

POLICY	506	Page: 1 of 11
SERIES	500	Students
SUBJECT	506	Student Discipline
Adopted		September 11, 2001
Revised		December 9, 2003, September 28, 2004, May 10, 2005; August 12, 2010, May 12, 2015; March 7, 2017; June 13, 2023; May 14, 2024; August 12, 2024
Reviewed		July 2026

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide that students are aware of and comply with the school district's expectations for student conduct. Such compliance will enhance the school district's ability to maintain discipline and ensure that there is no interference with the educational process. The school district will take appropriate disciplinary action when students fail to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct established by this policy.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The School Board recognizes that individual responsibility and mutual respect are essential components of the educational process. The School Board further recognizes that nurturing the maturity of each student is of primary importance and is closely linked with the balance that must be maintained between authority and self-discipline as the individual progresses from a child's dependence on authority to the more mature behavior of self-control.

All students are entitled to learn and develop in a setting which promotes respect of self, others, and property. Proper positive discipline results from an environment which provides options and stresses student self-direction, decision-making and responsibility. Schools can function effectively only with internal discipline based on mutual understanding of rights and responsibilities.

Students must conduct themselves in an appropriate manner that maintains a climate in which learning can take place. Overall decorum affects student attitudes and influences student behavior. Proper student conduct is necessary to facilitate the education process and to create an atmosphere conducive to high student achievement.

Although this policy emphasizes the development of self-discipline, it is recognized that there are instances when it will be necessary to administer disciplinary measures.

It is the position of the school district that a fair and equitable district-wide student discipline policy will contribute to the quality of the student's educational experience.

This discipline policy is adopted in accordance with and subject to the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, Minnesota Statutes sections 121 A.40 through 121 A.56.

In view of the foregoing and in accordance with Minnesota Statutes section 121A.55, the School Board, with the participation of school district administrators, teachers, employees, students, parents, community members, and such other individuals and organizations as appropriate, has developed this policy which governs student conduct and applies to all students of the school district.

III. 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 Minnesota Statutes 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.

IV. POLICY

The school district will implement this policy following Minnesota Statutes 121A.40 to 121A.56.

V. AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

- A. The School Board. The School Board holds all school personnel responsible for the maintenance of order within the school district and supports all personnel acting within the framework of this discipline policy.
- B. Superintendent. The Superintendent shall establish guidelines and directives to carry out this policy, hold all school personnel, students and parents responsible for conforming to this policy, and support all school personnel performing their duties within the framework of this policy. The Superintendent shall also establish guidelines and directives for using the services of appropriate agencies for assisting students and parents.
- C. Principal. The school principal is given the responsibility and authority to formulate building rules and regulations necessary to enforce this policy, subject to final School Board approval. The principal shall give direction and support to all school personnel performing their duties within the framework of this policy. The principal shall consult with parents of students conducting themselves in a manner contrary to the policy. The principal shall also involve other professional

employees in the disposition of behavior referrals and shall make use of those agencies appropriate for assisting students and parents or guardians. A principal, in exercising the person's lawful authority, may use reasonable force when it is necessary under the circumstances to correct or restrain a student to prevent bodily harm or death to the student or another. A principal shall not use prone restraint and shall not inflict any form of physical holding that restricts or impairs a student's ability to breathe; restricts or impairs a student's ability to communicate distress; places pressure or weight on a student's head, throat, neck, chest, lungs, sternum, diaphragm, back, or abdomen; or results in straddling a student's torso.

