistols, shotguns, rifles, ammunition, explosive devices, fireworks, pyrotechnics, or any other instrument capable of inflicting serious injury.

Are There Exceptions to This Policy? Law enforcement officials may carry weapons on school property. The Superintendent or authorized staff may issue exceptions for items such as cutting instruments used in art, technology education or music classes, or weapons or look-a likes used for the instructional program.

What Happens if the Policy is Violated? All discoveries of any prohibited weapons on school property will be reported to local law enforcement officials and to the Office of Safe Schools, PA Department of Education.

Student: This is a Level IV violation of the Code of Conduct and could result in a mandatory one calendar-year expulsion from school for the possession of weapons. The Superintendent may recommend a modification of the one year expulsion on a case-by-case basis.

Terroristic Threats-Acts

The **Bristol Township School District Board** [Policy #218.2](#) recognizes the danger that terroristic threats and acts present to the safety and welfare of District students, staff and community. District students are prohibited from communicating terroristic threats or committing terroristic acts directed at any student, employee, Board member, community member or school building.

What is a Terroristic Threat? Pennsylvania law defines a terroristic threat as a threat to commit violence communicated with the intent to terrorize another, to cause evacuation of a building, or to cause serious public inconvenience, in reckless disregard at the risk of causing such terror or inconvenience. A terroristic act shall mean an offense against the property or involving danger to another person.

What Happens if the Policy is Violated? Staff members and students shall be responsible for informing the building principal regarding any information or knowledge relevant to

What Happens if the Policy is Violated? Staff members and students shall be responsible for informing the building principal regarding any information or knowledge relevant to a possible or actual terroristic threat or act.

When an administrator has evidence that a student has made a terroristic threat or committed a terroristic act, the following guidelines shall be applied:

1. The building principal will immediately call the police.
2. The building principal shall promptly report the incident to the Superintendent.
3. Conduct a threat assessment.
4. The building principal may immediately suspend the student.
5. Level IV disciplinary action will be taken.
6. Based on further investigation, the Superintendent may recommend expulsion of the student to the Bristol Township School Board.

Controlled Substance and Paraphernalia

The following disciplinary actions will result for students found in violation of **Bristol Township School Board Policy #227** regarding the possession, procurement, use, distribution, sale, or under the influence of intoxicating beverages, narcotics, or controlled substances.

Health/Medical Emergency If a student demonstrates obvious symptoms of possible substance use (staggering, slurred speech, dazed appearance, incoherence, inability to respond), the situation shall be handled as a health problem and potential emergency. If evidence confirms substance use, disciplinary action will be administered according to the appropriate situation described in the Substance Abuse Guidelines.

Possession/Use/Under the Influence First Offense If a student possesses, uses, or is under the influence of a substance as defined in School Board [Policy #227](#) for the first time, the student will receive a temporary suspension, followed by an informal hearing. In cases where student misconduct is proven, students may be suspended for ten (10) days of Out of School Suspension. Based upon circumstances, involvement of law enforcement, and evidence discovered through an investigation, the administration will administer disciplinary action up to and possibly including a referral to the Bristol Township School Board, which could result in expulsion, per School Board [Policy #233](#). A referral to the Student Assistance Team will also be made and students will be expected to comply with recommendations made by this team. The student will also be required to participate in a drug and alcohol assessment by a recognized drug and alcohol agency and comply with any and all recommendations resultant from said assessment.

Subsequent Offenses If a student is caught (use, possession, or under the influence of) in subsequent offenses the student may be recommended for expulsion per School Board [Policy #233](#) or assignment to an alternate educational placement. **Distribution** If a student is caught distributing an illicit substance, and in instances where student misconduct is proven, students will receive a minimum of ten (10) days of Out of School Suspension with the possibility of expulsion, per School Board [Policy #233](#).

Violation Of Substance Abuse Guidelines at School Sponsored Functions If a student violates any portion of the Bristol Township Substance Abuse Guidelines at a school sponsored function, the student will be disciplined according to the appropriate situation described in the Substance Abuse guidelines, and herein. If a student is uncooperative during the process, the student will be referred to security personnel or the local police.

