

Lower Merion School District
Student Expectations and Related Consequences
Secondary 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(s), 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.

Academic 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 infraction)
Academic Dishonesty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academic honesty Adherence to academic standards Integrity in academic research/publishing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheating Plagiarism Forgery of grades, times, addresses, signatures, or other data on school records 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restorative practices "0" on assignment Redo assignment for limited credit Parent/guardian contact by teacher and/or administrator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent conference with teacher/administrator Possible reduction of grade or failure of course Any of the previous consequences
Unauthorized Lateness to or Failure to Attend Class (Class Cut), Detention, or Suspension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coming to class (including detention or suspension) on time Adhering to one's school/class schedule and being in designated areas at designated times 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class cut or unauthorized absence from a scheduled detention or suspension Leaving class, a detention or suspension without proper authorization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restorative practices Warning Parent/guardian contact Detention Loss of school-related privileges Up to 3 days suspension 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent conference with teacher/administrator Possible course grade reduction Up to 10 days suspension
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 infraction)
Arson; Unauthorized Burning; Possession of Explosive Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining a safe and orderly school environment Respect for school property and the property of others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burning or attempting to burn any part of any building or school property without authorization Possession of fireworks or other explosive devices (including smoke bombs, stink bombs, or similar instruments capable of bodily harm or damage to school property) Possession of devices capable of starting a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restorative practices Parent/guardian contact Up to 10 days suspension Referral for possible expulsion 	

		fire		
Parking/Vehicle Violations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following school rules and posted parking and vehicle signs and regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Violating school parking lot rules, regulations, or posted signs Failure to park in designated space Violating any applicable provision of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restorative practices Warning Parent/guardian contact Loss of privileges Detention 	
Theft; Vandalism; Property Offenses (Including Trespassing and Inappropriate Use)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Showing respect for school property and the property of others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stealing, misappropriating or taking the property of another, including school property Littering Defacing, destroying, altering or tampering with the property of another without permission Trespass or misuse of school property (including books, supplies, equipment, technology devices, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restorative practices Parent/guardian contact Detention Loss of privileges Restitution Up to 10 days suspension; Referral for possible expulsion 	
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 infraction)
Assault; Battery; Fighting	<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 <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 Up to 10 days suspension Loss of school-related privileges Referral for possible expulsion 	
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"> Discriminatory harassment, bullying, and hazing. Refer to School Board Policy #246 Hate speech 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restorative practices Parent/guardian contact Detention Suspension Referral for possible 	

			expulsion	
Sexual Contact (Consensual)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining appropriate physical contact and conduct 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sexual intercourse Inappropriate public display of affection Groping Inappropriate touching or bodily contact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restorative practices Parent/guardian contact Detention Suspension Referral for possible expulsion 	
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 infraction)
Drug and Alcohol Policy Violation (Use /Possession / Sale)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining an environment free from drugs, alcohol, and other controlled or prohibited substances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use, possession, sale, distribution, or being under the influence of any controlled substance. Refer to School Board Policy 235 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restorative practices Parent/guardian contact Up to 10 days suspension Loss of school-related privileges Referral for possible expulsion 	
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, including, but not limited to recording, taking photographs of, or transmitting fights or other disturbances to the school environment, except for the limited purpose of reporting such conduct to a school official Refer to School Board Policies 134 and 235 for additional information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restorative practices Warning Parent/guardian contact Confiscation of device Detention Loss of school-related privileges Up to 3 days suspension 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 10 days suspension Referral for possible expulsion
Gambling; Selling/Distribution of Unauthorized Merchandise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refraining from engaging in unauthorized activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The act of gambling for money or valuables Selling or distribution of unauthorized merchandise without administrative approval 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restorative practices Warning Detention Parent/guardian contact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 10 days suspension

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confiscation of unauthorized merchandise 	
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 other apparatus installed for the prevention of fire or for the safety of the school community or property 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restorative practices Parent/guardian contact Up to 10 days suspension Referral for possible expulsion 	
Threat to Health, Morals, Safety or Welfare of Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining a safe and orderly school environment, conducive to academic instruction Respecting school staff, students, and visitors Maintaining appropriate physical contact and conduct Following school rules and directions of school officials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct that constitutes a threat to the health, morals, safety or welfare of others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restorative practices Parent/guardian contact Detention Suspension Referral for possible expulsion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 10 days suspension Referral for possible expulsion
Weapons & Other Dangerous Items Violation (Possession, Use, Transfer, Sale)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining a safe and orderly school environment, free from weapons or similar objects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possession or use of weapon or dangerous item Refer to School Board Policy 235 for additional information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restorative practices Parent/guardian contact Referral for possible expulsion 	
Smoking / Tobacco / Nicotine Violation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining a safe free from tobacco and nicotine, including nicotine delivery products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possession or use of tobacco/nicotine products or nicotine delivery devices Refer to School Board Policy 235 for additional information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restorative practices Parent/guardian contact Up to 10 days suspension 	

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 • Adhering to one's school/class schedule and being in designated areas at designated times. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behavior which disrupts or has the potential to disrupt the educational process or regular school operations. • Includes loitering, hall pass violations, instigating violence or other violation of Board Policy or school rules, failure to identify or properly identify oneself upon request of a school official, failure to obey instructions of a school official, insubordination, profanity or inappropriate language, gesture, or action, disrespectful behavior, sleeping in class, other violations of school rules not listed in this chart. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restorative practices • Warning • Parent/guardian contact • Detention • Loss of school-related privileges • Up to 3 days suspension 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 10 days suspension • Referral for possible expulsion
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