

	MURFREESBORO CITY SCHOOL BOARD POLICY		
	Descriptor Term:	Descriptor Number:	Date Adopted:
	DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES	STU 23	1/01
	Revision Adopted:		
	8/01; 4/06		

The following levels of misbehavior and disciplinary procedures and options are designed to protect all members of the educational community in the exercise of their rights and duties.

MISBEHAVIOR: Level I

Minor misbehavior on the part of the student which impedes orderly classroom procedures or interferes with the orderly operation of the school, but which can usually be handled by an individual staff member.

EXAMPLES (not an exclusive listing):

- Demonstrated lack of respect for school employees or any authorized individual
- Demonstrated lack of respect for fellow students
- Classroom disturbances
- Classroom tardiness
- Cheating and lying
- Abusive language
- Non-defiant failure to do assignments or carry out directions
- Harassment (Sexual, Racial, Ethnic, Religious) See Board Policy STU 42
- Bullying (See Board Policy STU 53)

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES:

- Immediate intervention
- Determine what offense was committed and its severity
- Determine offender and that he/she understands the nature of the offense
- Employ appropriate disciplinary options
- Record of the offense and disciplinary action maintained by staff member

DISCIPLINARY OPTIONS:

- Verbal reprimand
- Special assignment
- Restricting activities
- Assigning work details
- Counseling
- Withdrawal of privileges
- Issuance of demerits which might affect conduct grades
- Strict supervision study
- Detention
- In-school suspension

MISBEHAVIOR: Level II

Misbehavior whose frequency or seriousness tends to disrupt the learning climate of the school.

Included in this level are misbehaviors which do not represent a direct threat to the health and safety of others but whose educational consequences are serious enough to require corrective action on the part of administrative personnel.

EXAMPLES (not an exclusive listing):

- Continuation of unmodified Level I behaviors
- School or class tardiness
- School or class truancy
- Use of tobacco
- Using forged notes or excuses
- Disruptive classroom behavior
- Harassment (Sexual, Racial, Ethnic, Religious) See Board Policy STU 42
- Defiant failure to do assignments or carry out directions
- Bullying (See Board Policy STU 53)

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES:

- Student is referred to principal for appropriate disciplinary action.
- Principal meets with student and teacher.
- Principal hears accusation made by teacher, permits student the opportunity of explaining his/her conduct, denying it, or explaining any mitigating circumstances.
- Principal takes appropriate disciplinary action and notifies teacher of action.
- A record of offense and disciplinary action is maintained by principal.

DISCIPLINARY OPTIONS:

- Teacher/schedule change
- Modified probation
- Behavior modification
- Social probation
- Peer counseling
- Referral for Functional Behavior Assessment and development of a Behavior Intervention Plan
- In-school suspension
- Transfer
- Detention
- Suspension from school-sponsored activities or from riding school bus
- Out-of-school suspension (not to exceed ten (10) days)
- Citation--See Board Policy STU 35

MISBEHAVIOR: Level III

Acts directly against persons or property but whose consequences do not seriously endanger the health or safety of others in the school.

EXAMPLES (not an exclusive listing):

Continuation of unmodified Level I and II behaviors
Fighting (simple)
Hazing
Vandalism (minor)
Stealing
Threats to others
Harassment (Sexual, Racial, Ethnic, Religious) See Board Policy STU 42
Look-alike drugs
Look-alike weapons
Bullying (See Board Policy STU 53)

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES:

Student is referred to principal for appropriate action.
Principal meets with student and teacher.
Principal hears accusation by accusing party and permits offender the opportunity of explaining conduct.
Principal takes appropriate disciplinary action.
Principal may refer incident to Director of Schools and make recommendations for consequences. If student's school assignment is to be changed, adequate notice shall be given to the student and his/her parents of the charges against him/her, his/her right to appear at a hearing and to be represented by a person of his/her choosing.
Any change in school assignment is appealable to the Board.
A record of offense and disciplinary action is maintained by principal or Director of Schools.

DISCIPLINARY OPTIONS:

In-school suspension
Detention
Restitution for loss, damage, or stolen property
Out-of-school suspension not to exceed ten (10) days
Social adjustment classes
Transfer
Expulsion
Referral for Functional Behavior Assessment and development of a Behavior Intervention Plan

MISBEHAVIOR: Level IV

Acts which result in violence to another's person or property or which pose a threat to the safety of others in the school. These acts are so serious that they usually require administrative actions which result in the immediate removal of the student from the school, the intervention of law enforcement authorities, and action by the Board.

EXAMPLES: (not an exclusive listing):

Unmodified Level I, II, and III behaviors

Death threat (hit list)
Extortion
Bomb threat
Possession/transfer of firearm*
Possession/use/transfer of dangerous weapons
Assault
Battery*
Hazing
Vandalism
Theft/possession/sale of stolen property
Arson
Possession of unauthorized substances*
Use/transfer of unauthorized substances
Harassment (Sexual, Racial, Ethnic, Religious) See Board Policy STU 42
Bullying (See Board Policy STU 53)

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES:

Principal confers with appropriate staff member(s) and with the student.
Principal hears accusation by accusing party and permits offender opportunity of explaining conduct.
Parents are notified.
Law enforcement officials are contacted.
Incident is reported and recommendations are made to the Director of Schools.
Complete and accurate reports are submitted to the Director of Schools.
Student is given the right to request a hearing before the Disciplinary Hearing Authority.

DISCIPLINARY OPTIONS:

Out-of-School Suspension
Expulsion
Alternative schools
Other hearing authority or Board action which results in appropriate placement
Referral for Functional Behavior Assessment and development of a Behavior Intervention Plan

*Expulsion/Remand for a period of not less than one (1) calendar year subject to modification by the Director of Schools on a case-by-case basis.

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES:

1. A student shall not be suspended solely because charges are pending against him/her in juvenile or other court.
2. A principal shall not impose multiple consecutive short term suspensions that cumulatively exceed ten (10) days for the same offense.
3. A teacher or other school official shall not reduce or authorize the reduction of a student's grade because of discipline problems except in conduct.
4. A student shall not be denied the passing of a course or grade promotion solely on the basis of absences.
5. A student shall not be denied the passing of a course or grade solely on the basis of failure to:

- a. pay any activity fee;
- b. pay a library or other school fine; or
- c. make restitution for lost or damaged school property.

Legal References:

49-6-4001 through 49-6-4105; T.C.A. 49-6-4018
T.C.A. 49-6-3007(1)