



PASSAIC VALLEY

REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Serving Little Falls, Totowa, & Woodland Park

2020-2021 District Code of Student Conduct

The Board of Education of the Passaic Valley School District I along with the Administration of the school agree that a **safe and orderly school campus is the priority of our core belief system**. This is to assure the wellbeing of all members of the school community, and to provide a learning environment for students and faculty that is conducive to teaching and learning at the highest level of excellence. The Board of Education empowers the Administration to apply the same disciplinary rules and regulations, sanctions and punishments which govern the regular school day to all on and off campus as well as board sanctioned and school sponsored co- curricular activities during the entire calendar year. A careful review of the information in this section will assure that students and families understand what acceptable behavior is and what is not. A clear outline of expectations and consequences will be outlined in this section of the handbook. The rules and regulations guiding decisions made regarding sanctions and discipline are found in NJSA,18A; NJAC Title 6: the Passaic County Regional High School District 1 Policy Manual as well as the rules and regulations promulgated by the National Federation of Interscholastic Sports, The New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association, the Big North Conference and other authorities recognized by the Board of Education.

The Board of Education also empowers the Administration to bar from matriculation or impose appropriate sanctions against any student who participates in an off-campus activity in a 12-month period, which it determines, in its own discretion to be assaultive, dangerous, criminally violent, threatening to the health and safety of the school and its students or disruptive to the discipling of other students. Social media must be used appropriately, at no time should it be used to harass, intimidate, bully, to post threats or derogatory comments. Students who do this will be subject to disciplinary action which may lead to criminal complaints. Administration will consult with local, municipal, state Law Enforcement, and appropriate Social Service Agencies.

Leaving School Property

No student will be permitted to leave school property at any time during the school day. Emergencies are handled as described in this handbook in the Operations, Health and Attendance areas. Students who are 18 and considered adults are still subject to district regulations and cannot leave the campus at any time. **Our cut policies and attendance policies will cause any student to be subject to discipline should they leave the school property without following the proper processes and procedures. These consequences are not forgiven on a year to year basis but will apply to the student for the time they are registered at PVHS.**

1st Offense	1 day out of school suspension. Parent Conference upon return to school to review consequences for further actions if necessary. Parent signs off on document. Meeting with school counselor for further guidance.
2 nd Offense	2 days out of school suspension. Parent Conference upon return to school to review consequences for further actions if necessary, recommend outside counseling. Parent signs off on document. Mandatory 20-minute lunch suspension for 2 weeks upon return to school. Failure to follow lunch detention schedule will place a student on Social Probation and possible further action taken.
3 rd Offense	3 days out of school suspension. Parent Conference upon return to school. Mandatory 20-minute lunch for 3 weeks upon return. Failure to follow lunch detention schedule will place a student on Social Probation and possible further action taken.

Further offenses will subject the student to disciplinary action that will include home instruction. Also, be reminded that students who are ill must first go directly to the health office to be sent home.

Fighting

Fighting of any type will not be tolerated. Serious injury has been suffered as a result of such behavior over the years. Bear in mind that if you do become involved, you run the risk of being dealt with in the severest of terms. Also, be advised that threats and intimidation of any type will not be tolerated. See disciplinary guidelines for specific penalties.

Graffiti / Damage to School Property

Graffiti/Any student marking, damaging, destroying and/or abusing school property will be quickly and directly disciplined. Specifically, The Passaic Valley School Community has and continues to invest large sums of financial resources for the betterment of Passaic Valley High School.

If a student is found in possession of a marker, it will be confiscated and appropriate action will be taken. The only exception will be if a marker, etc. is provided by the school for a specific purpose under appropriate staff supervision.

New Jersey law states that if you deface any surface with graffiti, you may have your motor vehicle and/or motorized bicycle driving privileges postponed, suspended or revoked for one year. The penalty begins on the day the sentence is imposed and ends one year after your 17th birthday. A second graffiti conviction may entail a two year penalty that begins immediately after the first penalty ends. Other penalties, fines or sentences may also be imposed by the court for a graffiti offense.

