

September 4, 2014

Dear Parents,

As we begin the new school year, the new administration is carefully reviewing how best to create a positive school culture and climate in which teaching and learning can safely take place. The Mayor and I care deeply about improving our school safety and climate policies in order to ensure that each and every school provides the best learning environment for all of its students. We have been working closely with other City agencies, community stakeholders, advocates, principals, teachers and parents to make sure we are developing the best policies for our students and we have a systemic plan of action to improve school safety and climate. We anticipate that we will make additional changes to our policies and practices and we will advise you about these initiatives as they progress. While we conduct this review, the **Citywide Standards of Intervention and Discipline Measures (the Discipline Code)** issued in September 2013 remains in effect.

The Discipline Code is intended to promote a supportive school environment in which students can grow both socially and academically and ensure the safety of the school community. Toward that end, 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 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