

## **DISCIPLINE POLICY**

### **I. STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY**

The School Board firmly believes that learning can best take place in an orderly environment and that students can best learn individual and collective responsibility and gain maturity if they are provided opportunities in which to exercise responsibility within the school setting. This School Discipline Policy is intended to communicate expectations regarding acceptable conduct in school in order to provide a positive learning environment for all students.

It is a responsibility of the School Board, administrators and teachers to safeguard the health and safety of each student. The School Board and district administrators will support district personnel who, in dealing with students on disciplinary matters, act in accordance with State Law, Department of Education Regulations and School District policies.

The School Board recognizes its responsibility to meet the educational needs of students who do not respond well to normal school programs. Such efforts may include utilizing special services personnel and outside referral agencies and/or adjusting normal school procedures. If a student does not respond to these efforts and consistently exerts a disruptive influence on the educational environment of a school, the needs of the other students and staff must become a major factor in planning alternatives.

With due consideration to these obligations, it is the responsibility of the School Board and administrators to make reasonable rules and regulations for the governing of student behavior and conduct. Building principals and appropriate staff will annually review this policy to assess its effectiveness. All rules and regulations regarding student conduct and misconduct will be approved annually by the School Board. Discipline of students with individualized education programs (IEPs) will be consistent with state and federal laws.

The District believes that positive, proactive behavior strategies are effective in minimizing disruptive behavior. Programs and practices are in place throughout the district that promote the use of positive behavior supports and interventions, including training on the communicative intent of behavior, relationship building and de-escalation strategies. Physical holding or seclusion are never used as a method of discipline or punishment. Such procedures may be used in a situation where immediate intervention is needed to protect a child or other individual from physical injury. The district's policy regarding the use of restrictive procedures will be detailed in the District's restrictive procedures plan, which will be included on the District's website.

### **II. DEFINITIONS**

- A. "Nonexclusionary disciplinary policies and practices" means policies and practices that are alternatives to dismissing a pupil from school, including but not limited to evidence-based positive behavior interventions and supports, social and emotional services, school-linked mental health services, counseling services, social work services, academic screening for Title 1 services or reading interventions, and alternative education services. Nonexclusionary disciplinary policies and practices

include but are not limited to the policies and practices under sections 120B.12; 121A.575, clauses (1) and (2); 121A.031, subdivision 4, paragraph (a), clause (1); 121A.61, subdivision 3, paragraph (r); and 122A.627, clause (3).

- B. "Pupil withdrawal agreement" means a verbal or written agreement between a school administrator or district administrator and a pupil's parent to withdraw a student from the school district to avoid expulsion or exclusion dismissal proceedings. The duration of the withdrawal agreement cannot be for more than a 12-month period.
- C. "Dismissal" means the denial of the current educational program to any pupil, including exclusion, expulsion, and suspension. It does not include removal from class.
- D. "Alternative educational services" may include, but are not limited to, special tutoring, modified curriculum, modified instruction, other modifications or adaptations, instruction through electronic media, special education services as indicated by appropriate assessment, homebound instruction, supervised homework, or enrollment in another district or in an alternative learning center under section [123A.05](#) selected to allow the pupil to progress toward meeting graduation standards under section [120B.02](#), although in a different setting.

### III. CODE OF CONDUCT

#### A. Student Code of Conduct

The Student Code of Conduct is in effect from the time a student arrives at the bus stop and boards the bus at the beginning of the day until the student gets off the bus and leaves the bus stop at the end of the day and at all times when students are participating in school sponsored activities whether on district premises or not.

1. Parental/guardian involvement and cooperation is vital in the discipline process

The discipline procedures will apply and be consistently enforced at all schools, with consideration given to the age and developmental status of the student. At the same time, the School Board realizes the uniqueness of each building and recognizes that there may be individual building and classroom procedures to implement and supplement these District procedures.

2. All staff and parents/guardians will work together to correct the misbehavior of to maintain a written or electronic record of incidents of serious misbehavior.
3. Measures to correct misbehavior will depend upon the nature of the behavior, the frequency, and the willingness of the student to correct the undesirable behavior. The use of these measures is intended to encourage acceptable behavior. Corrective action will normally begin at a minimal level and proceed to more serious action.

#### B. Behavior Expectations

1. The following rules will apply at all schools:
  - a. Students will show respect and courtesy to other people at all times.
  - b. Students will show respect for property inside and outside the buildings.
  - c. Students will behave in a manner that does not endanger themselves or others.
2. When unacceptable behavior cannot be readily corrected by the classroom teacher, the child's parents/guardians will be informed of the problem by the teacher or the principal and requested to participate in solving the problem.
3. If it is suspected that a student has a disability, the teacher will make an appropriate referral to begin interventions or to consider or begin a special education evaluation.
4. If the problem is not resolved at the building level, the Principal may refer the student to the Superintendent or designee for further action.

**C. Rules Governing Eligibility for Co-Curricular Activities**

The Minnesota State High School League controls inter-scholastic competitive teams with regard to eligibility and has promulgated minimum standards. The School District may adopt amendments to the Minnesota State High School League rules if those amendments do not lower the minimum standards.

1. The Minnesota State High School League rules governing Category I activities and any additional amendments approved by the School Board shall apply to all co-curricular activities under the control of the Minnesota State High School League and to all junior high school athletic activities.
2. The Minnesota State High School League rules governing Category I activities and any additional amendments approved by the School Board shall apply to all co-curricular activities not under the control of the Minnesota State High School League but these rules shall only apply when the students are under the supervision of the School District.
3. Good sportsmanship is the goal for all at Forest Lake Area Schools' events. Promotion of good sportsmanship shall include a demonstration of respect for opponents and officials. Rules of the event shall be understood and skill and performance shall be recognized regardless of the team affiliation. Good sportsmanship is the cornerstone of a quality activities program at Forest Lake Area Schools.

Minimum Action: Student conference and parent contact.

