 **No. 215**

 **SECTION: PUPILS**

**TITLE: STUDENT DISCIPLINE**

**MEDICAL ACADEMY ADOPTED: 10/8/13**

**CHARTER SCHOOL REVISED:**

 215. STUDENT DISCIPLINE

The Board acknowledges that conduct is closely related to learning; an effective instructional program requires a wholesome and orderly school environment and the efficacy of the educational program is, in part, reflected in the behavior of students and employees.

The Board shall require each student to adhere to the rules and regulations promulgated by the administration and to submit to such disciplinary measures as are appropriately assigned for infraction of those rules. The rules govern student conduct on school property, while on a bus, during participation in or attendance at a school-related activity anywhere, at any other time or place if the conduct has an adverse impact on the school community, or while the student is otherwise under school jurisdiction. Such rules shall require that students:

• conform to reasonable standards of socially acceptable behavior;

• respect the rights, person, and property of others;

• preserve the degree of order necessary to the educational program in which they are engaged;

• obey constituted authority and respond to those who hold that authority.

The Principal/CEO shall promulgate rules and regulations for student conduct which carry out the purposes of this policy and

• are not arbitrary, but bear a reasonable relationship to the need to maintain a school

 environment conducive to learning;

• do not discriminate among students; do not demean students; and

• do not violate any individual rights constitutionally guaranteed to students.

The Principal/CEO shall designate sanctions for the infractions of rules which shall:

• relate in kind and degree to the infraction;

• help the student learn to accept responsibility for his/her actions;

215. STUDENT DISCIPLINE- pg. 2

• be directed, where possible, to ameliorating any harm which may have been caused by the

 student's misconduct; and

• hold parents or guardians accountable for the actions of their sons or daughters or wards.

The School Laws of Pennsylvania grant authority to school personnel over pupils as follows:

"Every teacher, vice principal and principal in the public schools shall have the right to exercise the same authority as to conduct and behavior over the pupils attending his school, during the time they are in attendance, including the time required in going to and from their homes, as the parents, guardians, or persons in parental relation to such pupils may exercise over them."

The right to discipline a child, whether by parents or by the school in loco parentis, is not an absolute one. The Board's policy position regarding the punishment and discipline of pupils provides for three basic elements:

1. The right of a professional or one in loco parentis to punish or discipline.

2. "Legal" limits upon such punishment of discipline. Thus, punishment must not:

a. exceed bounds of moderation;

b. be cruel or merciless or excessive;

c. be motivated by malice or hatred.

3. Consideration of the educational effects of punishment and discipline upon the child.

The Board requires that each teacher at Medical Academy Charter School should strive to maintain a class or group in which students are happy and learning. The teacher should try to attain this goal through attitudes and practices in accord with the best principles of learning.

Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment is defined as any process reasonable with regard to age, sex, and physical condition of the child invoked by anyone with the intent of causing the child to suffer physical pain for the purpose of punishment or correction of the person being punished.

The Board, by this policy, expressly prohibits the use of corporal punishment, under any conditions, by any employee of this school.

Reasonable Force

As per State Board of Education Regulations and Guidelines on Student Rights and Responsibilities, reasonable force, including physical force, may be used by a teacher or building administrator under any of the following circumstances:

215. STUDENT DISCIPLINE- pg. 3

1. to quell a disturbance; or

2. to obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects; or

3. for the purpose of self-defense; or

4. for the protection of persons or property.

The Principal/CEO shall publish and provide to all students and their parents the rules of this school regarding the code of student conduct and the sanctions which may be imposed for breach of those rules. The Code of Conduct shall be adopted by the Board. A copy of such shall be made available in the Main Office.

Teaching staff members and other employees of this Board having authority over students shall have the authority to take such reasonable actions as may be necessary to control the improper conduct of students in all situations and in all places where such students are within the jurisdiction of the school.

References:

School Code 510, 1317, 1318

PA Code Title 22 Sec. 12.3,

 12.5, 12.33