Hazing

The administration of Passaic Valley High School believe that hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational process and prohibits all such practices at any time (on school premises and at school sponsored events). Hazing means the performance of any act or the coercion of another to perform any act of initiation into any class, team, or organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm. Permission, consent, or assumption of any risk by an individual subjected to hazing shall not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy. Penalties will include suspension or removal from said activities.

Suspension & Expulsion

Behaviors that constitute suspension and expulsion include but are not limited to those that are defined on the *Disciplinary Definitions and Guidelines* found in this handbook. The district policies that relate to suspension and expulsion are found on the district website under the “district” tab. Click policies, and then type the search word *suspension*. Policy No. 5600 discusses student discipline and the District Code of Conduct. Suspension and expulsion are also found in other Board of Education approved district policies including HIB policies. **All students must serve detentions, suspensions, expulsions and any other disciplinary actions set forth by the Assistant Principal of Discipline.**

All suspensions require a readmittance conference with a parent or guardian and the Assistant Principal. School Counselors or faculty members may participate in the discussion. A student returning to school without a parent/guardian will be marked absent from school. The Assistant Principal of Discipline will contact parents for appointments, however any parent may reach this office at the following phone number 973- 890- 2508. Students who are in suspension from school will not participate in any school activity until the suspension is complete.

Students on suspension or expulsion are not to be seen on the school campus. Should this occur a trespassing complaint will be filed, and further disciplinary consequences will be necessary. This includes proms, dances athletic games and events, clubs and graduation ceremonies.

A student who is suspended should contact their school counselor /teachers for missed schoolwork.

Disciplinary Actions for Negative Off Campus Conduct

Disciplinary action which would be taken for any act occurring on campus may also be taken for acts occurring on a school bus owned, borrowed, rented or leased by the school district, or at any other school within the district, or at any place at which a school sponsored or school-related function is taking place. Authority shall extend for during the time immediately before and after the event that the student is on such premises and, at the discretion of the district, while the student is going to or coming from such function.

The District reserves the right to discipline for any other activity, whether or not school is in session when such activity occurs and wherever in the world it occurs, if such off-campus activity may be reasonably interpreted to threaten the ability of the district to maintain a safe, orderly and disciplined educational atmosphere.

When it is brought to the attention of the district that a student has engaged in such conduct off-campus, the Superintendent shall conduct an investigation when necessary and may initiate disciplinary action, up to and including suspension or expulsion, in the same fashion as if the action had occurred on campus. In conducting such investigation, the Superintendent or his/her representative may cooperate with law enforcement authorities.

By way of illustration, but not by way of limitation, the following actions shall be subject of disciplinary investigation and action under this section:

1. Any use or threat of use of a firearm, knife or other weapon against another person by a student.
2. Any fighting off campus as an extension of an on-campus situation or relationship.
3. Any assault by a student which results in the victim of the assault requiring medical attention or which otherwise indicates reckless disregard by the student for the personal safety or personal rights of another.

4. Intimidation of or threat of violence against any student, teacher or other person by a student known to the school or known to local law enforcement agencies to be a member of a criminal conspiracy or gang whose activities are not permitted on campus.
5. Any threat against an employee of the District purposely calculated to cause fear or which the person issuing the threat should know might result in fear.
6. Any illegal sale or distribution of controlled substances off campus to any person. The term “controlled substances” shall have the meaning given to that term in the criminal law of this state. Conviction is not required as an element of this paragraph.
7. The commission of any act which, if committed by an adult, would be punished by more than one year in prison upon conviction. School action with regard to such a matter shall be independent of parallel criminal procedures. Conviction or acquittal in the criminal or juvenile courts shall not be determinative of the action available to the school to maintain a safe, orderly and disciplined educational environment.

Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying

Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying means any gesture, written, verbal or physical act that takes place on school property, at any school sponsored function, on a school bus, or on the internet. Acts of HIB including cyber bullying may also be a student exercising power and control over another student in either isolated incidents or in groups or patterns of harassment and intimidation. Students who exhibit this behavior will be subject to disciplinary action that can include detentions, suspensions and the filing of criminal charges when necessary.

