

<b>Descriptor Term:</b>  STUDENT DISCIPLINE MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS	<b>Descriptor:</b> JK-E3	<b>Issued:</b> DRAFT																																																																		
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TUPELO BOARD OF TRUSTEES																																																																				

DISCIPLINE LADDER - GRADES 7 & 8

- Step 1    1. One day Administrative detention
2. Contact parent/guardian
3. Removal from ladder if not referred to office for twenty school days from date of entry onto ladder (Probation for twenty school days)
- Step 2    1. One day In-School Suspension (ISS)
2. Contact parent/guardian
3. Probation for twenty school days
- Step 3    1. Two days In-School Suspension (ISS)
2. Contact parent/guardian
3. Probation for twenty school days
- Step 4    1. Three days In-School Suspension (ISS)
2. Contact parent/guardian
3. Probation for twenty school days
- Step 5    1. Four days In-School Suspension (ISS)
2. Contact parent/guardian.
3. Probation for twenty school days
- Step 6    1. Five or more days In-School Suspension (ISS)
2. Contact parent/guardian
3. Probation for twenty school days
- Step 7    1. Corporal punishment may be administered according to the policies of the district. (Administrator's option)
- Step 8    1. One day Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)
2. Contact parent/guardian
3. Probation for twenty school days
- Step 9    1. Two or more days Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)
2. Contact parent/guardian
3. Probation for twenty school days
4. Student must be accompanied by a parent/guardian for a conference with the principal and/or teachers before returning to class.
- Step 10   1. Out-of-School Suspension (10 day max.) until a district disciplinary committee hearing or Individual Educational Plan hearing (for special education students) can be scheduled and held
2. Contact parent/guardian
3. Student and parent/guardian to appear before a district hearing

Step 11   Refer to Alternative Program

Step 12 If the District Hearing Committee recommends expulsion, the recommendation will be forwarded to the School Board for action. A student may be recommended for expulsion at any time if the administration feels that the student's action warrant such recommendation

#### NOTES

1. Teachers are encouraged to handle discipline within their classrooms. Rule violations that result in the referral of the student to the office will be handled according to the Tupelo Middle School's discipline program (ladder).
2. A student may enter the discipline ladder at any step, depending upon the nature of the offense.
3. Incentive is provided for the student to improve his/her behavior through provisions of a probationary period that allows a student to remove himself/herself from the discipline ladder by improved conduct.
4. Failure to complete the step consequence as designated will result in escalation to at least the next step on the ladder.
5. Referral to the office during the probationary period prescribed in the discipline step will result in escalation to at least the next step. Students referred for a repeat or a serious violation may escalate more than one step.
6. In all cases of OSS or ISS, the student will lose all privileges during the time he/she is suspended. Loss of privileges means that during the time stated the student cannot participate in or attend assemblies or any school function designated as an extra activity, including athletic events, dances, plays, extra-curricular programs, field trips, school-sponsored activities, etc. This would include the entire 24 hour period of the suspension.
7. If the misbehavior occurs on a school bus or at a bus stop, the school bus discipline policy will be followed.
8. In all disciplinary matters, a student will be accorded due process under the district policy governing student rights. Video or audio tape may be used in disciplinary hearings.
9. Self-defense is the use of appropriate, reasonable force to defend oneself or another person against the assault of an aggressor when there is no reasonable avenue of escape or means of avoidance.
10. Counseling may be added to any step.
11. A parent/guardian conference with an administrator is required before a student can return to class after an out-of-school suspension (Step 7 or 8).
12. The administrator may issue a warning with or without probation when deemed appropriate.
13. The superintendent, or designee, shall have authority to transfer to an alternative education program any student who has been arrested, arraigned for or convicted of or pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to a serious crime, as defined in this section, which occurred off of school property or away from school-related functions. A serious crime, for the purposes of this section, is an illegal act which indicates the capacity and willingness of the student to injure students and employees with bodily harm, or to threaten to cause bodily harm, or to place students and employees in danger of bodily harm.

The superintendent, or designee, will evaluate the circumstances of the serious crime to determine whether (1) the acts of the student indicates a present and possible danger to the health, safety, and welfare of one or more students or employees and (2) whether the more restrictive, security oriented environment of an alternative education program would serve the educational interests of the student while preserving the safety of students and employees. The Board shall review the student's placement in any alternative program at the next following regular meeting. Serious crimes shall include, without limitation, and as examples only:

- a) Assault with a deadly weapon
- b) Aggravated assault
- c) Rape
- d) Sexual battery, stalking, or other sexual crime
- e) Armed or strong-armed robbery (or attempted)
- f) Sale or distribution of a controlled substance

14. Student may chose to attend Alternative program in lieu of Out-of-School (OSS) while awaiting a District Disciplinary Hearing.