- D. Teachers. All teachers shall be responsible for providing a well-planned teaching/learning environment and shall have primary responsibility for student conduct, with appropriate assistance from the administration. All teachers shall enforce the Code of Student Conduct. A teacher, in exercising the person's lawful authority, may use reasonable force when it is necessary under the circumstances to correct or restrain a student to prevent bodily harm or death to the student or another. A teacher shall not use prone restraint and shall not inflict any form of physical holding that restricts or impairs a student's ability to breathe; restricts or impairs a student's ability to communicate distress; places pressure or weight on a student's head, throat, neck, chest, lungs, sternum, diaphragm, back, or abdomen; or results in straddling a student's torso.
- E. Other School District Personnel. All school district personnel shall be responsible for contributing to the atmosphere of mutual respect within the school. Their responsibilities relating to student behavior shall be as authorized and directed by the Superintendent. A school employee, school bus driver, or other agent of a school district, in exercising the person's lawful authority, may use reasonable force when it is necessary under the circumstances to restrain a student to prevent bodily harm or death to the student or another. A school employee, which does not include a school resource officer, shall not use prone restraint and shall not inflict any form of physical holding that restricts or impairs a student's ability to breathe; restricts or impairs a student's ability to communicate distress; places pressure or weight on a student's head, throat, neck, chest, lungs, sternum, diaphragm, back, or abdomen; or results in straddling a student's torso.

For the purpose of Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.582 (Student Discipline; Reasonable Force), a school resource officer, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 626.8482, subdivision 1, paragraph (c) is not a school employee or agent of the district.

- F. Parents or Legal Guardians. Parents and guardians shall be held responsible for the behavior of their children as determined by law and community practice. They are expected to cooperate with school authorities and to participate regarding the behavior of their children.

- G. Students. All students shall be held individually responsible for their behavior and for knowing and obeying the Code of Student Conduct and this policy.
- H. Community Members. Members of the community are expected to contribute to the establishment of an atmosphere in which rights and duties are effectively acknowledged and fulfilled.

VI. CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

- A. This policy applies to all school buildings, school grounds and school property or property immediately adjacent to school grounds; school-sponsored activities or trips; school bus stops; school buses, school vehicles, school contracted vehicles or any other vehicles approved for school district purposes, the area of entrance or departure from school premises or events; and all school-related functions, school-sponsored activities, events or trips. School district property also may mean a student's walking route to or from school for purposes of attending school or school-related functions, activities, or events. While prohibiting unacceptable behavior subject to disciplinary action at these locations and events, the school district does not represent that it will provide supervision or assume liability at these locations and events. This policy applies to any student whose conduct at any time or in any place interferes with or obstructs the mission or operations of the school district or the safety or welfare of the student, other students or employees.
 - 1. Violations against property including, but not limited to damage to or destruction of school property or the property of others, failure to compensate for damage or destruction of such property, arson, breaking and entering, theft, robbery, possession of stolen property, extortion, trespassing, unauthorized usage, or vandalism;
 - 2. The use of profanity or obscene language, or the possession of obscene or sexually explicit materials;
 - 3. Violation of school district policies, including but not limited to: Student Attendance, Sexual Harassment and Violence, Bullying Prohibition, Weapons, Violence Prevention, Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Prohibition policies, Internet Acceptable Use and Student Transportation;
 - 4. Opposition to authority using physical force or violence;
 - 5. Using, possessing or distributing tobacco or tobacco paraphernalia;
 - 6. Using, possessing, distributing, intending to distribute, making a request to another person for (solicitation), or being under the influence of alcohol or other intoxicating substances or look-alike substances;
 - 7. Using, possessing, distributing, intending to distribute, making a request to another person for (solicitation), or being under the influence of narcotics, drugs, or other controlled substances (except as prescribed by a physician), or