Possession Of Drug Paraphernalia: If a student is caught with any type of drug paraphernalia with the intent to use, sell, or transfer, the student will be subject to the appropriate disciplinary actions of the Bristol Township Code of Conduct..

Possession of Drugs and Alcohol at Off-Premises School-Related Activities: Possession of drugs and alcohol applies to conduct while on school grounds, anywhere during school-sponsored activities, anywhere under the jurisdiction of the school, or while using school transportation. Said conduct shall include the use of, intent to use, and sales or transfers of drugs and alcohol and shall subject the student to the appropriate disciplinary actions of the Bristol Township School Board Policy.

Definition of Terms:

Restricted Chemicals - include opiates, hallucinogens, marijuana, steroids, barbiturates, heroin, morphine, alcohol, cocaine, tranquilizers, amphetamines, mood altering inhalants, and any and all substances defined as "controlled substances" and prohibited by the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act, as amended (35 P.S. 780- 101, et. seq) or any comparable or related state or federal statute or regulation.

Drug Paraphernalia - shall include those items as listed in the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act, as well as any material(s) fashioned with the intent to use. "Drug Paraphernalia" shall also include any forged, stolen, or blank prescriptions.

Use - means to ingest, inhale, inject, imbibe, or otherwise cause a restricted drug or intoxicating beverage to reach the bloodstream or digestive tract, or be under the influence thereof.

Possession - means the possession of any restricted drug, intoxicating beverage, any material purported to be such (look-a-like or imitation drugs) or drug paraphernalia. If these restricted materials are found in a student's locker the infraction is equivalent to possession. If these restricted materials are found in an automobile used by a student and located on school property the infraction is equivalent to possession.

Distribution - means to give possession of a restricted drug, intoxicating beverage, any material purported to be such (look-a-like or imitation drugs), or drug paraphernalia to another person, whether or not for compensation or sale.



DISTRICT GUIDELINES THAT SUPPORT THE CODE OF CONDUCT ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES



Attendance Requirements & Procedures

(School Board [Policy #204](#))

No factor has a more direct relationship to a student's success in school than a good attendance record. Attendance is required of all students enrolled in Bristol Township School District during the days and hours that the school is in session.

Attendance Regulations and Responsibilities

Philosophy

Regular attendance is necessary for students to learn. Student's build upon previous information to provide understanding, and to develop skills in all areas of their education. Daily attendance contributes to the student's development in learning responsibility, self-discipline, relationship building, and good work habits. Good attendance allows students to gain maximum benefit from their education and reach their highest potential. They can graduate and be prepared for their next step in life!

Procedures

- When a student is absent, a phone contact/computer message will be made to inform the parent/guardian that the absence has been recorded.
- Upon return to school, the student must provide an absence note (either handwritten or emailed -text message not accepted). Notes are accepted up to 10 school days following the absence.
- If a note is not received within 10 days of the absence, the absence is considered unexcused.
- A parent/guardian may excuse the first 10 absences each school year, after 10 absences ONLY an excuse from a licensed practitioner of the healing arts (primary care physician, medical specialist, mental health provider) will be accepted to excuse the absence.
- Parents will be notified in writing when their child has 3 unexcused absences, and consider this as a notification of a violation of the PA State Attendance Law.
- Parents will also receive written notification of the requirement for Medical only notes after their child has their 10th absence (excused or unexcused) for the year.

PA State Law

Pennsylvania Law (24 P.S. Section 13-1326-1354) requires students of compulsory school-age (6-18) to attend school while it is in session, and upon absence provide an acceptable excuse note (see procedures above). Bristol Township School District must enforce this attendance law.

Absence Reasons

Reasonable causes for absence from school include: illness, quarantine, recovery from an accident, required court attendance, death in the family, pre-approved family educational trips, or educational tours. Religious holidays/

observances approved by the Board shall also be excused. Students will be released from attendance for participation in a religious instruction program acknowledged by the Board for no more than 36 hours per school year, and transportation is not provided.

