

<b>BLOOMSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT Policy Manual</b>
--

Section: PUPILS  
Title: STUDENT RIGHTS  
Date Adopted: August 17, 1981  
Date Last Revised: October 21, 2002

---

**235. STUDENT RIGHTS**

- .1 This policy sets forth guidelines by which student rights are to be determined consistent with law.
- .2 The Board has the authority and responsibility to establish reasonable rules and regulations for the conduct and deportment of students of the district. At the same time, no student shall be deprived of equal treatment and equal access to the educational program, due process, a presumption of innocence, and free expression and association in accordance with these guidelines.
- .3 Attendant upon the rights established for each student are certain responsibilities, which include respect for the rights of others, obedience to properly constituted school authority and compliance with the rules and regulations of this district.
  - .31 A student who has reached the age of 18 years possesses the full rights of an adult, and may authorize those school matters previously handled by his/her parents, when such authorization is presented in writing to the principal.
  - .32 In order to avoid potential conflict, the parents of each student reaching the age of 18, who has presented such written authorization, will be notified in writing.
- .4 Chapter 12 of Pennsylvania Code 22. Education outlines student rights and responsibilities as follows:
  - .41 Free Education and Attendance
    - A. All persons residing in the Commonwealth between the ages of 6 and 21 years are entitled to a free and full education in the Commonwealth's public schools.

- B. Parents or guardians of all children between the ages of 8 and 17 are required by the compulsory attendance law to ensure that their children attend an approved educational institution, unless legally excused. Students who have not graduated may not be asked to leave school merely because they have reached 17 years of age if they are fulfilling their responsibilities as students. A student may not be excluded from the public schools or from extra-curricular activities because of being married or pregnant.

.42 Student Responsibilities

- A. Student responsibilities include regular school attendance, conscientious effort in classroom work, and conformance to school rules and regulations. Most of all, students share with the administration and faculty a responsibility to develop a climate within the school that is conducive to wholesome learning and living.
- B. No student has the right to interfere with the education of his fellow students. It is the responsibility of each student to respect the rights of teachers, students, administrators, and all others who are involved in the educational process.
- C. Students should express their ideas and opinions in a respectful manner.
- D. It is the responsibility of the students to conform with the following:
  - 1. Be aware of all rules and regulations for student behavior and conduct themselves in accord with them. Students should assume that, until a rule is waived, altered or changed in writing, it is in effect.
  - 2. Volunteer information in matters relating to the health, safety and welfare of the school community and the protection of school property.
  - 3. Dress and groom to meet fair standards of safety and health, and not to cause substantial disruption to the educational process.
  - 4. Assist the school staff in operating a safe school for all students enrolled therein.
  - 5. Comply with Commonwealth and local laws.

6. Exercise proper care when using public facilities and equipment.
7. Attend school daily and be on time at all classes and other school functions.
8. Make up work when absent from school.
9. Pursue and attempt to complete satisfactorily the courses of study prescribed by Commonwealth and local school authorities.
10. Report accurately and not use indecent or obscene language in student newspapers or publications.

.43 School Rules

- A. The school board has the authority to make reasonable and necessary rules governing the conduct of students in school. The rule-making power, however, is not unlimited; it must operate within statutory and constitutional restraints. A school board has only those powers which are enumerated in the statutes of this Commonwealth, or which may reasonably be implied or necessary for the orderly operation of the school.
- B. School boards may not make rules which are arbitrary, capricious or outside their grant of authority from the General Assembly. Their rules must stand the test of fairness and reasonableness. A rule is generally considered reasonable if it uses a rational means of accomplishing some legitimate school purpose.
- C. Each board of school directors shall adopt a code of student conduct, which shall include policies governing student discipline and a listing of student rights, and responsibilities as outlined in this chapter. The conduct code shall be published and distributed to students and parents. Copies of this code shall also be available in each school library.