

## **Noble Network of Charter Schools Believes in a Positive School Culture; Explains Student Conduct Code**

CHICAGO, Feb. 13, 2012—Noble Network of Charter Schools ([www.noblenetwork.org](http://www.noblenetwork.org)), the largest and highest performing public charter high school network in Chicago, is always glad to explain how it's created a safe, quality public high school education. This environment is key to helping its students achieve significantly higher performance on the Prairie State Achievement Exam than the CPS average. All Noble high schools with juniors also ranked in the top 10 of non-selective high schools in Chicago based on ACT scores.

Noble's discipline code is predicated on the belief that all families deserve a safe, orderly, and productive school environment for their children.

"While consequences are part of our discipline system, the goal is to promote positive behavior by staff and students and produce a learning environment that is conducive to learning and college preparation," says Michael Milkie, CEO/Superintendent. "The discipline code teaches many lessons to students including self-discipline, punctuality, organization, respect, and responsibility—all qualities that lead to college and life success. We believe the fact that we had more than 8,000 applications for our incoming freshmen classes and long waiting lists for all our other classes demonstrates that families desperately want this safe, productive learning environment for their children."

In order to help families, the public and media understand the code, the following points are important to know:

- Noble addresses school discipline issues by asking misbehaving teenagers to share in the cost of addressing their behavior. Therefore, there is a detention fee of \$5 that only partially offsets the cost of teachers or staff who stay after school to monitor detention and a Dean of Discipline, security officers and other staff members who enforce rules and administer detention.
- To further emphasize the importance of proper behavior in school, students who earn more than 12 detentions in a school year must take a discipline course (typically four weeks in the summer) which carries a course fee of \$140. This only partially defrays the cost of administering the course and paying a teacher to teach it.
- Students must have fees paid up to re-enroll each year, but we are sensitive to family income situations and accommodations are made for students whose families demonstrate the inability to pay.
- We are proud that our student retention numbers are higher than the district averages and we attribute much of our ability to retain students to the safe and productive learning environment that our students and staff have been able to create.

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*The Noble Network of Charter Schools ([www.noblenetwork.org](http://www.noblenetwork.org)) is Chicago's largest and highest performing network of public charter high schools. Noble is a non-selective, multi-campus network serving 6,500 students throughout Chicago. Since opening its first campus in 1999, Noble and its diverse group of students, teachers, administrators and supporters have demonstrated a common commitment to students' success in college and beyond.*

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