Maximum Action: Exclusion from attending contests up to possible suspension and expulsion.

**D. Unacceptable Behavior**

Disciplinary action may be taken as a result of any behavior which is disruptive or which violates the rights of others. The following acts are examples of unacceptable behavior and subject to disciplinary action in District #831 schools, at school bus stops, on the school buses and at school sponsored activities. School sponsored activities include, but are not limited to, co-curricular events, field trips, and club activities.

The listing of minimum actions does not imply or require that a “step-by-step” progression of increasing severity be employed by an administrator in dealing with a violation. However, there shall be a relationship between the severity of the offense and the administrative action.

1. Violation Against Persons

a. Fighting

Mutual combat in which all parties have contributed to the situation by verbal and/or physical action.

b. Harassment

Participating in, or conspiring for others to engage in acts that injure, degrade, or disgrace other individuals.

Abusive/Inappropriate Language

- (1) Disrespectful language to others.
- (2) Threatening language to others.

Interference/Obstruction

Any intentional action taken to attempt to prevent a staff member from exercising his/her lawfully assigned duties.

Hazing

“Hazing” means committing an act against a student or coercing a student into committing an act, that creates a substantial risk of harm or embarrassment to a person, in order for the student to be initiated or affiliated with a student organization, or for any other purpose. (Further clarification can be found in School Board Policy 431 which is available on the district’s website: [www.flaschools.org](http://www.flaschools.org).)

Minimum Action: Student conference and parent/guardian contact.

Maximum Action: Expulsion or exclusion.

c.. Sexual, Racial and Religious Harassment and Violence

Sexual, racial and religious harassment and violence as defined in School Board Policies 425 and 510 (available on the district’s website: [www.flaschools.org](http://www.flaschools.org)).

Minimum Action: Student conference, parent/guardian contact, and referral to the School District's Human Rights Officers.

Maximum Action: Expulsion or exclusion.

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**Bullying**

"Bullying" means intimidating, threatening, abusive, or harming conduct that is objectively offensive; and an actual or perceived imbalance of power exists between the student engaging in the prohibited conduct and the target of the prohibited conduct; and the conduct is repeated or forms a pattern; or materially and substantially interferes with a student's educational opportunities or performance or ability to participate in school functions or activities or receive school benefits, services, or privileges. The term, "bullying," specifically includes cyberbullying.

"Cyberbullying" means bullying using technology or other electronic communication, including, but not limited to, a transfer of a sign, signal, writing, image, sound, or data, including a post on a social network Internet website or forum, transmitted through a computer, cell phone, or other electronic communication device. The term applies to prohibited conduct which occurs on school premises, on school district property, at school functions or activities, on school transportation, or on school computers, networks, forums, and mailing lists, or off school premises to the extent that it substantially and materially disrupts student learning or the school environment. (Further clarification can be found in School Board Policy 541 which is available on the district's website: [www.flaschools.org](http://www.flaschools.org).)

Minimum Action: Student conference and parent/guardian contact.

Maximum Action: Expulsion or exclusion.

e. **Possession of a Firearm** (See also School Board Policy #532)

Minimum Action: Immediate suspension, notification of police.

Maximum Action: Expulsion or exclusion.

f. **Possession of a Weapon Other than a Firearm Which Could Cause Harm** (See also School Board Policy #532)

**Possession of a Weapon Facsimile** (See also School Board Policy #532)

**Assault**

"Assault" is doing an act with intent to cause fear in another of

immediate bodily harm or death or intentionally inflicting or attempting to inflict bodily harm upon another.

Minimum Action: Student conference, parent/guardian contact and possible notification of police.

Maximum Action: Expulsion or exclusion.

g. Aggravated Assault

"Aggravated Assault" is committing an assault upon the person of another with a dangerous weapon or an assault which inflicts great bodily harm upon the person of another.

Minimum Action: Student conference, suspension, parent/guardian contact and notification of police.

Maximum Action: Expulsion or exclusion.

2. Violation Against Property

a. Unauthorized Use of School Property

The unauthorized and/or illegal use of school property.

Willful Damage of School Property, Property of Staff Members, or Property of Others

Theft

The unauthorized taking or possession of the property of another.

Tampering with Food or Beverages

Adding or attempting to add foreign substances to food or beverages, including spitting into food or beverages or spitting on food trays.

Minimum Action: Student conference, parent/guardian contact and possible notification of police or juvenile authorities.

Maximum Action: Expulsion or exclusion.

b. Robbery/Extortion

The obtaining of property from another where his/her consent was induced by a use of force or a threat of force.

Minimum Action: Student conference, suspension, parent/guardian contact and immediate notification of police.

Maximum Action: Expulsion or exclusion.

3. Violation Against School Administrative Procedures

a. Insubordination

Refusal to follow school rules and regulations as directed by staff.

Disruptive Behavior

Actions which interfere with effective operations of the school.

Disorderly Conduct

Engaging in offensive, obscene, or abusive language or in boisterous and noisy conduct.

Record and Identification Falsification/Forgery

- (1) Falsifying signatures or data on official record.
- (2) Refusal to give correct identification or giving false identification when requested to do so by a staff member.

Leaving School Building or Grounds

Leaving school buildings or grounds during school hours without proper permission from school authorities.

Minimum Action: Student conference and parent/guardian contact.

Maximum Action: Expulsion or exclusion.

b. Chronic and Unexcused Absenteeism

Truancy

Chronic and Unexcused Tardiness

Minimum Action: Student conference.