Guidelines for Keeping Your Child Home

You should keep your child at home if they have any of the following symptoms:

A fever of 100 degrees or higher and must be fever free for 24 hours (without medication) before returning

- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Persistent cough or thick nasal discharge
- Itchy, watery red eyes with a crusty discharge

Lateness

Please refer to the student handbook

Make-up work

Students who are (excused) absent from school will have the opportunity to make-up missed work.

Continued Unexcused Absences

Students of compulsory school-age (6-18) who continue to have unexcused absences will be referred to the District Home and School Visitor. The Home and School Visitor will reach out to the student/parent/guardian to understand the barriers that may be causing absenteeism, address parent concerns, explain the policies and procedures and expectation for student attendance and on-time arrival, and offer school and/or community supports to reduce absences.

PA State Law requires after the 6th unexcused absence, a school representative will contact the student/parent/guardian to develop a School Attendance Improvement Plan (SAIP) for the student. As part of the plan, school/community supports may be offered. If unexcused absences continue, students may be referred to the Bucks County Children and Youth Social Services Agency and/or a truancy citation may be filed with the district magistrate. A citation may result in fines and an automatic suspension of the student's driver's license if found guilty by the Judge.

Student Responsibilities

- Attend school regularly.
- Provide a note if absent.
- Be aware of the obligation to make up for missed work.
- Be aware of consequences for noncompliance with the attendance policy.

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities:

- Make sure your child attends school regularly.
- If the child is absent, provide a note.
- If your child is refusing to go to school, reach out to the school for help.
- You may want to set up a Parent Portal account to monitor grades and attendance.



STUDENT DRESS CODE PHILOSOPHY



Bristol Township School District's student dress code supports equitable educational access and is written in a manner that does not reinforce stereotypes. To ensure effective and equitable enforcement of this dress code, school staff shall enforce the dress code consistently and in a manner that does not reinforce or increase marginalization of any group based on sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, race, religion, cultural observance, household income or body type/size.

Our values are:

- All students should be able to dress comfortably for school and engage in the educational environment without fear of or actual unnecessary discipline or body shaming.
- All students and staff should understand that they are responsible for managing their own personal "distractions" without regulating individual students' clothing/self expression.
- Dress code enforcement should not result in unnecessary barriers to school attendance.
- Teachers are able to focus on teaching without the additional burden of dress code enforcement.
- Conflict and inconsistent and/or inequitable discipline should be minimized.

Our student dress code is designed to accomplish several goals:

- Maintain a safe learning environment in classes where protective or supportive clothing is needed, such as chemistry/biology (eye or body protection), dance (bare feet, tights/leotards), or PE (athletic attire/shoes).
- Allow students to wear clothing of their choice that is comfortable.
- Allow students to wear clothing that expresses their self-identified gender.
- Allow students to wear religious attire without fear of discipline or discrimination.
- Prevent students from wearing clothing or accessories with offensive images or language, including profanity, hate speech, and pornography, racist, lewd, vulgar or obscene, or that reasonably can be construed as containing fighting words, speech that incites others to imminent lawless action, defamatory speech, or threats to others.
- Prevent students from wearing clothing or accessories that denote, suggest, display or reference alcohol, drugs or related paraphernalia or other illegal conduct or activities.
- Prevent students from wearing clothing or accessories that will interfere with the operation of the school, disrupt the educational process, invade the rights of others, or create a reasonably foreseeable risk of such interference or invasion of rights.
- Ensure that all students are treated equitably regardless of sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, race, religion, cultural observance, household income or body type/size.



Dress Code

Bristol Township School District expects that all students will dress in a way that is appropriate for the school day or for any school sponsored event. Student dress choices should respect the District's intent to sustain a community that is inclusive of a diverse range of identities. The primary responsibility for a student's attire resides with the student and their parent(s) or guardian(s). The school district is responsible for seeing that student attire does not interfere with the health or safety of any student, that student attire does not contribute to a hostile or intimidating atmosphere for any student, and that dress code enforcement does not reinforce or increase marginalization or oppression of any group based on sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, race, religion, cultural observance, household income, or body type/size. Any restrictions to the way a student dresses must be necessary to support the overall educational goals of the school and must be explained within this dress code. Please refer to the student handbook for more information regarding the dress code.

