

**Pioneer Springs Community School**  
**Behavior and Discipline Policy**  
**Approved 3/25/14, revised and approved 1/22/18, 4/8/19, 8/20/19**

**Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to define an expectation of student behavior that supports active learning, to articulate the tools available to use in support of such behavior, and to outline the possible consequences when students make choices that disrupt their learning or that of others.

Pioneer Springs Community School believes that its first responsibility is to create engaging classrooms, and to individualize instruction in a way that allows students to be appropriately challenged. As such, we seek to limit distractions and support scholars in developing appropriate skills for collaboration, group participation, and interpersonal relations in contribution to the larger classroom dynamic. In support of expected behavior, PSCS will employ the philosophies of positive languaging and restorative justice, and will adhere to recommended and legal guidelines as provided by the NC Department of Public Instruction and state and federal law, including guidelines for restraint, suspension, and expulsion.

**General Rules of Conduct**

Pioneer Springs students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the Basic School Virtues, including being honest, respectful, responsible, compassionate, self-disciplined, gracious, and persevering. While these are ideals, we know students will need opportunities to develop and practice these characteristics with appropriate modeling and support. To that end, expectations for student behavior are communicated to students and parents/guardians on a regular basis and a variety of resources--from morning meetings to guest speakers, outside agency referrals to the school social worker, parent conferences and targeted disciplinary consequences--are employed.

PSCS policies and procedures for discipline of students, including students with exceptional needs, shall be consistent with state and federal laws and regulations. The PSCS student discipline policy sets parameters for addressing inappropriate student behavior though nothing in the policy is intended to, nor does it in any way, impose any additional liabilities, requirements or obligations on the Board or the school beyond those liabilities, requirements and obligations imposed by applicable law.

**Communication**

Because the school recognizes partnership with parents as essential to supporting student's behavior, Pioneer Springs commits to communicating with parents regarding any discipline issue with their student.

In a situation that involves a student suspension, if there is a victim(s) affected by the violation, the PSCS staff will notify the victim's parent/guardian of the violation. The level of detail provided in this communication will be appropriate based on state/federal law, Individual Education Plans, FERPA, and any other privacy requirements.

The PSCS staff will pay close attention to repeated incidents with the intention of reducing or eliminating the repetitive negative behavior. The actions taken by the staff will focus on frequent communication and appropriate consequences to give the students involved an opportunity to understand the impacts of their

behavior.

## Consequences

Consequences are determined on a case by case basis and in consideration of the following violations based on the level of disruption to the learning environment.

Below is a non-exhaustive sample listing of prohibited conduct and potential disciplinary consequences; other conduct not listed may still be subject to sanction. In the case of repeated violations or other aggravating factors, consequences may be increased.

VIOLATIONS	POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES
<p><b>I. Acts of Violence</b></p> <p><b>Fighting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mutual fighting between two students.</li> <li>• Attacking another person.</li> <li>• Seriously injuring another person except for necessary self-defense.</li> </ul> <p><b>Threatening to cause physical harm:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Directed at other non-personnel on school grounds or at school functions.</li> <li>• Directed at school personnel on school grounds or at school functions</li> </ul>	<p>Consequences for infractions of this nature may include, but are not limited to, restorative action, suspension ranging in duration from 1 to 10 days, report to law enforcement, and recommendation for long-term suspension (11-365 days) in those instances where the action meets the definition of a reportable offense.</p>
<p><b>II. Weapons and Dangerous Objects</b></p> <p>Possessing a weapon (e.g., knife, gun, sharp object, pin, club, look-alike weapon, or any object which could inflict serious injury). An instrument resembling a weapon, if used in a threatening way, is considered a weapon.</p> <p>Using a weapon in a fight</p> <p>Possessing, using, and/or selling explosives or fireworks</p> <p>Possessing, selling, and/or otherwise furnishing a firearm</p> <p>Brandishing a knife</p>	<p>Consequences for infractions of this nature may include, but are not limited to, suspension ranging in duration from 5 to 10 days, report to law enforcement, and recommendation for long-term suspension (11-365 days).</p>