Maximum Action: Drop from student enrollment according to Minnesota Department of Education requirements; appropriate reports to county juvenile authorities.

c. Student Attire

~~Manner of dress or personal grooming which presents a clear danger to the student's health and safety, causes or is reasonably likely to cause an interference with school responsibilities, or creates classroom or school disruption. The following are prohibited on school property or at school-sponsored events. Principals of school buildings may adopt more restrictive standards. "School property" is defined as school buildings, grounds, including parking lots and school buses.~~

~~(1) Wearing or displaying confederate flag, swastika and KKK signs or symbols.~~

~~(2) Clothing that displays or promotes:~~

- ~~• tobacco, alcohol, drug, or paraphernalia and offensive messages, pictures or symbols.~~
- ~~• violence, violent language or images.~~
- ~~• sexually explicit and/or pornographic language and/or images.~~

~~(3) Clothing that does not cover buttocks and underclothing. District-approved uniforms for school sports may be an exception from this policy. Attire for swimming or aquatics-based classes or activities shall meet the requirements set out by school buildings.~~

[NOTE - the following terms are from MSBA Model Policy 504 and are proposed to replace the existing terms in this section of FLAS 515. Revision markings are variations from that model policy, as it has been incorporated into FLAS 515.]

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy these provisions is to enhance the education of students by establishing expectations that support educational goals. Students and their families have the primary and joint responsibility for student clothing and appearance. Teachers and other district staff should exemplify and reinforce student clothing and appearance standards and help students develop an understanding of appropriate appearance in the school environment.

~~[NOTE: The school board is encouraged to draft a purpose statement that reflects the school district's mission and goals.~~

~~The dress code provisions offered below recognize that clothing is an expressive activity protected under the First Amendment. The policy seeks to promote fair treatment of all students and to reduce staff time spent monitoring~~



~~student clothing. School boards may choose to adopt all, some, or none of the suggested provisions.]~~

## **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

A. The policy of the school district is to encourage students to be dressed suitably [or appropriately] for school activities and in keeping with community standards.

~~[NOTE: As school boards create a school dress code, they often encounter challenges related to subjective terms—such as appropriate, suitable, or community standards—that can be vague and can vary from one person's interpretation to another. School boards may choose to provide more explicit provisions, such as are presented below.]~~

B. A student's clothing or appearance may not materially and substantially disrupt or interfere with the educational mission, school environment, classwork, or school activities. A student's dress or appearance may not incite or contribute to substantial disorder or invasion of the rights of others or pose a threat to the health or safety of the student or others.

~~[NOTE: Unlike Paragraph A above, Paragraph B focuses upon potential effects upon learning, discipline, and safety as it balances students' right to express themselves. The standards stated in Paragraph B draw upon the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District* and subsequent decisions (see Legal References below).]~~

C. Students' rights to choose their dress and appearance for school and school-related activities will be protected provided that the clothing:

1. does not injure people or damage property;
2. does not materially and substantially disrupt or interfere with the educational process or classwork;
3. does not interfere with the requirements of discipline in the operation of the school or school activities, materially disrupt classwork;
4. does not involve substantial disorder or invasion of the rights of others.

Such clothing includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Clothing for the weather.
2. Clothing that does not create a health or safety hazard.
3. Clothing for the activity (i.e., physical education or the classroom).
4. Footwear that does not present a safety hazard.
5. Headwear, including hats or head coverings, are allowed provided that it does not cover the student's face to the extent that the student is not identifiable. Headgear must not interfere with the educational process. Hoodies must allow the face and ears to be visible from the front and sides and must not interfere with the line of sight to any student or staff including while the student wearing the hoodie is seated. Students may wear headgear for a medical or religious reason.

~~[NOTE: Across the nation, school boards have been encouraged to reconsider rules regarding hats and other headwear. In recent years, Minnesota school districts have developed a range of policies regarding hats and related headgear. Some districts have chosen to maintain a prohibition. Others have created grade/building specific rules. Some boards have permitted hats while prohibiting hoods.~~

~~A school board could choose to direct school building-level administration to work with staff, students, and others to develop building-specific rules regarding headwear.]~~

6. Hair, including but not limited to hair texture and hair styles such as braids, locks, and twists.

~~[NOTE: In 2023, the Minnesota legislature enacted the CROWN Act, which adds Subparagraph 6 to the protections under the Minnesota Human Rights Act.]~~

C. Student clothing may not include the following:

1. ~~Option 1:~~ Students may not wear inappropriate clothing including:

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~~———Option 2: Extremely brief garments that do not cover the buttocks and underclothing or and see-through transparent / translucent garments may not be worn.~~

~~———Option 3: Clothing must cover areas from one armpit across to the other armpit, down to approximately 3 to 4 inches in length on the upper thighs (see image).~~

~~[NOTE: MSBA is grateful to the Roanoke County Public Schools (Virginia) for its permission to incorporate this image in Model Policy 504.~~

~~The previous Model Policy 504 prohibited “inappropriate” clothing and then presented a short list of examples. Creating a comprehensive, clear definition of “inappropriate” clothing presents significant challenges, as does reliance upon a small list of examples of “inappropriate” clothing.~~

~~MSBA encourages school boards to consider moving away from “appropriate” standards to an approach that focuses upon impacts upon other students and the educational process. A school board may decide to focus upon the prohibition upon clothing that “materially and substantially disrupts or interferes with” the educational process and related standards set out in Article II.B above rather than invoking a general ‘inappropriate’ standard.~~

~~MSBA understands that school boards may wish to establish expectations regarding clothing that covers one’s body. To this end, MSBA offers some examples a school board could adapt or adopt. Other options can be considered.~~

~~Subparagraphs 2-4 below could be retained regardless of how a school board chooses to proceed under Subparagraph 1.]~~

2. Clothing (including emblems, badges, symbols, signs, words, objects or pictures on clothing or jewelry) bearing a message that is lewd, vulgar, obscene, libelous, or overtly and directly denigrates, harasses, discriminates against others on the basis of protected class status under the Minnesota Human Rights Act, or violates school district policies prohibiting discrimination, violence, harassment, or other harmful activities.

~~[NOTE: Subparagraph 2 seeks to encourage understanding of the ways in which expression through clothing can communicate~~

~~messages that create harm or a hostile learning environment for others.]~~

3. Apparel promoting products or activities that are illegal for use by minors: (including, but not limited to, tobacco, alcohol, or drugs).