Motivation by any characteristic such as race color, religion, ancestry, national origin sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical or sensory disability: or by any other distinguishing characteristic. Acts of insult, or demeaning actions to any other student in such a way as to cause substantial disruption or interference with the orderly operation of the school/district will not be tolerated.

Gambling

Gambling and gambling paraphernalia (cards, dice etc.) are prohibited at PVHS. Consequences for this offense are listed on the disciplinary guidelines chart found in this handbook.

Smoking/Tobacco/ Electronic Cigarette/ Paraphernalia Possession

No person is allowed to smoke or possess tobacco/ electronic cigarettes or paraphernalia in the building or on school grounds.

** ALL Offenses involving Vaping / Paraphernalia include a mandatory drug screen.

Smoking, Vaping, Possession of Tobacco / Electronic Cigarette / Paraphernalia on School Grounds and In Building

1 st Offense	Three (3) days detention
2 nd Offense	Three (3) days suspension & Municipal Complaint filed under State Law NJSA 2C33-13
3 rd Offense	Five (5) days suspension & Municipal Complaint filed
4 th Offense	Ten (10) days suspension/recommendation for expulsion. Municipal Complaint filed

Administrative Regulations Re: Illegal and Forbidden Substances and Goods in Schools

Items or substances that are detrimental to the health and safety of students and staff are not permitted on the school campus or anywhere in the school building. There will be zero tolerance for the following items including illicit drugs and paraphernalia or items considered to be weapons which would include knives, Chinese stars, tear gas canisters, make-shift instruments, etc. If a student involves himself/herself in such practices they will be dealt with in the severest of terms and institutional and police action will be taken against the individual/ individuals. Please be aware that the following items are banned from PVHS school and property.

Lighters / matches	Mace /Pepper Spray
Smoke bombs	Tobacco Products /e cigarettes
Clorox	Spikes and studs
Chains	Lase Pointers

These items will be confiscated and not returned. They may be turned over to local authorities.

Bomb Threats / False Fire Alarms

Any Student activating a false alarm or calling in bomb threats will be dealt with in the severest of terms. District, local, state regulations will be followed, and action will be taken against the perpetrator (s) of what is considered a crime.

Disciplinary Definitions and Guidelines

Physical Assault 5 day suspension to possible expulsion.	A person attempts to cause, threaten to cause or purposely cause bodily injury to another. In an assault, one person is normally the perpetrator, the other is the victim.
Fight Physical 3-5 days to 3-10 days suspension. A complaint may be filed with police.	Confrontation entered into by two or more students by mutual consent in which physical harm is intended.
Scuffle/roughhouse 1-3 days suspension.	Shoving match where students cease activity before harm comes to any participant.
Profanity Detention to 3 day suspension to review.	Swearing, cursing not directed at a staff member.
Inappropriate language directed at staff member 2-5 day suspension to possible expulsion.	Disrespectful language, cursing, etc. directed at a staff member.
Inciting demonstrations 3-5 day suspension.	To urge, stimulate, stir up, or instigate (verbally or physically) others in an action contrary to: school rules, a direct request by a staff member, or an insubordinate deviation from normal school procedure. This would include walk out.
Vandalism/damage to property 1-5 day suspension, financial reimbursement, possible police complaint filled.	Action involving deliberate destruction or damage to school property.

