

STUDENTS

Student Discipline

Students are expected to conduct themselves within the bounds set by the Board and the administrative regulations set forth by the Superintendent. Consideration for the rights and well-being of others, cooperation with all members of the school community and respect for oneself and others are the basic principles guiding student behavior.

The primary responsibility for student discipline within the school rests with the Principal. The primary responsibility for the maintenance of discipline within the classroom lies with the individual classroom teacher. Corporal punishment shall not be used. Corporal punishment does not include reasonable force as needed to maintain safety for students, staff, or other persons, or for the purpose of self-defense or defense of property.

Disciplinary action may be taken against any student in violation of the Student Code of Conduct. Disciplinary action may range from conferring with a teacher to expulsion from school. Continued infractions will have a cumulative effect in terms of disciplinary action.

These grounds stated below for disciplinary action apply whenever a student's conduct is reasonably related to school or school activities, including, but not limited to the circumstances set forth below:

- On or within sight of, school grounds before, during, or after school hours or at any other time when school is being used by a school group;
- Off school grounds at a school-sponsored activity or event or any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school;
- Travel to and from school or a school activity, function, or event;
- Anywhere if conduct may reasonably be considered to be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a staff member, an interference with school purposes or an educational function, a threat to the safety and welfare of the student population, or conduct that detrimentally effects the climate or efficient operations of the school.

A student is in violation of the Student Code of Conduct if the student engages in any inappropriate behavior, including but not limited to:

- Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling tobacco products, vapor products or alternative nicotine products (tobacco includes, but is not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, snuff, smoking tobacco, smokeless tobacco, or any other tobacco or nicotine innovation);
- Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling alcoholic beverages including powdered alcohol or any other alcohol innovation.
- Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling illegal drugs or controlled substances, including medical marijuana, look-alike drugs, and drug paraphernalia.
- Using, possessing, controlling, or transferring a weapon in violation of the "Possession of a Weapon in a School Building" section of this policy.

- Using, possessing, controlling, or transferring any object that reasonably could be considered or used as a weapon.
- Disobeying directives from staff or disobeying rules governing student conduct.
- Using violence, force, coercion, intimidation or other comparable conduct toward anyone or urging other students to engage in such conduct.
- Causing or attempting to cause damage to, or stealing or attempting to steal, school property or another person's property.
- Engaging in any activity that constitutes an interference with school purposes or an educational function or any other disruptive activity.
- Unexcused absenteeism.
- Misconduct of any sort on any means of District transportation.
- Hazing or bullying, including cyberbullying.
- Forging any signature or making any false entry or attempting to authorize any document used or intended to be used in connection with the operation of a school.

### *Gun Free Schools*

The Board is obligated to expel for a definite period of at least one (1) calendar year any student who uses, possesses, controls, or transfers a firearm. The Board hereby authorizes the Superintendent to modify the disciplinary action on a case-by-case basis including implementing lower levels of discipline that do not include a recommendation for expulsion.

### *Possession of a Weapon in a School Building*

The District will refer to law enforcement any person who possesses, carries, or stores a weapon in a school building, except as provided below. For the purposes of this section only, "school building" means all buildings owned or leased by the District that are used for instruction or for student activities; "weapon" means any type of firearm, a knife with a blade 4 or more inches in length, a sword, a straight razor, a throwing star, nun-chucks, brass or other metal knuckles, or any other article or instrument possessed with the purpose to commit a criminal offense. The Board may grant persons advance permission to possess, carry, or store a weapon in a school building. All persons who wish to possess, carry, or store a weapon in a school building must request permission of the Board at a regular meeting. The Board has sole discretion in deciding whether to allow a person to possess, carry, or store a weapon in a school building.

### Legal References:

§ 16-11-302, MCA	Definitions
§ 20-1-220, MCA	Use of tobacco products in public school building or on public school property prohibited
§ 20-4-302, MCA	Discipline and punishment of pupils
§ 20-5-202, MCA	Suspension and Expulsion
§ 45-8-361, MCA	Possession of a weapon in school building
§ 45-8-317, MCA	Exceptions
§§ 50-46-301 et seq., MCA	Montana Marijuana Act
20 USC §§ 7101 et seq.	Safe and Drug-Free Schools & Communities Act
20 USC § 7961	Gun-Free requirements

Cross References:

3005 Bullying, Intimidation, Harassment & Hazing Prevention and Reporting Policy

Policy History:

Adopted on: 3.26.2013

Revised on: 8.15.2017, 9.10.2019