4. Communicating a message that is racist, sexist, or otherwise derogatory to a protected minority group, or approves, advances, or provokes any form of religious, racial, or sexual harassment and/or violence against other individuals as defined in Policy 413 425.

5. Clothing (including emblems, badges, symbols, signs, words, objects or pictures on clothing or jewelry) that is associated with organized gangs or otherwise includes gang paraphernalia.

6. Permanent tattoos that are visible or likely to be visible and meet any of the prohibitive conditions must be covered at all times.

7. Apparel or other items that display the confederate flag, swastika or KKK signs or symbols.

D. District-approved uniforms for school activities are exempted from this policy when unmodified and worn in the approved manner at the appropriate venue.

E. Attire for physical education, swimming, or aquatics-based classes or activities shall meet the specific requirements as established by the coach, class-instructor, and/or building Principal.

~~D E.~~ —The intention of this policy is not to abridge the rights of students to express political, religious, philosophical, or similar opinions by wearing clothing on which such messages are stated. Such messages are acceptable as long as they are not lewd; vulgar; obscene; libelous; do not overtly and directly -denigrate, harass, or discriminate against others on the basis of protected class status under the Minnesota Human Rights Act; or do not violate school district policies prohibiting discrimination, bullying, violence, harassment, or other harmful activities.

~~[NOTE: Paragraph D confirms the right that students possess to express themselves within the general standards established in this policy. A school board could choose to combine this with Subparagraph 2 above.]~~

### **III. PROCEDURES**

A. Enforcement of a student dress code will be approached with careful consideration and sensitivity, with the goals of supporting students as they express themselves and pursue their full potential, of not shaming students, and of minimizing loss of instructional time. When possible, dress code matters should be addressed privately with students, should seek to determine whether factors exist that impact the student's ability to comply with the dress code, and should seek to address such issues.

B. When, in the reasonable judgment of the administration, (1) a student's clothing or appearance may materially and substantially disrupt or interfere with the educational mission, school environment, classwork, or school activities; (2) may incite or contribute to substantial disorder or invasion of the rights of others; or (3) pose a threat to the health or safety of the student or others, the student will be directed to make modifications. Parents or guardians will be notified. Other consequences may be enforced in ~~line with Policy 506 (Student Discipline)~~ consistent with this Policy.

C. The administration may recommend a form of clothing considered appropriate for a specific event and communicate the recommendation to students and parents or guardians. ~~A school district or charter school must~~ The School District will not prohibit an American Indian student from wearing American Indian regalia, Tribal regalia, or objects of cultural significance at a graduation ceremony.

~~[NOTE: In 2023, the Minnesota legislature enacted the second sentence in Paragraph C above.]~~

D. Likewise, an organized student group may recommend a form of clothing for students considered appropriate for a specific event and bring such recommendation to the administration for approval.

Minimum Action: Student conference

Maximum Action: Expulsion or exclusion.

d. Trespassing

Physically present on a school campus or at a school activity after being requested to leave by school principal or other person lawfully responsible for the control of said premises.

Minimum Action: Student conference and possible referral to police or juvenile authorities.

Maximum Action: Expulsion or exclusion.

e. **Student Personal Communication Device Use in School**

The following rules are intended to outline minimal expectations regarding personal communication devices such as cell phones, smart watches, etc. use in school. Principals are authorized to enforce rules that are more strict.

- (1) For elementary students, personal communication devices must be turned off in classrooms and stored in a backpack or other designated area. For secondary students, personal communication devices may be used in classrooms as permitted by the teacher. If a teacher does not permit use of such devices in class, either in the entirety of class or any portion of class, cell phones must be silenced and stored in such a manner so as not to create a distraction to the owner, any other student, or the teacher.
- (2) Communication devices must be turned off in locker rooms and bathrooms and stored.
- (3) Communication devices that are stored in lockers must be turned off.

Minimum Action: Student conference.

Maximum Action: Expulsion or exclusion.

In addition to any disciplinary consequences, failure to follow these directives may result in the loss of all communication device privileges at school.

f. **Student Recording Device Use in School**

The use of any device to record still pictures, motion pictures, and/or audio recordings in school by students is generally prohibited because of the disruption that can occur. However, in some very restricted instances, recording device use by students is permitted. The following rules are intended to outline minimal expectations regarding recording device use in school.

Principals are authorized to enforce rules that are more strict.

- (1) Recording devices cannot be used in locker rooms or bathrooms.
- (2) Students may only use recording devices to record the activities of themselves or others, provided the others being recorded are aware of and consent to the recording.

(3) A student may only record misconduct of others for the purpose of reporting the misconduct to appropriate school authorities as soon as reasonably possible after the misconduct. A student recording misconduct of others for the purpose of appropriate reporting, as provided in this provision, is exempt from the requirement of having others' awareness and consent. A student making a recording according to this provision is prohibited from sharing the recording with anyone (including by posting on any social networking location(s) or other electronic means) other than a responsible school authority, law enforcement authority, or other responsible adult for the purpose of seeking guidance.

Minimum Action: Student conference.

Maximum Action: Expulsion or exclusion.

In addition to any disciplinary consequences, failure to follow these directives may result in the loss of all personal communication devices privileges at school.

4. Other Violations

a. Gambling

The playing of a game of chance for stakes.

Minimum Action: Student conference and parent/guardian contact.

Maximum Action: Expulsion or exclusion.

b. Use or Possession of Tobacco and/or Tobacco Products, Including Vaping Devices

Use of and/or possession of any type of tobacco product or vaping device by any student, regardless of age, will be governed by Minnesota Statute and School District rules. (See Also Policy 427)

Minimum Action: Student conference and parent/guardian contact, notification of police.

Maximum Action: Expulsion or exclusion.