Gambling 2-4 day suspension.	An action involving such items as money, betting slips, etc.
Truancy 1 st offense – 10 days detention; a cut will be recorded for each class missed. 2 nd offense – 10 days detention; a cut will be recorded for each class missed, student placed on Social Probation.	An unexcused absence without the knowledge of a student’s parent(s)/guardian.
Smoking on bus 3 day suspension.	A student identified as smoking on the bus by school or bus company personnel.
Bus misconduct Detention to suspension. The student may also lose his/her bus privilege.	An inappropriate as reported by school or bus personnel.
Harassment/Stalking/Bullying/Intimidation Detention to suspension.	Annoy, disturb or torment persistently, physically or verbally.
Forgery/Fraud Detention to suspension. Possible police complaint filed.	Knowingly presenting a fraudulent imitation of a signature, document.
Criminal behavior not involving a weapon (i.e. theft, robbery) 3 day suspension to expulsion, police complaint filed.	See further definition in handbook.
Insubordination – disruption – uncooperative – disrespectful Detention to 3 day suspension.	Defiance of authority; refusal to obey orders.
Smoke bombs, fireworks, etc./ Possession or use of 3 day suspension to expulsion, police complaint filed.	Items or substances that are detrimental to the health and safety of students and staff are not permitted on the school campus or anywhere in the school building.
Continued willful disobedience/defiance of authority 1 st offense – 2-3 day suspension 2 nd offense – 3-4 day suspension student place on Social Probation. 3 rd offense – 5 day suspension student place on Social Probation.	Failure or refusal to obey rules or someone in authority.
Dress Code Violation Correction of violation or student will be sent home.	See further definition in handbook.
Cell Phone/Electronic Devices – Possession Items will be confiscated 1 st offense – Returned to student at end of the day.	See further definition in handbook.

2 nd offense and beyond – Returned to parent/guardian or emergency contact. Failure to turn over item is considered insubordination. Repeated violators are subject to additional disciplinary consequences.	
Racial slurs, bias/gender remarks 3 day suspension to possible expulsion.	Offensive or derogatory remarks involving a person's race, color or gender.
Pranks causing embarrassment 1-3 days suspension	a mischievous trick played on someone, generally causing the victim to experience embarrassment, perplexity, confusion, or discomfort.
Pornographic material Detention to suspension.	Policy #2361
Suspension at Morris County Vo.Tech. Reciprocation of suspension at PVHS.	See further definition in handbook.
Cafeteria disruption Detention, 20 minute lunch, suspension.	Students should be respectful of each other and adults during lunch.
Leaving School Grounds Suspension	No student will be permitted to leave school property at any time during the school day.
Tardiness to school See Handbook Regulation.	Students are to report to school on time daily.
Class Cuts See Handbook Regulation.	Students are required to attend all scheduled classes. A cut is an unauthorized absence from an assigned class.
Smoking, tobacco possession See Handbook Regulation.	No person is allowed to smoke or possess tobacco/electronic cigarettes or paraphernalia in the building or on school grounds.
Security Violations (False alarms, etc.) 5 day suspension to expulsion.	See further definition in handbook.
Firearm possession State law – 1 year suspension, police complaint filed, possible expulsion.	See further definition in handbook.
Sexual Harassment Detention to suspension, possible complaint filed with Little Falls Police Department.	Unwelcomed sexual advances and/or requests for favors by students, staff and anyone affiliated with the school community.
Weapons 3-10 day suspension, police complaint filed, possible expulsion (in accordance with 18:A)	See further definition in handbook.

Social Probation

The Assistant Principal in Charge of Discipline reserves the right to place a student on Social Probation if conduct becomes a concern in school, the community and beyond. A student placed on Social Probation is not to attend or be involved in any Passaic Valley extracurricular activities/sports, etc. (home, away or at neutral sites) while on Social Probation.

Violation of this restriction will lead to an extended Social Probation, possible suspension and a loss of other privileges. This excludes the student on Social Probation from participating or attending activities

such as, but not inclusive of, practices, games, having a parking permit, recitals, dances, proms, graduation ceremonies and Operation Graduation.

A student will be released from Social Probation when he/she satisfies the requirements as outlined by the Assistant Principal of Discipline. **It is the student's responsibility to see the Assistant Principal in Charge of Discipline for his/her Social Probation review. Participation in events including, but not limited to; the Junior Cotillion, Senior Prom and Commencement is a privilege and not a right. Students must be removed from Social Probation two weeks before an event. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor and know these dates.**

The Administration reserves the right to place a student on Social Probation at any time. Passaic Valley High School reserves the right to limit access to PVHS events/activities for non-PVHS students.

Senior Activities

Students with financial obligations to Passaic Valley High School are not allowed to participate in any Senior Activities, including but not limited to the Passaic Valley Senior Prom.

