

Lower Merion School District
Disciplinary Expectations and Consequences
Elementary Schools

As outlined in Board Policy 101 (Equity), the equitable administration of school-based discipline at all District schools based on a model of restorative practices rather than punitive measures, when appropriate, is critical to the District's equity efforts and goal of reducing disproportionality in discipline. When possible and appropriate under the circumstances, students will be afforded the opportunity to participate in restorative practices as an alternative to, or in addition to, other consequences.

Examples of restorative practices include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Peer mediation;
- Conferences with counselors;
- Mindfulness exercises;
- Community building activities;
- Community service;
- Support from appropriate community organizations.


The following chart is a guide detailing the behaviors students are expected to exhibit and the consequences or other measures students can expect when they make poor choices regarding their behavior. It is not meant to be inclusive of all possible kinds of misbehavior; rather, it is a guideline that represents the more common and serious types of misbehavior that may be experienced in a school environment. See also Attachment C for additional defined infractions. Students are reminded that school rules are in effect, and students are subject to discipline: (1) while at school; (2) at school-sponsored events, trips, or activities, whether on or away from school property; (3) while traveling to/from school, school-sponsored events, trips, or activities on a vehicle owned, leased, or under the control of the District; and (4) as otherwise permitted by law.



The severity of any consequence or other measures will be proportional to the severity of the infraction, the age of the student, the student's current and prior disciplinary record (including any history of repeat infractions), special circumstances about the incident, including whether the student was an aggressor or victim, as well as any applicable laws or regulations, including, but not limited to, those related to the discipline of students with disabilities. The school's administrative team has the right to determine how to apply disciplinary consequences under the circumstances.

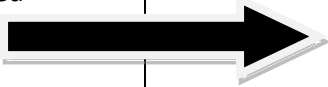
In cases where exclusionary discipline is required, the District will require that students returning to school from a suspension or expulsion meet with a designated school official to discuss academic and behavioral expectations upon return to school, individuals and resources available to

support students, the consequences of future noncompliance with Board Policy and/or school rules, and the number of hours, if any, of counseling required prior to the student's return to their regular class schedule. When a student has been issued an out-of-school suspension, the student's parent/guardian will be required to attend the re-entry conference with the appropriate school official(s).

Consistent with the Pennsylvania Safe Schools Act, the District and the Lower Merion Township Police Department have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding which outlines the procedures to be followed when certain incidents contemplated by the Pennsylvania Safe Schools Act occur on school property, at any school sponsored activity, or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from school or a school sponsored activity. As outlined in more detail in the existing Memorandum of Understanding between the District and the Lower Merion Township Police Department, the parties seek to maintain a safe school environment in a cooperative and mutually supportive manner, but in a way that does not result in an over presence of law enforcement in the school environment. Through the cooperative and supportive efforts of both parties, the parties strive to reduce student referrals to the criminal justice system and eliminate the school to prison pipeline. Parents/guardians and students should be aware that the nature or degree of student misconduct in certain situations may require or necessitate the involvement of law enforcement. The decision to contact law enforcement is one that is not taken lightly, and is generally reserved for the most severe situations or those that require law enforcement notification as a matter of law.

Property Infractions				
Infraction	Examples of Expected Conduct	Examples of Behavior in Violation of School Rules	First Infraction	Repeated Infractions (potential consequences are in addition to those possible for first infractions)
Theft; Vandalism; Littering; Etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Showing respect for school property and the property of others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Touching someone else's belongings without permission Stealing, vandalizing, misusing or destroying the property of another, including school property Littering. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restorative practices Parent/guardian contact Conference with teacher or principal Referral to principal Loss of school-related privileges Restitution Suspension 	
Infractions Against Others				
Infraction	Examples of Expected Conduct	Examples of Behavior in Violation of School Rules	First Infraction	Repeated Infractions (potential consequences are in addition to those possible for first infractions)
Assault; Battery; Fighting; Inappropriate Physical Contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respecting school staff, students, and visitors Maintaining appropriate physical contact and conduct Maintaining a safe and orderly school environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physically or verbally attacking any person (includes behavior such as hitting, beating, striking, punching, biting, spitting, grabbing, tripping, etc.) Engaging in hostile bodily contact Inappropriate touching or bodily contact. <p>(The principal may choose not to discipline a student for actions reasonably and appropriately taken demonstrably in self-defense)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restorative practices Parent/guardian contact Conference with teacher or principal Referral to principal Loss of school-related privileges Suspension 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Referral for possible expulsion in instances of severe conduct.

Discriminatory Harassment, Bullying and Hazing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining appropriate physical contact and conduct Treating others with respect and courtesy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harassment, bullying, hazing and other forms of prohibited harassment. Refer to School Board Policy #246. Hate speech 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restorative practices Parent/guardian contact Conference with teacher or principal Referral to principal Suspension 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Referral for possible expulsion in instances of severe conduct.
Health, Safety & Welfare Infractions				
Infraction	Examples of Expected Conduct	Examples of Behavior in Violation of School Rules	First Infraction	Repeated Infractions (potential consequences are in addition to those possible for first infractions)
Classroom / School Disturbance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining a safe and orderly school environment, conducive to academic instruction Respecting school staff, students, and visitors Following school rules and directions of school officials Refraining from using profanity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Behavior which disrupts or has the potential to disrupt the educational process or regular school operations, or which constitutes a threat to the health, safety or welfare of others. Includes not participating appropriately in class, acting in an unsafe manner in school or on school grounds, treating others in an unkind, mean or disrespectful manner, failing to identify or properly identify oneself upon request of a school official, failing to obey instructions of a school official, hall pass violations, insubordination, lying, cheating, profanity or inappropriate language, gesture, or action, disrespectful behavior, or other violations of school rules. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restorative practices Warning Parent/guardian contact Conference with teacher or principal Referral to principal Loss of school-related privileges Suspension 	
Possession or Use of Prohibited Items (Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco, Weapons, Other Dangerous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining an environment free from drugs, alcohol, tobacco and other prohibited items and substances. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weapon or Dangerous Items: Refer to School Board Policy 235 Drugs/Controlled Substance: Refer to School Board Policy 235 Tobacco/Nicotine: Refer to School Board Policy 235 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restorative practices Parent/guardian contact Loss of school-related privileges Suspension Possible referral for expulsion 	

Objects, Etc.)			proceedings	
Inappropriate Use of Electronic Device / Acceptable Use of Technology Violations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using technology and electronic devices in accordance with Board Policy and school rules Maintaining a school environment, conducive to academic instruction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failing to utilize technology and/or electronic devices in accordance with Board Policy, applicable law or school rules Using technology or electronic devices in a way that is disruptive to the educational or extracurricular activities of the District Refer to School Board Policy #134 and 235 for additional information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restorative practices Warning Parent/guardian contact Conference with teacher or principal Referral to principal Loss of school-related privileges Suspension 	
Threatening or Intimidating Conduct; False Alarms; Terrorist Threats/Acts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining a safe and orderly school environment Treating others with respect and courtesy Maintaining a school environment conducive to academic instruction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaging in conduct which undermines the safety, security or wellbeing of any person or of school property Threats of violence or harm communicated verbally or in writing Bomb threats Knowingly reporting a false threat Tampering with the fire alarm, fire extinguisher, sprinkler system or similar device. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restorative practices Parent/guardian contact Conference with teacher or principal Referral to principal Suspension Possible referral for expulsion proceedings 