Note: Consequences may also include any or all of the consequences within provision (c), below.

c. Use, Possession, Distribution or Sale of Illegal Drugs, Alcohol, Narcotics, Drug Paraphernalia, or Simulated Drugs

Students who violate the rules concerning the use of alcohol and drugs will be subject to one or more of the following procedures:

- (1) Parent/guardian conference.
- (2) Notification of local law enforcement agency or other appropriate agencies.
- (3) Referral to the Lakes Center for Youth & Families or similar organization.
- (4) Referral via petition to Chisago, Washington, or Anoka County court services
- (5) In-school restriction.
- (6) Dismissal from school (Suspension or Expulsion/Exclusion).

d. Fire Alarms/911

The sounding of false fire alarms or false 911 calls.

Minimum Action: Student conference, parent/guardian contact, and notification of appropriate Police and Fire Department officials.

Maximum Action: Expulsion or exclusion.

e. Terroristic Threats (including bomb threats)

The making of bomb threats or other terroristic threats either verbally, by telephone, by letter or through any other means of communication.

Minimum Action: Immediate suspension, notification of law enforcement agency.

Maximum Action: Expulsion or exclusion.

f. Inappropriate Use of Technology (See also School Board Policy 540)

Technology instruction includes computers, televisions, video or audio recorders and players, and other related technological equipment.

Students must follow all appropriate use of technology procedures as established by the School District.

Technology misuse includes, but is not limited to:

1. Using unauthorized programs, software, videos, CDs or audiotapes.



2. Attempting to bypass or alter computer security.
3. Unauthorized modification of computer configuration (desktop pattern, sounds, etc.).
4. Attempting to access, add, delete or alter information or files of another person or organization without permission.
5. Using technology to access, transfer, copy or store inappropriate materials or messages.

5Use technology resources for commercial, personal profit or illegal enterprises.

Minimum Action: Student conference.

Maximum Action: Expulsion or exclusion.

g. Academic Dishonesty

It is expected that students pursue their academic studies in an honest manner and with integrity. Work that is turned in for credit needs to result from the student's own efforts. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to two major areas: cheating and plagiarism. Cheating is a deceptive act in which a student attempts to show knowledge which is not theirs. Plagiarism is presenting information from someone else, as though the ideas, words, or facts are the student's own.

Minimum Action: Student conference, parent/guardian contact.

Maximum Action: Expulsion or exclusion.

5. Violation Against Traffic Regulations

Parking

Parking in an unauthorized area of school property.

Parking Without a Permit

Reckless or Careless Driving

Driving on school property in such a manner as to endanger persons or property.

Fraudulent Use of a Parking Permit

Using a stolen, forged, or outdated parking permit.

Minimum Action: Student conference and possible loss of parking privileges.  
Maximum Action: Expulsion or exclusion.

E. Conduct on School Buses and Consequences for Misbehavior (See also School Board Policy #531)

1. Riding the school bus is a privilege, not a right. Students are expected to follow the same behavioral standards while riding school buses as are expected on school property or at school activities, functions or events. All school rules are in effect while a student is riding the bus or at the bus stop.
2. Consequences for school bus/bus stop misconduct will be imposed by the Building Principal or the Principal's designee. The Transportation Supervisor or designee may impose consequences for student bus/bus stop misconduct for charter and non-public school students who ride general education buses at his/her discretion in accordance with this policy. In addition, all school bus/bus stop misconduct will be reported to the District's Transportation Safety Director and may be reported to local law enforcement.

a. School Bus and Bus Stop Rules.

The School District school bus safety rules are to be posted on every bus. If these rules are broken, the School District's discipline procedures are to be followed. In most circumstances, consequences are progressive and may include suspension of bus privileges. It is the school bus driver's responsibility to report unacceptable behavior to the School Office. Upon completion of the investigation of student misconduct, a copy of the form will be forwarded to the School District Transportation Office.

b. Rules at the Bus Stop.

- (1) Get to your bus stop 5 minutes before your scheduled pick up time. The school bus driver will stop, but not wait for late students. Waiting inside the home or garage is not considered the bus stop.
- (2) Respect the property of others while waiting at your bus stop.
- (3) Keep your arms, legs and belongings to yourself.
- (4) Use appropriate language.

- (5) Stay away from the street, road or highway when waiting for the bus. Wait until the bus stops before approaching the bus.
- (6) After getting off the bus, move away from the bus.
- (7) If you must cross the street, always cross in front of the bus where the driver can see you. Wait for the driver to signal to you before crossing the street.
- (8) No fighting, harassment, intimidation or horseplay.
- (9) No use of alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes or drugs.

c. Rules on the Bus.

- (1) Immediately follow the directions of the driver.
- (2) Sit in your seat facing forward.
- (3) Talk quietly and use appropriate language.
- (4) Keep all parts of your body inside the bus.
- (5) Keep your arms, legs and belongings to yourself.
- (6) No fighting, harassment, intimidation or horseplay.
- (7) Do not throw any object.
- (8) Do not eat or drink on the school bus on regular school bus routes to and from school. Exceptions may be made for medical reasons.
- (9) No use of alcohol, tobacco or drugs.
- (10) Do not bring any weapon or dangerous objects on the school bus.
- (11) Do not damage the school bus.

d. Consequences

- (1) Consequences for school bus/bus stop misconduct will apply to all routes. Decisions regarding a student's ability to ride the bus in connection with co-curricular and extra-curricular events (for example, field trips or competitions) will be in the sole discretion of the School District. Parents/guardians will be notified of any offenses and/or suspension of bus privileges.

(a) Elementary (PK-6) per school year.

1st offense -- warning

2nd offense -- warning or 1-3 school day suspension from riding the bus

3rd offense -- 5 school day suspension from riding the bus

4th offense -- 10 school day suspension from riding the bus meeting with parent/guardian

Further offenses -- individually considered. Students may be suspended for longer periods of time, including the remainder of the school year.

