

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA  
OFFICE OF SCHOOL SAFETY  
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Chief of School Safety

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Date: March 10, 2014

To: All School Administrators and All School Police Personnel

From: Cmdr. Augustine W. Pescatore, R.O.C. South  
Cmdr. Craig G. Johnson, R.O.C. North

SUBJECT: **School Police Response to Code of Conduct Offenses**

Effective immediately, School Police Officers will not respond to, or remove students from classrooms, cafeterias, restrooms etc., for calls pertaining to the following Level 1 Code of Student Conduct offenses:

- Failure to follow classroom rules/disruption
- Dress code violation
- Failure to carry hall-pass/appropriate ID
- Failure to participate in class/unpreparedness
- Truancy/excessive tardiness/cutting class
- Possession of beepers/pagers/cell phones/other electronic devices
- Possession of other inappropriate personal items
- Public display of affection/inappropriate touching
- Inappropriate use of electronic devices
- Verbal Altercations

These infractions are not criminal offenses; they are classroom/student management issues. Numerous instances of assaults on school police officers and staff occur as a direct result of the officers' intervention into non-criminal student/classroom management issues.

Officers are to respond to all calls which are criminal in nature, or where persons involved are violent or threatening. If an officer responds to a call and finds the call is for any of the above offenses, the officer will request the presence of an Administrator, Counselor or Administrative Designee to de-escalate the incident. Officer(s) will ensure the safety of staff members who respond to de-escalate such situations.

School Police Officers are to ensure the safety of the students and staff. Officers are not to be cast in the role of mediators alone. Such roles are to be assumed by those staff members who are trained to manage the student population.

Administrators are urged to acquaint their respective faculty, staff and other personnel with this document. School Police Sergeants and Officers will also receive copies of this document.