

Mansfield Independent School District Student Code of Conduct

The Student Code of Conduct identifies a broad range of behaviors that disrupt learning and are not acceptable in the Mansfield Independent School District. The behaviors are listed in Levels I, II, and III. When a student is found to have engaged in misconduct which may be classified into any of the three levels, that student will be subject to disciplinary action by the classroom teacher, assistant principal and/or principal.

The policies and administrative procedures concerning student conduct apply to actions of students during school hours, before and after school while on school property/school transportation, at all school-sponsored events/activities, field trips, sporting events, assemblies, evening school-related activities, and when the actions affect the missions or operations of the MISD.

Additionally, the Education Code provides unique procedures and specific consequences for two categories of Level III serious offenses whereby the District may expel a student and order placement in a Disciplinary Alternative Education Placement (DAEP) or Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Placement (JJAEP) regardless of:

- 1. The date on which the student's conduct occurred,*
- 2. The location at which the conduct occurred,*
- 3. Whether the conduct occurred while the student was enrolled in the District, or*
- 4. Whether the student has successfully completed any court disposition requirements imposed in connection with the conduct.*

*All students, parents and school personnel should understand that, in addition to taking disciplinary action at the school level, administrators will report all illegal acts to the appropriate authorities. Individual campuses and classrooms may impose rules and consequences in addition to those found in the District Code of Conduct. These rules are in the Campus Handbook. **Copies of the Mansfield Independent School District School Board Policy Manual and the Student Code of Conduct Manual are available at each campus and on the District website for reference.***

The Code of Conduct utilizes a philosophy known as “progressive discipline”:

What is “progressive discipline”?

Progressive discipline means there are different levels of student misbehavior with corresponding levels of appropriate disciplinary consequences. A student who repeatedly does not respond to the appropriate consequence for misbehavior “progresses” to the next level of discipline.

Why can two students receive different consequences for the same act of misbehavior?

*In a system of progressive discipline, two students who have committed the same offense may receive different disciplinary consequences. The reason for this is that one student may be a first-time offender, having no previous record of misbehavior, while the other student may have a previous history of misbehavior. **Under the progressive discipline plan, repeated or multiple***

violations of the Code of Conduct at a lower level (Level I, for example) may automatically progress to a consequence from a higher level (Level II, for example).

MISD Code of Conduct

<p>CAMPUS DISCIPLINE MANAGEMENT OFFENSES LEVEL I</p>

Under the progressive discipline plan, repeated or multiple violations of the Code of Conduct at a lower level (Level I, for example) may automatically progress to a consequence from a higher level (Level II, for example).

- Dress code violations
- Technology Acceptable Use violations
- Recording the voice or image of another without the prior consent of the individuals being recorded or in any way that disrupts the educational environment or invades the privacy of others.
- Tobacco use and possession
- Possession or use of matches, lighters, etc.
- Unexcused absences/truancy
- Possession of prohibited devices including fireworks, ammunition, mace or pepper spray
- Use of a telecommunications device during the instructional school day
- Possession of a razor or box cutter, chain, or other object used in a way that threatens or inflicts bodily injury to another person
- Possession of a knife with a blade less than 5 ½ inches
- Cheating or copying the work of another student
- Falsifying records, passes, or other school-related documents.
- Throwing objects, outside supervised school activities, that can cause bodily injury or property damage
- Leaving school grounds or school-sponsored events without permission
- Insubordination, including failure to comply with lawful directives from school personnel or school policies, rules, and regulations
- Being disrespectful or directing profanity, vulgar language, or obscene gestures toward teachers, school employees or students
- Committing robbery or theft
- Damaging or vandalizing property owned by the District, District employees, students or others
- Disobeying bus conduct rules
- Bullying in any form, including making hit lists
- Fighting, committing physical abuse, or threatening physical abuse
- Name-calling, ethnic or racial slurs, or derogatory statements
- Committing extortion, coercion, blackmail or forcing an individual to act through the use of force or threat of force
- Engaging in inappropriate verbal, physical or sexual conduct; engaging in conduct that constitutes dating violence, including the intentional use of physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control another person with whom the student has or has had a dating relationship.
- Possessing material that is obscene

- Violating safety rules
- Discharging a fire extinguisher
- Possessing a pellet gun, air powered rifle, toy gun or any other instrument that may be perceived by a third party as a firearm
- Calling 911 when no emergency exists
- Possessing martial arts objects
- Gambling of any kind
- Violating extracurricular standards of behavior
- Engaging in any other conduct that disrupts the school environment or educational process