(b) Secondary (7-12) per school year.

1st offense -- warning

2nd offense -- 3-5 day suspension from riding the bus

3rd offense -- 10 day suspension from riding the bus

4th offense -- 20 day suspension from riding the bus/meeting with parent/guardian

5th offense -- suspended from riding the bus for the remainder of the school year

(c) Other Discipline.

Based on the severity of a student's conduct, more serious consequences may be imposed at any time. Depending on the nature of the offense, consequences such as suspension or expulsion from school may also result from school bus/bus stop misconduct.

A school bus driver, after having a conversation with the Transportation Supervisor or designee, shall have the authority to remove a student from the bus for one day for misbehavior on the afternoon take home route that is considered to be causing an immediate and substantial danger to self or surrounding persons or property, provided the driver follows the administrative regulations addressing these suspensions. The driver must make direct contact (telephone or meeting) with the parent/guardian prior to the end of the evening on the day preceding the removal from the bus.

- (d) Records.  
Records of school bus/bus stop misconduct will be forwarded to the individual school building and will be retained in the same manner as other student discipline records. Records may also be maintained in the transportation office.
- (e) Vandalism/Bus Damage.  
Students damaging school buses will be responsible for the damages. Failure to pay such damages (or make arrangements to pay) within two weeks may result in the loss of bus privileges until damages are paid.
- (f) Notice.  
Students will be given a copy of school bus and bus stop rules during school bus safety training. Rules are to be posted on each bus and both rules and consequences will be periodically reviewed with students by the driver.
- (g) Criminal Conduct.  
In cases involving criminal conduct, the Superintendent, local law enforcement officials and the Department of Public Safety will be informed.

(2) Parent/Guardian Involvement

- (a) Parent/Guardian Responsibilities For Transportation Safety.
  - (i) Become familiar with District rules and policies, regulations and principles of school bus safety.
  - (ii) Assist students in understanding safety rules and encourage them to abide by them.
  - (iii) Recognize their responsibilities for the actions of their children.
  - (iv) Support safe riding and walking practices and reasonable discipline efforts.
  - (v) When appropriate, assist students in safely crossing local streets before boarding and after leaving the bus.

- (vi) Support procedures for emergency evacuation, and procedures in emergencies as set up by the School District.
- (vii) Respect the rights and privileges of others.
- (viii) Communicate safety concerns to school administrators.
- (ix) Monitor bus stops, if possible.
- (x) Support all efforts to improve school bus safety.
- (xi) Have their children to the bus stop five minutes before the bus arrives.
- (xii) Have their children properly dressed for the weather.
- (xiii) Have a plan in case the bus is late.
- (xiv) It is recommended that students have something reflective or a flashlight for better visibility.

**(b) Parent/Guardian Notification.**

A copy of the School District school bus and bus stop rules will be provided to each family at the beginning of the school year or when a child enrolls, if this occurs during the school year. Parents/guardians are asked to review the rules with their students.

**III. CORRECTIVE MEASURES**

Discipline should not be confused with punishment. The goal of discipline is a self-regulated individual with mature attitudes and socially-acceptable standards of conduct.

Corrective measures used will depend upon the nature of the behavior, the frequency, and the degree to which the student is willing to try to correct undesirable behavior.

With the exception of serious violations of the Student Conduct Code, corrective measures will normally begin at a minimal level and then proceed to more serious levels. These procedures may include but are not limited to: conferences with teacher, counselor, dean, or principal; detention; loss of school privileges; parent/guardian conference with school staff; modified school program; school transfer; dismissal for one day; suspension; referral to District Administration; expulsion; police referral; court referral and home instruction.

**A. Student Conference**

Conferences will be conducted with students regarding disciplinary matters to ensure due process. (Conferences by school administrators are not required for discipline action under Article IV B. Removal of Student From Class.) Each student facing the imposition of disciplinary action under this code of conduct must be informed, orally or in writing, of the facts and the nature of the conduct which has been challenged and be given an opportunity to explain his or her version of the facts or conduct which has been challenged prior to the imposition of discipline.

**B. Parent/Guardian Contact**

Depending on the violation and the seriousness of the action, a student's parent/guardian may be contacted by telephone or mail in addition to a student conference. The intent of the contact is to inform the parent/guardian of the violation and the student's attitude during the conference and to elicit parent/guardian support for correcting the unacceptable behavior.

**C. Parent/Guardian Conference**

The principal, assistant principal, counselor, or teacher may request a parent/guardian conference, with or without the student present, to insure parent/guardian understanding of the student's academic and/or behavior problem and to mobilize a cooperative effort to correct the difficulty.

**D. Restorative Justice**

The appropriate administrator may require the student to complete an activity or function that is designed to increase the student's sense of connectedness to his/her school community and/or to increase the student's sense of awareness of the impact of the inappropriate behavior. Restorative justice is intended to be a positive experience and does not include placing requirements upon students that would serve to humiliate or ostracize a student. Restorative justice could include activities such as a writing assignment asking the student to reflect on his/her conduct, cleaning of fixtures or equipment if such assignment is reasonably related to the misconduct, or assisting a teacher or another student in approved activities.

**E. In-School Monitoring**

Students may be required to have an hourly report signed by their teachers verifying their movement in the building during the day. The report will be picked up daily from a designated person and returned to a designated person at the end of the day for verification of the student's movements. Parents/Guardians are often notified of this arrangement.

**F. Detention**

Detention may be required of a student for one or more breaches of the code of conduct. Student failure to serve detention on the assigned date(s) will result in either an increased term of detention, assignment to an alternative

program, in-school restriction or suspension. Every effort will be made to ensure that students will be doing school work during this time.

1. Teacher's Detention

A teacher may detain a student after school to correct a student's unacceptable behavior. Parents/Guardians are to be informed of a student detention and teachers will document notice to parents/guardians that detention has been scheduled.