8. look-alike substances (these prohibitions include medical marijuana or medical cannabis, even when prescribed by a physician, and one student sharing prescription medication with another student);
9. Using, possessing, or distributing items or articles that are illegal or harmful to persons or property including, but not limited to, drug paraphernalia;
10. Using, possessing, or distributing weapons, or look-alike weapons or other dangerous objects;
11. Acts disruptive of the educational process, including, but not limited to, disobedience disruptive or disrespectful behavior, defiance of authority, insolence, insubordination, failure to identify oneself improper activation of fire alarms, or bomb threats;
12. Violation of parking or school traffic rules and regulations, including, but not limited to, driving on school property in such a manner as to endanger persons or property;
13. Violation of directives or guidelines relating to lockers or improperly gaining access to a school locker;
14. Student attire or personal grooming which creates a danger to health or safety or creates a disruption to the educational process, including clothing which bears a message which is lewd, vulgar, or obscene, apparel promoting products or activities that are illegal for use by minors, or clothing containing objectionable emblems, signs, words, objects, or pictures communicating a message that is racist, sexist, or otherwise derogatory to a protected minority group or which connotes gang membership;
15. Criminal activity;
16. Falsification of any records, documents, notes, or signatures;
17. Tampering with, changing, or altering records or documents of the school district by any method including, but not limited to, computer access or other electronic means;
18. Scholastic dishonesty which includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a school assignment or test, plagiarism, or collusion, including the use of picture phones or other technology to accomplish this end;
19. Actions, including fighting or any other assaultive behavior, which causes or could cause injury to the student or other persons or which otherwise endangers the health, safety, or welfare of teachers, students, other school district personnel, or other persons;
20. Committing an act which inflicts great bodily harm upon another person, even though accidental or a result of poor judgment;

21. Verbal assaults or verbally abusive behavior including, but not limited to, use of language that is discriminatory, abusive, obscene, threatening, intimidating, or that degrades other people;
22. Physical or verbal threats including, but not limited to, the staging or reporting of dangerous or hazardous situations that do not exist;
23. Inappropriate, abusive, threatening, or demeaning actions based on race, color, creed, religion, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, national origin, or sexual orientation;
24. Other acts, as determined by the school district, which are disruptive of the educational process or dangerous or detrimental to the student or other students, school district personnel or surrounding persons, or which violate the rights of others or which damage or endanger the property of the school, or which otherwise interferes with or obstruct the mission or operations of the school district or the safety or welfare of students or employees.

VII. RECESS AND OTHER BREAKS

The school district shall not use recess detention, as defined in Minn. Stat. § 121A.611, unless:

- (1) the student causes or is likely to cause serious physical harm to other students or staff;
- (2) the student's parent or guardian specifically consents to the use of recess detention;
- (3) or the student is receiving special education services, the student's individualized education program team has determined that withholding recess is appropriate based on the individualized needs of the student.

If the school district uses recess detention, the school district must make a reasonable attempt to notify a parent or guardian within 24 hours of using recess detention and it must compile and make publicly available upon request the student's, who was subject to recess detention, age, grade, gender, race or ethnicity, and special education status.

VIII. DISCIPLINARY ACTION OPTIONS

It is the general policy of the school district to utilize progressive discipline to the extent reasonable and appropriate based upon the specific facts and circumstances of student misconduct. The specific form of discipline chosen in a particular case is solely within the discretion of the school district. At a minimum, violation of school district code of conduct, rules, regulations, policies or procedures will result in discussion of the violation and a verbal warning. The school district shall, however, impose more severe disciplinary sanctions for any violation, including, but not limited to: removal from class; detention; in-school suspension; out-of-school suspension; restitution (financial or non-financial); exclusion or expulsion and referral to law enforcement, if warranted by the student's misconduct, as determined by the school district.

IX. REMOVAL OF STUDENTS FROM CLASS

- A. Teachers have the responsibility of attempting to modify disruptive student behavior by such means as conferring with the student, using positive reinforcement, assigning detention or other consequences, or contacting the student's parents. When such measures fail, or when the teacher determines it is otherwise appropriate based upon the student's conduct, the teacher shall have the authority, after consultation with the building administrator, to remove the student from class pursuant to the procedures established by this discipline policy. "Removal from class" and "removal" mean any actions taken by a teacher, principal, or other school district employee to prohibit a student from attending a class or activity period for a period of time not to exceed five (5) days, pursuant to this discipline policy.

