



RESOLUTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN

**THE CHRISTINA SCHOOL
DISTRICT**

AND THE OFFICE for CIVIL RIGHTS (OCR)

BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATE

March 2014

OCR RESOLUTION STATUS UPDATE

Christina's Resolution Agreement with the Office for Civil Rights is broad and encompassing with 10 distinct areas where the District has agreed to activities and deliverables that are reported back to the OCR on a time schedule. The main areas of the Resolution are :

- A. Collaborate with a Consultant (Expert)
- B. Strategize for Student Development Outside of the Disciplinary System
- C. Revision of Disciplinary Policies
- D. Discipline Supervisor
- E. Outreach to and Input from Students, District Staff and Community Members
- F. Training
- G. Notice to Parents
- H. School Resource Officers (SROs)
- I. Data Collection and Self-Monitoring
- J. Requests for Redress/Correction



PROGRESS TO DATE :

- Christina has an Implementation Team meeting every month to review required deliverables outlined in the Resolution Agreement. This team is actively working with the District's expert - MAEC to recognize, address, and remove obstacles to this work and are currently focused on:
 - Section C of the Resolution Agreement
 - Review and revisions to the Current Student Code of Conduct in order to create a new comprehensive Student Manual
 - Section F of the Resolution Agreement
 - Training is ongoing with our Phase I Schools

THE NEW STUDENT MANUAL

The District is proposing a New Student Manual that has a broader purpose than the current Student Code of Conduct.

Some of the Goals for this new Manual include:

- Illustrate expected appropriate and respectful student behaviors
- Describe what strategies are in place to promote a Positive Instructional Environment for all students
- Describe what actions and interventions or sanctions are taken when students exhibit challenging, inappropriate, or harmful behaviors
- Outline student rights, privileges, and responsibilities
- Provide information about the disciplinary process and how to get help from school system personnel concerning appeal requests, processes and procedures, and resources
- This handbook will also include a glossary of terms being used throughout the district



THE NEW STUDENT MANUAL

The new Manual will include some mandatory information from several sources:

- The Christina Resolution Agreement with OCR outlines requirements for revised policies, processes, and practices regarding discipline.
 - Components for review include:
 - Referrals process for Discipline
 - Actions that require in-school or out of school suspension
 - Actions that require expulsion
 - Actions that require referral to law enforcement
 - Alternatives to sanctions that require a student being removed from the education setting
 - Develop an environment that supports positive student behavior and redirects students who may be struggling in ways **OTHER** than with punitive disciplinary sanctions.
- Code and Board Policy requirements for maintaining student confidentiality

THE NEW STUDENT MANUAL

The new Manual will include some mandatory information from several sources:

- Special Education Law – State and Federal requirements.
 - Components for review include:
 - Referrals process for Discipline
 - Processes for in-school or out of school suspension
- State of Delaware Code Regulations (14 Del. C §4112)
 - Mandatory Reporting to the Police and/or the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE)

Example: Police and DDOE:

- Offensive touching employee victim, drug use/influence, possession of dangerous instrument/weapon, possession of an unlawful controlled substance including: prescription drugs, counterfeit drugs.

DDOE:

- Sexual harassment, bullying, alcohol, fighting, teen dating violence, drug use/influence, tobacco possession and/or use.



THE NEW STUDENT MANUAL

The new Manual will include some mandatory information from several sources:

- Federal Regulations
 - Mandatory Sanctions for certain actions

Example

- **In compliance with the Federal “Guns Free Schools Act of 1994,”**

Possession of a firearm on school property, in a school bus, or at any school-sponsored event or activity shall result in expulsion for a period of not less than 180 school days. The Superintendent shall modify such expulsion requirement to the extent a modification is required by Federal or State law.



THE NEW STUDENT MANUAL

The new Manual will include some mandatory information from several sources:

- State of Delaware Mandated Definitions of Terms

Example

- "Dangerous Instrument(s) Possession/Concealment/Sale" shall mean the unauthorized Possession/concealment/sale by a student in the School Environment of any instrument, article or substance which is readily capable of causing serious physical injury or death.
- "Defiance of School Authority" shall mean: (1) A verbal or non-verbal refusal to immediately comply with a reasonable request from school personnel, or refusal to identify oneself at the request of school personnel, and/or refusal to comply with disciplinary action; or (2) A verbal or non-verbal display of disrespect and/or uncivil behavior toward school personnel which either causes a substantial disruption or material interference with school activities.
- "Fighting" shall mean any aggressive physical altercation between two or more individuals.



THE NEW STUDENT MANUAL

With the mandatory sections in place there are many areas where we will be gathering feedback from students, families, and staff on content for the new Manual. These include:

- Behavior Expectations
- Ways to support Positive School Environments
- Resources to support students outside of the disciplinary process
- Resources to support families

Staff have developed Focus Questions that will be made available online. Forums held for the public and staff will reference these and encourage all to go out and respond to provide written feedback for this stage of the process.

NEW STUDENT MANUAL SCHEDULE

Schedule for Development of the New Student Manual – Student Code of Conduct

- **February 2014** First Read for Office for Civil Rights and Mid Atlantic Equity Center of Proposed Changes
- **March** Public Forums/ Student Forums/ Teacher Forums
- **April** First Read for the Board of Education
Additional Public Forums
- **May** Second Read for the Board of Education
Additional Public Forums
- **June** Printing and training for Administrators
- **August** Training for Staff and Students
Ongoing Public Forums





One of the goals of the District is to ensure that all District students are provided schools that are safe, nurturing and that create an environment that is conducive to learning.

Please support us as we do this work for all children

Additional information can be found at our Website

www.christinak12.org