

POLICY 101-7

SCHOOL CLIMATE AND DISCIPLINE

Schools shall create an environment where all members are respected, welcomed, supported, and feel safe in school: socially, emotionally, intellectually and physically. When a school's data indicate significant concerns regarding school climate and discipline, the school shall develop school climate goals and take actions to improve school climate.

Hawaii Administrative Rules Title 8, Department of Education, Subtitle 2, Education Part 1, Public Schools, Chapter 19 ("Chapter 19") provides the framework for addressing student discipline: student misconduct, discipline, school search and seizures, reporting offenses, policy interviews and arrests, and restitution for vandalism. As stated in Chapter 19, "The purpose of school-administered discipline is to:

- (1) Promote and maintain a safe and secure educational environment;
- (2) Teach and acknowledge proper behavior which is beneficial to the educational process and self-development;
- (3) Deter students from acts which interfere with the purpose of education or which are self-destructive, self-defeating or anti-social; and
- (4) Maintain proper student conduct to ensure that educational activities and responsibilities remain uninterrupted."

In view of the essential link between instructional time and academic achievement, schools shall strive to keep students in school, in the classroom, and engaged in learning to the greatest extent possible. Students who are removed from class shall be provided with appropriate academic instruction and behavioral supports. The administrator with discretion and authority to effect an off-campus suspension shall, consistent with Chapter 19, balance the long-term best interests of the student against overall campus safety concerns. Such determination shall be documented in writing, consistent with the requirements of Chapter 19.

Rationale: A critical component of a strong and positive climate is a schoolwide discipline policy that honors the civil rights of our students, sets high expectations for behavior and provides clear, developmentally appropriate, and proportional consequences for misbehavior.

[Approved: 09/01/2015 (as Board Policy 101.7); amended: 06/21/2016 (renumbered as Board Policy 101-7)]