Grounds for removal from class shall include any of the following:

1. Willful conduct that significantly disrupts the rights of others to an education, including conduct that interferes with a teacher's ability to teach or communicate effectively with students in a class or with the ability of other students to learn;
2. Willful conduct that endangers surrounding persons, including school district employees, the student or other students, or the property of the school;
3. Willful violation of any school rules, regulations, policies or procedures; or
4. Other conduct, which in the discretion of the teacher or administration requires removal of the student from class.

Such removal shall be for at least one (1) activity period or class period of instruction for a given course of study and shall not exceed five (5) such periods.

- B. A student must be removed from class immediately if the student engages in assault or violent behavior. "Assault" is an act done with intent to cause fear in another of immediate bodily harm or death; or the intentional infliction of, or attempt to inflict bodily harm upon another. The removal from class shall be for a period of time deemed appropriate by the principal, in consultation with the teacher, but not to exceed five (5) days.
- C. It is the responsibility of the principal, teacher, or other appropriate staff to notify the parent of a student who has been removed from class. If a student is removed from class more than ten (10) times in a school year, the school district shall notify the parent or guardian of the student's tenth removal from class and make reasonable attempts to convene a meeting with the student's parent or guardian to discuss the problem that is causing the student to be removed from class.
- D. Students removed from class shall be supervised by a staff member during the period of removal.
- E. The classroom teacher or other appropriate staff member shall be responsible for a student's transition to return to class.

X. DISMISSAL

- A. “Dismissal” means the denial of the current educational program to any student, including exclusion, expulsion, and suspension. Dismissal does not include removal from class.

The School district shall not dismiss a pupil who is enrolled in a preschool or prekindergarten program, including an early childhood family education, school readiness, , voluntary prekindergarten, Head Start, or other school-based preschool or prekindergarten program; or kindergarten through Grade 3. The school district shall also not dismiss any student without attempting to use nonexclusionary disciplinary policies and procedures before dismissal proceedings or pupil withdrawal agreements, except where it appears that the student will create an immediate and substantial danger to self or to surrounding persons or property

The use of exclusionary practices for early learners as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.425 is prohibited. The use of exclusionary practices to address attendance and truancy issues is prohibited.

- B. Violations leading to suspension, based upon severity, may also be grounds for actions leading to expulsion, and/or exclusion. A student may be dismissed on any of the following grounds:
1. willful violation of any reasonable School Board regulation, including those found in this policy;
 2. willful conduct that significantly disrupts the rights of others to an education or the ability of school personnel to perform their duties, or school sponsored extracurricular activities;
 3. willful conduct that endangers the student or other students, or surrounding persons, including school district employees, or property of the school.

Dismissals (suspension, expulsion, or exclusion) are governed by the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act and the school district shall adhere to all due process procedures and requirements of the Act.

- C. The school district shall report any suspension, expulsion or exclusion action taken to the appropriate public service agency, when the student is under the supervision of such agency.
- D. The school district shall report each expulsion or exclusion within thirty (30) days of the effective date of the action to the Minnesota Department of Education. This report shall include a statement of alternative educational services given the student and the reason for, the effective date, and the duration of the exclusion or expulsion. The dismissal report must include state student identification numbers of affected students. In addition, the school district must report, through the MDE electronic reporting system, each physical assault of a school district employee by a student

within thirty (30) days of the assault. This report must include a statement of the alternative educational services or other sanction, intervention, or resolution given to the student in response to the assault and the reason for, the effective date, and the duration of the exclusion or expulsion or other sanction, intervention, or resolution. The report must also include the student's age, grade, gender, race, and special education status.

- E. Whenever a student fails to return to school within ten (10) school days of the termination of dismissal, a school administrator shall inform the student and his/her parent or guardian by mail of the student's right to attend and to be reinstated in the school district.

XI. ADMISSION OR READMISSION PLAN

A school administrator must prepare and enforce an admission or readmission plan for any student who is excluded or expelled from school. The plan must include measures to improve the student's behavior and require parental involvement in the admission or readmission process, and may indicate the consequences to the student of not improving the student's behavior. The readmission plan must not obligate parents to provide a sympathomimetic medication for their child as a condition of readmission.

