



PA School Code Chapter 12 Provisions

School Rules

This handbook is designed to meet the requirements of chapter 12 of the Pennsylvania School code. This code is distributed to student and parents/guardians and is available at the school. The Board of Trustees has the authority to make reasonable and necessary rules governing the conduct of students in school. The Board may not make rules that are arbitrary, capricious, discriminatory or outside its grant of authority from the General Assembly. A rule is generally considered reasonable if it uses a rational means of accomplishing some legitimate school purpose.

Free Education & Attendance

Mastery complies with regulatory language including non-exclusion from the public schools or from extracurricular activities because: (1) the student is married; (2) the student is pregnant; (3) the student has a disability; (4) the student is an eligible student identified under State and Federal regulations.

Student Responsibilities

Student responsibilities include regular school attendance, conscientious effort in classroom work and homework and conformance to school rules and regulations. Students share the responsibility to develop a climate within the school that is conducive to wholesome learning and living. No student has the right to interfere with the education of 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. Students should express their ideas and opinions in a respectful manner. It is the responsibility of the students to:

- Be aware of all rules and regulations for student behavior and conduct themselves in accordance with them
- Volunteer information in matters relating to the health, safety and welfare of the school community and the protection of school property
- Dress and groom to meet standards of safety and health, and not to cause substantial disruption to the educational processes
- Assist the school staff in operating a safe school for the students enrolled therein
- Comply with Commonwealth and local laws
- Exercise proper care when using public facilities and equipment
- Attend school daily and be on time at all classes and other school functions.
- Make up work when absent from school.
- Pursue and attempt to complete satisfactorily the prescribed courses of study
- Report accurately in student media
- Not use obscene language in student media or on school premises

Discrimination

Mastery complies with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act

Corporal Punishment

Mastery prohibits the use of corporal punishment. However, teachers and school authorities may use reasonable force under the following circumstances:

- (1) To quell a disturbance.
- (2) To obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects.
- (3) For the purpose of self-defense.
- (4) For the protection of persons or property.



Exclusion from School & Class

Mastery rules reflect the requirements set for in Section 12.7 for in-school suspensions in their annual notifications to students and parent/guardians. Mastery has defined in this handbook the types of offenses that would lead to exclusion from school, i.e. suspension or expulsion. Exclusions affecting students with disabilities and procedures regarding exclusions from school conform to the requirements of State and Federal regulations.

Hearings

Mastery's hearings process reflect the due process requirements

Freedom of Expression

The right of public school students to freedom of speech is guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States and the Commonwealth. Students have the right to express themselves unless the expression materially and substantially interferes with the educational process, threatens serious harm to the school or community, encourages unlawful activity or interferes with another individual's rights. Students may use publications, handbills, announcements, assemblies, group meetings, and any other means of common communication, provided that the use of public school communications facilities shall be in accordance with Mastery regulations. Students have the responsibility to obey laws governing libel and obscenity and to be aware of the full meaning of their expression. Students have the responsibility to be aware of the feelings and opinions of others and to give others a fair opportunity to express their views. Mastery may require the responsible person in a student group to be identified. Mastery may require students to submit for prior approval a copy of materials to be displayed, posted or distributed on school property. Master may restrict the use of certain bulletin boards. Bulletin board space is provided for the use of students and student organizations.

School newspapers and publications must conform to the following: (1) Students have the right to report the news and to editorialize within the provisions stated above. (2) School officials shall supervise student newspapers published with school equipment, remove obscene or libelous material and edit other material that would cause a substantial disruption or interference with school activities. (3) School officials may not censor or restrict material simply because it is critical of the school or administration. (4) Prior approval procedures for school newspapers must identify the individual to whom the material is to be submitted and establish a limitation on the time required to make a decision. If the prescribed time for approval elapses without a decision, the material shall be considered authorized for distribution. (5) Students who are not members of the newspaper staff shall have access to its pages. Written criteria for submission of material by non-staff members shall be developed and distributed to all students.

School officials may set forth the time and place of distribution of materials so that distribution would not materially or substantially interfere with the requirements of appropriate discipline in the operation of the school. A proper time and place set for distribution is one that would give the students the opportunity to reach fellow students. The place of the activity may be restricted to permit the normal flow of traffic within the school and at exterior doors.

Searches

Mastery has adopted reasonable policies and procedures regarding student searches in this handbook.



Student Records

Mastery has adopted a plan for student records that conforms with applicable State and Federal laws, regulations and directives identified in guidelines issued by the Department of Ed.

Services to Students

Mastery has adopted a plan for the implementation of a comprehensive and integrated program of student services based on the needs of the students. The plan meets the requirements described in § 4.13(a), (b), (d), (e) and (f) (relating to Strategic Plans). Mastery coordinates and oversees services offered by community agencies. As policies outlined in this handbook include policies and procedures for emergency care and administration of medication and treatment under The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act (35 P. S. §§ 780-101—780-144) and guidelines issued by the Department of Health. As describe in this handbook, Mastery's student services plan is an integral part of the instructional program at all levels of the school system. This handbook describes our instructional program and how to access supports. Mastery's Social Emotional courses, particularly workplace skills training, internship and fourth year seminar, provide career information and assessments so that students and parents or guardians are aware of the world of work and of a variety of career options available to individual students. Basic health services are available at Mastery consistent with Article XIV of the Public School Code of 1949 (24 P. S. §§ 14-1401—14-1423). Mastery follows Section 445 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C.A. § 1232h), regarding Protection of Pupil Rights. Mastery provides that persons delivering student services shall be specifically licensed or certified as required by statute or regulation.

Wellness Policy

Mastery has adopted a wellness policy and submitted that policy to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.