

## II. THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND PERSON

All students are guaranteed the right to express opinions, support causes, organize and assemble to discuss issues and demonstrate peacefully and responsibly in support of them, in accordance with policies and procedures established by the New York City Department of Education. **Students have the right to:**

1. organize, promote and participate in a representative form of student government;
2. organize, promote and participate in student organizations, social and educational clubs or teams and political, religious, and philosophical groups consistent with the requirements of the Equal Access Act;
3. representation on appropriate schoolwide committees that influence the educational process, with voting rights where applicable;
4. publish school newspapers and school newsletters reflecting the life of the school and expressing student concerns and points of view consistent with responsible journalistic methods and subject to reasonable regulations based on legitimate pedagogical concerns;
5. circulate, including through electronic circulation, newspapers, literature or political leaflets on school property, subject to reasonable guidelines established by the school regarding time, place and manner of distribution, except where such material is libelous, obscene, commercial or materially disrupts the school, causes substantial disorder or invades the rights of others;
6. wear political or other types of buttons, badges or armbands, except where such material is libelous, obscene or materially disrupts the school, causes substantial disorder or invades the rights of others;
7. post bulletin board notices within the school or on the school website subject to reasonable guidelines established by the school, except where such notices are libelous, obscene, commercial or materially disrupt the school, cause substantial disorder or invade the rights of others;
8. determine their own dress within the parameters of the Department of Education policy on school uniforms and consistent with religious expression, except where such dress is dangerous or interferes with the learning and teaching process;
9. be secure in their persons and belongings and to carry in the school building personal possessions which are appropriate for use on the premises;
10. be free from unreasonable or indiscriminate searches, including body searches;
11. be free from corporal punishment and verbal abuse (as per Chancellor's Regulations A-420 and A-421);
12. decline to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance or stand for the pledge.

## III. THE RIGHT TO DUE PROCESS

Every student has the right to be treated fairly in accordance with the rights set forth in this document.

**Students have the right to:**

1. be provided with the Discipline Code and rules and regulations of the school;
2. know what is appropriate behavior and what behaviors may result in disciplinary actions;
3. be counseled by members of the professional staff in matters related to their behavior as it affects their education and welfare in the school;
4. know possible dispositions and outcomes for specific offenses;
5. due process with respect to disciplinary action for alleged violations of school regulations for which they may be suspended or removed from class by their teachers; students with disabilities, 504 plans, or who are "presumed to have a disability" have the right to certain protections under IDEA.
6. know the procedures for appealing the actions and decisions of school officials with respect to their rights and responsibilities as set forth in this document;
7. be accompanied by a parent and/or representative at conferences and hearings;
8. the presence of school staff in situations where there may be police involvement.