XII. NOTIFICATION OF POLICY VIOLATIONS

Notification of any violation of this policy and resulting disciplinary action shall be as provided herein, or as otherwise provided by the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act or other applicable law. The teacher, principal or other school district official may provide additional notification as deemed appropriate.

In addition, the school district must report, through the MDE electronic reporting system, each exclusion or expulsion, each physical assault of a school district employee by a pupil, and each pupil withdrawal agreement within thirty (30) days of the effective date of the dismissal action, pupil withdrawal, or assault, to the MDE Commissioner. This report must include a statement of the nonexclusionary disciplinary practices, or other sanction, intervention, or resolution in response to the assault given to the pupil and the reason for, the effective date, and the duration of the exclusion or expulsion or other sanction, intervention, or resolution. The report must also include the pupil's age, grade, gender, race, and special education status.

XIII. STUDENT DISCIPLINE RECORDS

It is the policy of the school district that complete and accurate student discipline records be maintained. The collection, dissemination, and maintenance of student discipline records shall be consistent with applicable school district policies and federal and state law, including the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13.

XIV. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

- A. Students who are currently identified as disabled under 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.
- B. A student may be referred for initial assessment or further assessment for special education services and/or review of the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) if they apply to students who are removed from class pursuant to this policy.
- C. Where a student is dismissed for five (5) or more consecutive days, or has accumulated more than ten (10) days of dismissal over the course of the school year, the school district will convene a meeting to determine whether the student's educational program is appropriate and whether the behavior subject to discipline is a manifestation of the student's disability. Such a meeting must be held within ten (10) days of the school district's decision to remove the student from his or her current educational placement and must be held before commencing an expulsion or exclusion of the student. 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 will confer on the appropriate discipline (excluding exclusion or expulsion) and take steps to alter the student's educational program, as necessary.

Regardless of whether the behavior is a manifestation of the student's disability, if the team determines that the student's educational program is either not appropriate or not being properly implemented, the team will take steps to alter the program and will take any program alterations into account in determining appropriate discipline.

- D. 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.

XV. OPEN ENROLLED STUDENTS

The School District may terminate the enrollment of a nonresident student enrolled under an Enrollment Option Program (Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.03) or Enrollment in Nonresident District (Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.08) at the end of a school year if the student meets the definition of a habitual truant, the student has been provided appropriate services for truancy (Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 260A), and the student's case has been referred to juvenile court. The school district may also terminate the enrollment of a nonresident student over the age of seventeen (17) enrolled under an Enrollment Options Program if the student is absent without lawful excuse for one or more periods on fifteen (15) school days and has not lawfully withdrawn from school.

XVI. 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.

The Discipline Complaint Procedure must, at a minimum:

1. provide procedures for communicating this policy including the ability for a parent to appeal a decision under Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.49 that contains explicit instructions for filing the complaint;
2. provide an opportunity for involved parties to submit additional information related to the complaint;
3. provide a procedure to begin to investigate complaints within three school days of receipt, and identify personnel who will manage the investigation and any resulting record and are responsible for keeping and regulating access to any record;
4. provide procedures for issuing a written determination to the complainant that addresses each allegation and contains findings and conclusions;
5. if the investigation finds the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, sections 121A.40 to 121A.61, including any local policies that were not implemented appropriately, contain procedures that require a corrective action plan to correct a student's record and provide relevant staff with training, coaching, or other accountability practices to ensure appropriate compliance with policies in the future; and
6. prohibit reprisals or retaliation against any person who asserts, alleges, or reports a complaint, and provide procedures for applying appropriate consequences for a person who engages in reprisal or retaliation.

XVII. DISTRIBUTION OF POLICY

The school district will notify students and parents of the existence and contents of this policy in such manner as it deems appropriate. Copies of this discipline policy shall be made available to all students and parents at the commencement of each school year and to all new students and parents upon enrollment. This policy shall also be available upon request in each principal's office.