



April 13, 2015

Dear Parents,

Ensuring that every school provides a safe and supportive learning environment for its students is a fundamental priority for the Mayor and for me. Over the last year and a half we have been reviewing how to best create a positive school culture and climate in which teaching and learning can safely take place. Toward that end, we have worked closely with other City agencies, community stakeholders, advocates, principals, teachers and parents in developing a new *Citywide Behavioral Expectations to Support Student Learning (Student Intervention and Discipline Code)*. The changes in the Discipline Code reflect a commitment to promoting positive student behavior through the use of interventions, support measures and progressive and more developmentally appropriate discipline.

The Discipline Code is intended to promote a supportive school environment in which students can grow both socially and academically and to ensure the safety of the school community. Consequently, all members of the school community - students, staff, and parents - must know and understand the standards of behavior which all students are expected to live up to and the consequences if these standards are not met. We encourage you to review the Code and discuss it with your child. The full Discipline Code is available in ten languages online at:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/RulesPolicies/DisciplineCode/default.htm> or in hard copy from your child's school.

The Discipline Code is divided into two sections: Section A is for Grades K-5 and Section B is for Grades 6-12. Within each section, there are five levels of infractions ranging from "uncooperative behavior" to "violent behavior," as well as the range of guidance interventions and disciplinary responses that can be taken by school staff when students engage in behavior that violates the Discipline Code. Possible guidance interventions include counseling, mediation and guidance conferences. Disciplinary responses include parent conferences, detention, or suspensions, depending on the misconduct. In addition, a Bill of Student Rights and Responsibilities is included in the Discipline Code. The Discipline Code applies to all students. Additional protections for students with disabilities are also addressed in the Code.

The standards outlined in the Discipline Code apply to behavior that occurs: at school, before, during and after school hours; while traveling on vehicles funded by the NYC DOE; at school-sponsored events; and off school premises when such behavior negatively affects the educational process or endangers the health, safety, morals, or welfare of the school community. Our schools strive to include parents as active partners in maintaining school safety. Thank you for your support in helping to make our school community better, stronger and safer for our children. If you have any questions, please call your child's school.

Sincerely,

Chancellor