

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Members of the Board of Education have the responsibility of:

- ◆ Promoting a safe, supportive and orderly school environment for all school community members regardless of actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex.
- ◆ Approving the Schenectady City School District Code of Conduct annually.
- ◆ Addressing issues of discrimination, harassment or any situation that threatens the emotional or physical health or safety of any student, school employee or person who is lawfully on school property.
- ◆ Ensuring that policies promote and ensure equity.

SHIFTS FOR REROUTING THE SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE

The school-to-prison pipeline is the disproportionate tendency of minors to become incarcerated because of increasingly harsh school (such as zero-tolerance) and municipal policies.

Adopting a responsive approach to discipline will help keep students in the classroom and out of the juvenile justice system. This requires a shift in mindset. The Schenectady City School District Code of Conduct is designed to help guide where disciplinary practices can become more responsive.

- ◆ Adopt a social emotional lens.
- ◆ Know your students and develop cultural competency.
- ◆ Plan and deliver (or support) effective student-centered instruction.
- ◆ Move the paradigm from punishment to development.
- ◆ Resist the criminalization of school behavior.

District-wide responsive discipline policies are critical to stopping the school-to-prison pipeline. When **SCHOOL DISTRICT PERSONNEL** become agents for change, they support teachers, counselors and building-level administrators to make these shifts.

TEACHERS have the most face-to-face contact with students and a front-line opportunity to interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline. Instructional practice and discipline structure can keep kids in class or push them out.

From locating wrap-around services to understanding and uncovering issues that adversely affect students in the classroom, **COUNSELORS** are equipped to interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline through their work with both teachers and students.