Student Rights

Student Rights District Policy 5700

The Board of Education recognizes that students possess both the right to a free public education and the rights of citizenship. In granting students the educational opportunities to which they are entitled, the Board shall provide them with the nurture, counsel, and custodial care appropriate to students' ages and maturity. At the same time, the Board will respect the right of each student to equal treatment and equal access to the educational program, the due process of law, freedom of expression and association, and the privacy of his/her own thoughts.

Attendant on the rights guaranteed to each student are certain responsibilities, which include respect for the rights of others, obedience to properly constituted school authority, and compliance with the policies and regulations of this district.

As students differ in age and maturity, so they differ in the ability to assume both the right and concomitant responsibilities of citizenship. Accordingly, the exercise of each right will be granted with due regard for the degree of responsibility possessed by the student and the student's need for continuing guidance and control.

A student who has reached the age of majority and is emancipated possesses the full rights of an adult and may issue authorizations previously delegated to his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s). The adult student is fully responsible for his/her educational performance, attendance, compliance with district regulations, and care of school property. The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of each adult student will be informed of the rights of the student and will continue to be informed of the student's progress in school.

N.J.S.A. 9:17B-1

N.J.S.A. 18A:36-20

Safety Procedures Concerning Threats

Many challenges face our public schools today. In light of the recent violence that has occurred in schools around the country, all threats by pupils against other students and school personnel will be taken seriously and may subject pupil to school disciplinary actions as well as criminal prosecution.

Passaic Valley High School takes seriously any threat made by a student that may jeopardize the safety and well being of any other student or staff member, regardless of the intent. Because school administrators can never be sure whether the accused intends to carry out the threat at some time, threats made against another student or staff member will be thoroughly investigated. These procedures are consistent with, but may exceed, section 4.10 of the Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement between Educators and Law Enforcement Officials.

When a threat has been called to the attention of the school administration, the following procedures will be implemented:

1. As required by the Memorandum of Agreement between Educators and Law Enforcement, section 4.10: The school principal will immediately notify the school liaison officer or shift commander whenever any school employee in the course of his/her employment develops reason to believe that a student has threatened, is planning, or otherwise intends to cause death, serious bodily injury, or significant body injury to another person under circumstances in which a reasonable person would believe that the student genuinely intends at some point in the future to commit the violent act or to carry out the threat. The school official shall provide to the responding law enforcement agency all known information relevant to the threat, including but not limited to any historical or background information concerning the student's behavior or state of mind. For the purpose of this reporting requirement, the threatened or planned act of violence need not be imminent, and the intended victim of the violent act need not be aware of the threat. Nor shall it be relevant for the purpose of this reporting that the intended victim is not a student or member of the school community, or that the violent act is not intended to be committed on school property or during regular school hours. The parties of this Agreement understand and agree that students who make a credible threat of harm to themselves or others should be taken seriously. Accordingly, the provisions of this paragraph shall be liberally construed with a view toward preventing future acts of violence.
2. The student accused of making the threat will be brought into the principal's office immediately and questioned concerning the accusation. If the threat includes the use of a weapon, the police department will be called and a search will take place immediately as permitted by law. If a weapon is found, the school's discipline policy will be invoked and charges will be filed with the local police department and the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office. In addition, support services will be called upon and other evaluations will be ordered. If no weapon is found, proceed to #3 below.
3. The school administration will question all students and staff members who may have information concerning the alleged threat, including the accused and the accused's parents or legal guardians.

4. In all cases, the school administration reserves the right of requiring a psychiatric evaluation of the accused and may condition the accused's return to school pending the outcome of such an assessment.
5. All members of the Board of Education will be notified of an incident within a reasonable time after the incident occurred.
6. The school's discipline policy may be invoked if the child is found in violation of that policy. The Board of Education is governed by specific policy concerning student discipline and the discovery of a weapon in school. Parents may receive a copy of the following policies upon request: #5600 Student Discipline/Code of Conduct, #5610 Suspension, #5614 Removal of Students for Assault with Weapons Offenses, #5620 Expulsion, #5512 Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying.