

Missoula County Public Schools

STUDENTS

3310

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Student Discipline

The Board grants authority to a teacher or principal to hold a student to strict accountability for disorderly conduct in school, on the way to or from school, or during intermission or recess.

Disciplinary action may be taken against any student guilty of gross disobedience or misconduct, including, but not limited to instances set forth below:

- Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling tobacco or vapor products (tobacco includes, but is not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, snuff, smoking tobacco, smokeless tobacco, alternative nicotine product, or any other tobacco or nicotine innovation);
- Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling alcoholic beverages. Students who may be under the influence of alcohol will not be permitted to attend school functions and will be treated as though they had alcohol in their possession.
- Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling illegal drugs or controlled substances, including medical marijuana, look-alike drugs, and drug paraphernalia. Students who may be under the influence of such substances will not be permitted to attend school functions and will be treated as though they had drugs in their possession.
- 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 members or school officials or disobeying rules and regulations governing student conduct.
- Using violence, force, noise, coercion, threats, intimidation, fear, 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. Truancy statutes and Board policy will be utilized for chronic and habitual truants.
- Hazing or bullying.
- 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.

These grounds stated above 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 near, 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 conduct may reasonably be considered to be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a staff member or an interference with school purposes or an educational function.

Disciplinary Measures

Disciplinary measures include, but are not limited to:

- Expulsion
- Suspension
- Detention, including Saturdays
- Clean-up duty
- Loss of student privileges
- Loss of bus privileges
- Notification to juvenile authorities and/or police
- Restitution for damages to school property

No District employee or person engaged by the District may inflict or cause to be inflicted corporal punishment on a student. Corporal punishment does not include reasonable force District personnel are permitted to use as needed to maintain safety for other students, school personnel, or other persons or for the purpose of self-defense.

Possession of a Weapon on School Grounds

The District will refer to law enforcement for immediate prosecution any person who possesses, carries, or stores a weapon on school grounds, except as provided below, and the District may take disciplinary action as well in the case of a student. In addition, the District will refer for possible prosecution a parent or guardian of any minor violating this policy on grounds of allowing a minor to possess, carry, or store a weapon on school grounds.

“School building” means all buildings owned or leased by Missoula County Public Schools (MCPS) that are used for instruction or for student activities; “weapon” means any object, device or instrument designed as a weapon or through its use is capable of threatening or producing bodily harm or which may be used to inflict self-injury including, but not limited to, any firearm, whether loaded or unloaded; air guns; pellet guns; BB guns; fake (facsimile) weapons; all knives; blades; clubs; metal knuckles; numchucks; throwing darts; explosives; fireworks; mace or other propellants; stun guns; ammunition; poisons; chains; arrows; and objects that have been modified to serve as a weapon.

No person shall possess, use or distribute any object, device or instrument having the appearance of a weapon and such objects, devices or instruments shall be treated as weapons including, but not limited to, weapons listed above which are broken or non-functional, look-alike guns; toy guns; and any object that is a facsimile of a real weapon.

No person shall use articles designed for other purposes (i.e., lasers or laser pointers, belts, combs, pencils, files, scissors, etc.), to inflict bodily harm and/or intimidate and such use will be treated as the possession and use of a weapon.

The Board may grant persons and entities 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.

This policy does not apply to law enforcement personnel.

Gun-Free Schools

The Board will expel any student who uses, possesses, controls, or transfers a firearm for a definite period of time of one (1) calendar year. The Board may modify an expulsion period on a case-by-case basis. A building administrator will notify the criminal justice or juvenile delinquency system of any student who brings a firearm to school.

The Board will grant a hearing for any student subject to an expulsion in accordance with § 20-5-202, MCA, and Policy 3300.

Delegation of Authority

The Board grants authority to any teacher and to any other school personnel to impose on students under their charge any disciplinary measure, other than suspension or expulsion, corporal punishment or in-school suspension, that is appropriate and in accordance with policies and rules on student discipline. The Board authorizes teachers to remove students from classrooms for disruptive behavior.

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| Cross Reference: | 3300 | Suspension/Expulsion |
| Legal Reference: | | |
| | § 16-11-302, MCA | Definitions |
| | § 20-4-302, MCA | Discipline and punishment of pupils – definition of corporal punishment – penalty – defense |
| | § 20-5-202, MCA | Suspension and expulsion |
| | § 45-8-361, MCA | Possession or allowing possession of weapon in school building – exceptions – penalties – seizure and forfeiture or return authorized – definitions |
| | § 50-46-320, MCA | Montana Medical Marijuana Act |
| | 20 U.S.C. § 7151 | Gun-Free Schools Act |
| | 29 U.S.C. § 701 | Rehabilitation Act of 1973 |

Policy History:

- Adopted with revisions on: December 13, 2005
- Revised at PN&P on June 30, 2010 and posted for public comment
- Approved on: August 10, 2010
- Revised at PN&P Committee on September 28, 2011 and posted for public comment.
- Approved on: November 8, 2011
- Revised at PN&P Committee on February 29, 2012 and posted for public comment.
- Approved on: April 10, 2012
- Annual Review-approved with no changes: August 13, 2013
- Annual Review-approved with no changes: June 9, 2015
- First Reading for revision on: March 22, 2105 and posted for public comment.
- Approved at Second Reading on: May 10, 2016