

September 15, 2011

Dear Students, Parents, Teachers and Administrators:

Welcome back to another exciting school year at the Chicago Public Schools (“CPS”). Please take time to review the 2011-2012 CPS Student Code of Conduct (“SCC”).

The SCC was adopted by the Chicago Board of Education (“Board”) to help schools create a safe, civil and respectful learning environment for all students and school personnel. We recognize that a school’s learning climate and students’ behaviors improve when students:

- Know what is expected of them at school;
- Believe they have the academic and social skills to achieve;
- Receive recognition and praise for doing good work and behaving appropriately; and
- Feel there is someone at school who cares about them and encourages their development.

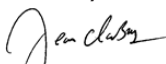
To achieve a safe, civil and respectful learning environment, schools should clearly define, teach, reinforce, model, and review a short set of expectations for positive student behavior. Schools should also explain to students the behaviors that are inappropriate. If students engage in inappropriate behavior, schools should correct, redirect, and render consequences as needed. Any discipline imposed should be instructional and corrective, and out-of-school suspensions should be used as a last resort, unless necessary due to the severity of a student’s misconduct. Moreover, the Board encourages principals and administrators to adopt and implement restorative justice philosophies and practices as additional tools to address student misconduct.

Schools should provide each student and parent with a copy of the SCC, discuss it with them, collect a signed Acknowledgement of Receipt of the SCC (“Receipt”), located in Appendix I, and keep it on file to demonstrate that the parent and student received and reviewed this important information.

Parents should review the SCC with their children, sign and return the Receipt, and encourage their children to demonstrate positive student behavior at all times. Students should sign the Receipt and exhibit appropriate behavior by following all school rules and Board policies.

I hope you will find the SCC to be a useful guide for supporting positive student behavior and correcting misconduct. It will take the collective efforts of students, parents, teachers and administrators, from the first day of school to the last, to create a safe learning environment where all students can excel. Working together, we will create a safe and productive school climate for the 2011-2012 school year.

Sincerely,



Jean-Claude Brizard
Chief Executive Officer