<p><b>III. Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco and "Look-a-Likes"</b></p> <p>Possessing, using, selling, or being under the influence of an alcoholic beverage on school grounds or at school functions.</p> <p>Possessing, using, selling, or being under the influence of a drug on school grounds or at school functions.</p> <p>Possessing, using, or selling tobacco in any form on school grounds, at school functions, or across any adjacent street.</p> <p>Offering, arranging, negotiating to sell, delivering or furnishing alcohol or drugs, and/or substituting a look- alike substance intended to represent illegal alcohol or drugs</p> <p>Unlawfully selling a drug</p>	<p>Consequences for infractions of this nature may include, but are not limited to, a suspension ranging in duration from 5 to 10 days, report to law enforcement, referral to the county health department or other applicable agency, and recommendation for long-term suspension (11-365 days).</p>
<p><b>IV. Drug Paraphernalia</b></p> <p>Possessing drug paraphernalia</p> <p>Offering, arranging, or negotiating to sell any drug paraphernalia</p>	<p>Consequences for infractions of this nature may include, but are not limited to, suspension ranging in duration from 5 to 10 days, report to law enforcement, referral to a relevant county agency, and recommendation for long-term suspension (11-365 days).</p>

<b>VIOLATIONS</b>	<b>POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES</b>
<p><b>V. Robbery, Extortion, Theft</b></p> <p>Robbing or extorting on school grounds or during school functions</p> <p>Attempting or stealing school or private property</p>	<p>Consequences for infractions of this nature may include, but are not limited to, a suspension ranging in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• duration from 3 to 10 days, restitution, report to law enforcement, and recommendation for long-term suspension (11-365 days).</li> </ul>

<p><b>VI. Damage to Property</b></p> <p>Causing or attempting to cause damage to school property or to another's private property while on school grounds or at school</p> <p>Arson</p>	<p>Consequences for infractions of this nature may include, but are not limited to, a suspension ranging in duration from 5 to 10 days, restitution, report to law enforcement, and recommendation for long-term suspension (11-365 days).</p>
<p><b>VII. Profane, Obscene, Vulgar, Derogatory, Demeaning, Abusive, or Harassing Statements or Acts</b></p> <p>Directed at other non-personnel on school grounds or at school functions</p> <p>Directed at school personnel on school grounds or at school functions</p>	<p>Consequences for infractions of this nature may include, but are not limited to, a suspension ranging in duration from 1 to 10 days, referral to guidance or another character education resource. Report to law enforcement and recommendation for long-term suspension (11-365 days) in those instances where the action meets the definition of a reportable offense.</p>
<p><b>VIII. Cheating, Plagiarizing, and Academic Dishonesty</b></p> <p>Knowingly receiving or giving help to another student or using aids without authorization for a class assignment or test</p>	<p><i>1st offense:</i> parent notification, redo assignment  <i>2nd offense:</i> parent conference, no credit for assignment; in school suspension  <i>3rd offense:</i> parents meet with Discovery Team, out of school suspension</p>
<p><b>IX. Willful Disobedience</b></p> <p>Refusing or failing to follow staff directive.</p> <p>Lying; forging or falsifying documents or information</p> <p>Littering</p> <p><b>Unacceptable behavior:</b>  Offensive or other physical displays of affection involving kissing or other romantically- or sexually- related touching</p> <p>Failing to demonstrate good citizenship, using culturally insensitive or improper language</p> <p>Failing to follow classroom rules.</p>	<p>Consequences for infractions of this nature may include, but are not limited to, restorative activity, a suspension ranging in duration from 1 to 10 days, or recommendation for long-term suspension (11-365 days).</p>

<b>X. Bullying, Harassment</b> See Bullying Policy for description details	See Bullying Policy for potential consequences

**Students with special needs:**

Students with special needs are not exempted from the consequences, only the context in which the consequences are determined. Federal and state laws shall be followed when assigning a consequence for an exceptional child.