2. Administrative Detention

Students may be detained by the Administration for the following reasons:

- a. Excessive tardiness to school or class.
- b. Unexcused absence from school or class.
- c. Deliberate disrespect and/or insubordination.
- d. Disciplinary reasons in the school or classroom.

Parents/Guardians are to be informed of a student detention and principals will document notice to parents/guardians that detention has been scheduled.

G. Referral to Community Services Agencies

Referral to Community Services agencies is to be by school authorities. The parents/guardians will be consulted when appropriate if any community service is to be used for a student or if a student will be referred to a community resource.

H. In-School Restriction

In-School Restriction (ISR) may be required of a student for one or more breaches of the Code of Conduct. Students placed in ISR are required to remain in one room for a designated period of time. Students in ISR are under the supervision of school staff and are given ISR and/or homework assignments which must be completed.

I. Suspension

"Suspension" means an action taken by the school administration prohibiting a student from attending school for a period of not more than ten consecutive school days. The suspension period may be extended an additional five days when it is determined that the student will create an immediate and



substantial danger to persons or property around him/her. The purpose of suspension is to remove the student from the school environment and to provide time for the professional staff, parent/guardian and student to discuss the matter and bring about an agreement on future conduct. During any suspension of up to five (5) school days, the student will have the opportunity to complete all school work assigned during the period of the pupil's suspension and to receive full credit for satisfactorily completing the assignments. If the suspension exceeds five (5) consecutive school days, the District will provide alternative education services.

J. Alternative Program

"Alternative Program" means educational opportunities made available within the School District, but which may be at a site different from a student's originally assigned school or schedule. After a student returns from an alternative program, in-school monitoring may be used to assist the student in his/her adjustment to the school rules and environment.

K. Expulsion or Exclusion

"Expulsion" means an action taken by the School Board to prohibit an enrolled student from further attendance for a period that shall not extend beyond an amount of time equal to one school year from the date a student is expelled. (M.S. 121A.41, Subd. 5). "Exclusion" means an action taken by the School Board to prevent enrollment or re-enrollment of a student for a period that shall not extend beyond the school year (M.S. 121A.41, Subd. 4).

L. Referral to Police or Juvenile Authorities

When a student's misbehavior is so extreme that it may involve the violation of a law, police or juvenile authorities will be contacted by the Principal or a designated representative. Every reasonable attempt shall be made to notify parents/guardians at the same time juvenile authorities are called. If the officer indicates that he/she is arresting the student, with or without a warrant, that officer shall have complete jurisdiction and responsibility in the matter and the Principal shall not interfere with the student's removal from the building. It is expected that the contact with the student shall be arranged in a manner to make it as unobtrusive as possible.

M. Recess and other breaks

"Recess detention" means excluding or excessively delaying a student from participating in a scheduled recess period as a consequence for student behavior. Recess detention does not include, among other things, providing alternative recess at the student's choice. Use of recess detention shall be subject to standards within Minnesota statutes.

IV. OTHER RELATED INFORMATION

A. Students with Disabilities

Students who are currently identified as eligible under the IDEA or Section 504 will be subject to the provisions of this policy, unless the student's IEP or 504 plan specifies a necessary modification.

Before initiating an expulsion or exclusion of a student with a disability, relevant members of the child's IEP or 504 team and the child's parent shall, consistent with federal law, conduct a manifestation determination and determine whether the child's behavior was (i) caused by or had a direct and substantial relationship to the child's disability and (ii) whether the child's conduct was a direct result of a failure to implement the child's IEP or 504 plan. If the student's educational program is appropriate and the behavior is not a manifestation of the student's disability, the school district will proceed with discipline – up to and including expulsion – as if the student did not have a disability, unless the student's educational program provides otherwise. If the team determines that the behavior subject to discipline is a manifestation of the student's disability, the team shall conduct a functional behavioral assessment and implement a behavioral intervention plan for such student provided that the school district had not conducted such assessment prior to the manifestation determination before the behavior that resulted in a change of placement. Where a behavioral intervention plan previously has been developed, the team will review the behavioral intervention plan and modify it as necessary to address the behavior.

When a student who has an IEP is excluded or expelled for misbehavior that is not a manifestation of the student's disability, the school district shall continue to provide special education and related services during the period of expulsion or exclusion.

**B. Removal of Student From Class**

**1. Rules Governing Student Conduct:**

The rules governing student conduct are included in this School Code of Conduct. Students will be informed of these rules by a designated faculty member during the first week of each school year. Students enrolling after the school year starts will be informed of these rules by a designated staff member.

**2. Grounds for Removal From Class:**

The grounds for removal are as follows:

- a. Willful conduct which materially and substantially disrupts the rights of others to an education;
- b. Willful conduct which endangers School District employees, the student or other students, or the property of the school;

- c. Willful violation of any rule of conduct established in the discipline policy.

3. Authority to Remove Students:

The teacher or supervisor in immediate charge of the class from which the student is being removed; or the building Principal or lead teacher; may remove a student from that specific class as specified under M.S. 121A.61. A student may be removed from class when in the judgment of the teacher, supervisor or administrator authorized to remove said student, the student has violated one or more of the grounds listed for removal from class.

4. The Procedure for Removal:

- a. The student will be informed of the reason for removal.
- b. The student will be given an opportunity to respond.
- c. The principal/designee will be informed of the removal.
- d. The classroom teacher will be informed.
- e. The student will report to the area designated by the teacher or supervisor. If, in the judgment of the teacher or supervisor, allowing the student to move unescorted may endanger the student, other individuals, or School District property, the teacher or supervisor should escort the student or request assistance from the office in escorting the student.
- f. The student will be provided and expected to complete the assignments missed due to being removed from the class.

5. Length of Time of Removal

Any removal which is longer than the activity being participated in or 45 minutes will come under the jurisdiction of this policy. The removal shall not exceed three consecutive hours in a day or extend to multiple days unless by administrative action.