1. **Basic Principle:**

Students are expected to come to school dressed in a manner that assures adequate modesty. All items listed in the "must wear" and "may wear" categories below must meet this basic principle.

2. **Students Must Wear***, while following the basic principle of Section 1 above:

- A Shirt (with fabric in the front, back, and on the sides under the arms),
- Pants/jeans or the equivalent (for example, a skirt, sweatpants, leggings, a dress or shorts),
- Shoes. Activity-specific shoes requirements are permitted (for example, athletic shoes for PE)

*Courses that include attire as part of the curriculum (for example, professionalism, public speaking, and job readiness) may include assignment-specific dress, but should not focus on covering bodies in a particular way or promoting culturally-specific attire.

3. **Students May Wear**, as long as these items do not violate Section 1 above:

- Hats must allow the face to be visible to staff, and not interfere with the line of sight of any student or staff. It is the principals discretion if hats can be worn in the building
- Religious headwear
- Hoodie sweatshirts (wearing the hood overhead is allowed, face and ears must be visible)
- Fitted pants, including opaque leggings, yoga pants and "skinny jeans"
- Pajamas
- Ripped jeans, as long as underwear and buttocks are not exposed
- Tank tops, including spaghetti straps; halter tops
- Athletic attire
- Visible waistbands on undergarments or visible straps on undergarments worn under other clothing (as long as this is done in a way that does not violate Section 1 above).



4. **Students Cannot Wear:**

- Clothing, hats or other garments/shoes that portray violent language or images.
- Images/language depicting/suggesting drugs, alcohol, vaping or paraphernalia (or any illegal item or activity).
- Bullet proof vest, body armor, tactical gear, or facsimile.
- Hate speech, profanity, pornography.
- Images or language that creates a hostile or intimidating environment based on any protected class or consistently marginalized groups.
- Clothing that reveals visible undergarments (visible waistbands, visible straps are allowed).
- Swimsuits (except as required in class or athletic practice).
- Accessories that could be considered dangerous or could be used as a weapon.
- Any item that obscures the face or ears (except as a religious observance or as personal protective equipment (PPE)).

5. **Dress Code Enforcement**

- To ensure effective and equitable enforcement of this dress code, school staff shall enforce the dress code consistently using the requirements below. School administration and staff shall not have discretion to vary the requirements in ways that lead to discriminatory enforcement.
- Students will only be removed from spaces, hallways, or classrooms as a result of a dress code violation as outlined in Sections 1 and 4 above. Students in violation of Section 1 and/or 4 will be provided two (2) options to be dressed more to code during the school day:
- Students will be asked to put on their own alternative clothing.
- If necessary, students' parents may be called during the school day to bring alternative clothing for the student to wear for the remainder of the day.
- No student should be affected by dress code enforcement because of racial identity, sex assigned at birth, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, cultural or religious identity, household income, body size/type, or body maturity.
- School staff shall not enforce the school's dress code more strictly against transgender and gender nonconforming students than other students.
- Students should not be shamed or required to display their body in front of others (students, parents, or staff) in school. "Shaming" includes, but is not limited to:
 - kneeling or bending over to check attire fit; measuring straps or skirt length;
 - asking students to account for their attire in front of others;
 - calling out students in spaces, in hallways, or in classrooms about perceived dress code violations in front of others; in particular, directing students to correct sagged pants that do not expose the entire undergarment, or confronting students about visible bra straps, since visible waistbands and straps on undergarments are permitted; and,
 - accusing students of "distracting" other students with their clothing. These dress code guidelines shall apply to regular school days and summer school days, as well as any school-related events and activities, such as graduation ceremonies, dances and prom. Student athletic apparel will be defined by safety and competitive performance standards.

BRISTOL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

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2022-2023



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