

QUEENS GATEWAY TO HEALTH SCIENCES SECONDARY SCHOOL

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Detention Policy

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This Detention Policy was developed by the Discipline Committee in partial fulfillment of the Professional Development Program at Queens Gateway to Health Sciences Secondary School

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The Philosophy of our Detention Program

The detention program is designed to provide positive constructive learning experiences for students who have violated our school behavioral standard. The primary purpose of the program's lesson is to dole out consequences for unacceptable behavior. We have de-emphasized the punitive aspect and stressed the positive learning experience for students. We believe that students need to think about how their actions affect the other person, and how other students feel when they become subjects of disrespect.

By emphasizing the feelings and rights of others, we attempt to lead the students to a more empathetic and social understanding of the effects of their actions and the fact that their behavior impacts on the whole school community. Causes, consequences, prevention and goal setting are topics that the student will consider during the detention period. Each lesson also contains several vignettes or stories about other students who have made similar mistakes. Through reading about how others have made bad decisions the student serving the detention will be able to look at his/her misbehavior from an outsider's perspective, and understand more clearly the faulty thought process behind the unacceptable behavior.

Our selected approach brings the student to a point of setting goals for behavioral improvement. Each student will write a personal goal that points to an alternate behavior to the one that he or she has previously chosen. We will prompt the student to move from past mistakes and rethink old habits and actions. Within this framework, the role of the detention teacher is to reinforce the behavioral goal for each student.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Detention Program is to provide a sense of importance to the rules and regulations which govern the students at Queens Gateway to Health Sciences Secondary School. Through the collaborative effort of staff, parents and students we will bring about improved conduct. We will empower and unify the staff to have a stronger and more purposeful student management program toward an improved learning environment for all students.

Goals

- Provide an alternative measure for corrective behavior for disruptive students.
- Foster student behavior that emphasizes understanding of the effects of their actions and the fact that their behavior impacts on the whole school community.
- Guide the student to setting goals for behavioral improvement.
- Encourage respect for the rules and regulations of the school community.

The Detention Policy

The purpose of the Queens Gateway Detention Policy is to deter inappropriate behavior and have an immediate response to such behavior. The detention policy will also serve as an alternative to suspension, help to eliminate disruptive behavior and preserve the high standard of behavior at Queens Gateway. The detention policy is devised as a means to address all issues that are most disruptive to the teaching and learning environment. These issues include, but are not limited to: tardiness, excessive talking, disobedience, disrespect, failure to complete work, lack of class materials, poor attitude, disturbing class, mischief, littering, eating or displaying food in class, cutting class, loitering, and absence of the school identification card.

Definition of Terms

- Lateness:** Refers to arrival at school or to any class after the second bell without a written explanation from a parent or staff member.
- Food in Class:** Display of food in the classroom, eating or drinking anywhere in the building except the cafeteria.
- Cutting of Class:** The absence from an assigned class without the permission of a teacher or supervisor
- Disrespect:** The use of any verbal or non-verbal language or gestures that do not rise to the level of disrespect indicated in the Citywide Discipline Code of Conduct.
- Hallway Loitering:** The unsupervised presence of a student in the hallway after the ringing of the second bell and without a pass.
- Classroom Loitering:** The presence of any student in a classroom without adult supervision.
- Lack of Identification:** The non possession of the Queens Gateway Identification Card for entry to the building and at all times.
- Horse playing:** Any kind of running or playing in the school that threatens safety and endangers staff, students, parents and visitors to the building.

Definition of Detention

Detention is the supervised retention of students beyond the regular school schedule when a teacher requests the student show improvement of behavior resulting from violation of the school rules and/or Citywide Discipline Code.

Assignment of Detention

Detention may be assigned using the following guidelines:

1. Any student who is late for class three times will receive one detention on the third recorded lateness.

2. Any student who eats and drinks in class or has food displayed in the classroom will receive one detention.
3. Any student who cuts class will be issued one detention on the first infraction.
4. Any student who uses inappropriate language or inappropriate gestures to any member of staff or student will receive one detention for each case identified.
5. Any student found loitering in the school will receive one detention.
6. A student who refuses to show a school ID when requested by school personnel will be assigned one detention
7. There is no limit to the number of detentions that can be given in one day.

Guidelines for Students

1. The student will receive a copy of his/her detention notice from the Dean.
2. The students must present the notice to his/her parent/guardian for signature. The signed notice must be presented to the detention teacher when the student reports for detention. A student will not be allowed in the detention room without the signed notification.
3. A student who receives detention will report to the detention room at 3:00 p.m. Detention Room and day when detention must be served will be announced when the program commences.

Guidelines for Serving a Detention

1. Student assigned detention will wait in the Library until 3:00 pm.
2. Detention will be served from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. one day a week.
3. Students will not be allowed admission after 3:05 p.m. A student who is late or skips detention will be assigned a detention in addition to the one that was missed.

4. Any student who causes a disturbance during detention will be removed from the detention room and the detention will be reassigned.
5. Students will not be allowed to eat in the detention room and delivery of food to the detention room is not allowed.
6. Students will not be allowed to leave the detention room once detention has begun.
Passes will not be issued during detention.
7. Any student who is absent from school or late for **three detentions** will be required to attend a mandatory guidance conference with a parent/guardian and guidance counselor.
8. All missed detentions will be reassigned.
9. All detentions will be filed in the deans' office and kept as a deans' record.
10. A deans' record may affect a student's participation in school activities.