6. Responsibility For and Custody of a Student Removed From Class:

The Principal or designee will make the necessary arrangements.

7. Procedures for Returning the Student to Class:

The Principal or designee will return the student to the classroom.

8. Notifying Parents/Guardians:

The school employee removing the student will communicate with the parent/guardian.

9. Procedures Determined Appropriate for Encouraging Early Involvement of Parents/Guardians:

Teachers will attempt to discuss behavior problems with parents/guardians prior to invoking the removal procedures.

10. Students with reoccurring behavior problems will be referred to the school's problem-solving team.

11. In the case of a student with a disability, the student's individual education program team shall meet immediately but not more than ten (10) school days after the date on which the decision to remove the student from the student's current education placement is made. The individual education program team must review all relevant information in the student's file to determine if the conduct in question was (i) caused by, or had a direct and substantial relationship to, the child's disability, or (ii) the direct result of the school's failure to implement the individual education program. This is referred to as a "manifestation determination meeting."

C. Procedures for Notification of Students and Parents or Guardians of Violation of the Rules of Conduct and of Resulting Disciplinary Actions:

1. Violations of Student Code of Conduct: Students and parents or guardians will be notified of violations and disciplinary actions taken as listed in the Student Code of Conduct.

2. Annual Report: The building Principal or his/her designee shall prepare a yearly report consistent with State statute or Minnesota Department of Education rules.

D. Student Searches

Are addressed comprehensively in FLAS Policy 514

1. Locker Searches

School lockers are the property of the School District. At no time does the School District relinquish its exclusive control of lockers provided for the convenience of students. Inspection of the interior of lockers may be conducted by school authorities for any reason at any time, without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant. The personal possessions of students within a school locker may be searched only when school authorities have a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover evidence of a violation of the law or school rules. As soon as practicable after the search of a student's locker,

school authorities must provide notice of the search to students and the student's parents whose lockers were searched unless disclosure would impede an ongoing investigation by police or school officials.

2. **Personal Possession Searches**

The personal possessions of students whether on their person, in desks, in backpacks or purses, in cell phones or other recording devices, lockers or cars parked in the school parking lot may be subject to a reasonable search when the School District has a reasonable, individualized suspicion that evidence will be produced showing that the student violated the law or school rules.

3. School officials may seek assistance from law enforcement if deemed necessary. As soon as practicable after the search of a student's personal possessions, school authorities must provide notice of the search to students and the student's parents whose personal possessions were searched unless disclosure would impede an ongoing investigation by police or school officials. Students who refuse to comply or impede an investigation will be in violation of policy and subject to further disciplinary action.

**V. DISCIPLINE COMPLAINT PROCEDURE**

Students, parents and other guardians, and school staff may file a complaint and seek corrective action when the requirements of the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, including the implementation of the local behavior and discipline policies, are not being implemented appropriately or are being discriminately applied. This complaint procedure will be referenced in any student handbook, available for view within this policy on the District website, and available upon request to any school office.

A Discipline Complaint form is on the District website and available in school administration offices. The process is initiated by submission of a complaint in writing to the Principal. The complaint must be submitted in writing and dated by the person making the complaint. The party making the complaint should include, in the complaint, any additional information related to the complaint the party believes is relevant.

1. Upon receipt of the complaint, district representatives will investigate the complaint. The investigation will commence within three school days of receipt of the complaint. The Principal will direct the investigation. The District may use outside counsel as it sees fit. The principal may designate staff responsible for any aspect of the process. Any party involved in the subject matter of the complaint may be asked to provide additional information related to the complaint.
2. Upon completion of the investigation, written determination will be provided to the complainant addressing each allegation. The determination will contain

findings and conclusions, with appropriate application of the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act.

3. If the investigation finds the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, sections 121A.40 to 121A.61, including any local policies, were not implemented appropriately, the Principal will take action to correct a student's record and/or provide relevant staff with training, coaching, or other accountability practices to ensure appropriate compliance with policies in the future.
4. Reprisals or retaliation against any person who asserts, alleges, or reports a complaint is prohibited. District administration will apply appropriate consequences for a person who engages in reprisal or retaliation.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 (Minnesota Government Data Practices Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.02 (Educational Expectations and Graduation Requirements for Minnesota Students)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.232 (Character Development Education)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.26 (School Preassessment Teams)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.27 (School and Community Advisory Team)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.29 (Reporting; Chemical Abuse)  
Minn. Stat. §§ 121A.40-121A.56 (Pupil Fair Dismissal Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.575 (Alternatives to Pupil Suspension)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.582 (Student Discipline; Reasonable Force)  
Minn. Stat. §§ 121A.60-121A.61 (Discipline and Removal of Students From Class)  
Minn. Stat. § 123A.05 (State-Approved Alternative Program Organization Area Learning Center Organization)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.03 (Enrollment Options Program)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.08 (School Boards' Approval to Enroll in Nonresident District; Exceptions Enrollment in Nonresident District) Minn. Stat. Ch.125A (Special Education and Special Programs Students With Disabilities)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 260A (Truancy)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 260C (Juvenile Safety and Placement Court Act)  
20 U.S.C. §§ 1400-1487 (Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004)  
29 U.S.C. § 794 *et seq.* (Rehabilitation Act of 1973, § 504)  
34 C.F.R. § 300.530(e)(1) (Manifestation Determination)

Cross References: Prohibiting Discrimination Policy 419  
Harassment and Violence Policy 425  
Title IX Sex Nondiscrimination Policy, Grievance Procedure and Process Policy 510  
School Weapons Policy 532

Search of Student Lockers, Desks, Personal Possessions and  
Student's Person Policy 514  
Student Attendance Policy 519  
Anti-Bullying Policy 541  
Technology Acceptable Use and Safety Policy 540  
Hazing Prohibition Policy 431  
Student Transportation Safety Policy 531

ADOPTED: 06/14/84  
REVISED: 06/16/86  
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REVISED: 07/15/91  
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