

QUICK GUIDE TO MCPS STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Every student deserves a safe, supportive, and welcoming school environment.

THE MCPS STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT HELPS ALL OF US UNDERSTAND:

- ✓ Expected student behaviors
- ✓ Behaviors that interfere with learning or safety
- ✓ How schools respond when expectations are not met
- ✓ How students can learn from mistakes and repair harm

The purpose of discipline is to teach, support accountability, and help students succeed in a positive, safe, and effective learning environment.

HOW MCPS RESPONDS TO STUDENT BEHAVIOR

At MCPS, discipline is about helping students learn, grow and make better choices. Schools use restorative approaches and progressive discipline to repair harm, strengthen relationships and hold students accountable while giving them the opportunity to move forward. When responding to behavior, staff consider the whole picture—including what happened, the student's age, the circumstances, the impact on others and any support the student may need.

DISCIPLINARY RESPONSE LEVELS

LEVEL	Response Examples
1	Warning, student conference, reteaching expectations, reflection, restorative conversation
2	Parent contact, detention, behavior reflection, problem-solving conference, counseling referral
3	Administrator conference, behavior plan, Student Well-being Team referral, in-school interventions
4	Short-term suspension, safety planning, parent conference, re-entry plan
5	Long-term suspension, external partners involvement, intensive intervention planning
6	Extended suspension or Expulsion, security/law enforcement involvement when required, highest-level disciplinary response

COMMON STUDENT BEHAVIORS & RESPONSE LEVELS

Behavior (Category Code)	Example	Possible Response Level
Attendance (100)	Class cutting, tardiness, leaving school without permission	1 - 4
Dangerous Substances (200)	Possession, use, or distribution of drugs, alcohol, and/or inhalants	2 - 6
Weapons (300)	Firearms, knives, BB/pellet guns, serious safety threats	3 - 6
Attack/Threat/Fighting (400)	Bullying, intimidation, cyberbullying, harassment, group fights, extortion	3 - 6
Arson/Fire/Explosives (500)	False alarm, bomb threat, setting fires	4 - 6
Sex Offenses (600)	Sexual attack, activity, harassment	3 - 6
Disrespect/Disruption (700)	Disrespectful language, classroom disruption, interfering with learning, dress code	1 - 6
Other (800)	Theft, vandalism, destruction of property, trespassing Inappropriate use of phones, devices, or electronic communication Academic dishonesty	1 - 6