<p style="text-align: center;">DISCIPLINARY CONSEQUENCES FOR LEVEL I OFFENSES</p>
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When administering discipline, students will be treated fairly and equitably. Discipline management techniques will be based on careful assessment of the circumstances of each case, reviewing factors such as:

- 1. The seriousness of the offense**
- 2. The student's age**
- 3. The frequency of the misconduct**
- 4. The student's attitude**
- 5. The potential effect of the misconduct on the school environment**

The following discipline management techniques may be used, alone or in combination, for misbehavior that violates the Student Code of Conduct or campus or classroom rules:

- Oral correction
- Cooling-off time
- Seating changes within the classroom
- Counseling by teachers, counselors, or administrative personnel
- Parent-teacher conferences
- Temporary confiscation of items that disrupt the education process
- Demerits
- Behavioral contracts
- Sending the student to office or other assigned area
- Assigned school duties other than class tasks
- Withdrawal of privileges
- Consequences identified in individual student organization rules
- Withdrawal or restriction of bus privileges
- School-assessed and school-administered probation
- Referral to outside agency and/or legal authority for criminal prosecution in addition to disciplinary measures imposed by the District
- In-school suspension
- Detention
- Saturday detention
- Suspension from school, not to exceed three school days at one time
- Formal removal from class by the teacher
- Removal to a discipline alternative education program (DAEP)

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PLACEMENT OFFENSES (DAEP) LEVEL II

A student **must be placed** in a DAEP if the student engages in conduct relating to a false alarm, bomb or fire threat, pulling a fire alarm, or terroristic threat involving a public school.

A student **must be placed** in a DAEP for any of the following offenses, if the student commits these offenses on school property or within 300 feet of school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property:

- Conduct that contains elements of assault or a terroristic threat
- Selling, giving, or delivering to another person or possessing, using, or being under the influence of:
 - a. Marijuana or controlled substance in an amount not constituting a felony
 - b. Dangerous drug in an amount not constituting a felony
- Selling, giving, or delivering to another person an alcoholic beverage; committing a serious act or offense while under the influence of alcohol; or possessing, using, or being under the influence of alcohol, if punishment is less than a felony
- Possession of drug paraphernalia
- Conduct that contains the elements of an offense relating to abusable glue or aerosol paint or relating to volatile chemicals
- Conduct that contains the elements of the offense of public lewdness or indecent exposure
- Sexual harassment
- Conduct punishable as a felony
- Retaliating against a school employee, when not combined with another offense
- Engages in expellable conduct, if the student is between six and nine years of age
- Commits a federal firearms violation and is younger than six years of age.

A student **may be placed in a DAEP** for any of the following offenses:

- Hazing
- Use of any item as a weapon
- Involvement or soliciting another person to participate in a public school fraternity, sorority, secret society, or gang
- Involvement in criminal street gang activity
- Engaging in criminal mischief
- **Persistent misbehavior (2 or more violations of the SCOC in general or repeated occurrences of the same violation)**
- The District may immediately remove a student to a DAEP for behavior that is so unruly, disruptive, or abusive that the teacher cannot communicate with the class
- Engaging in any serious conduct that disrupts the school environment or educational process

<p style="text-align: center;">EXPULSION OFFENSES (JJAEP) LEVEL III</p>
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Level III offenses include engaging in any behavior listed below on school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property:

- Use, exhibition or possession of weapons:
 - a. Firearms;
 - b. Illegal knife;
 - c. Club;
 - d. Any prohibited weapon as listed by the Texas Penal Code
- Conduct containing the elements of:
 - a. Aggravated assault, sexual assault or aggravated sexual assault;
 - b. Arson;
 - c. Murder, capital murder or criminal attempt to commit murder/capital murder;
 - d. Indecency with a child;
 - e. Aggravated kidnapping;
 - f. Conduct related to an alcohol or drug offense that is a felony
- Retaliation against a school employee in connection with any offense listed above
- Committing continuous sexual abuse of a young child or children
- Engaging in conduct that contains the elements of assault under section 22.01(a)(1) which results in bodily injury of an employee or a volunteer on school property
- Engaging in conduct that contains the elements of assault or retaliation against a school employee or volunteer, regardless of where or when the conduct occurs
- The District may expel for repeated, non-felony alcohol, drug or inhalant-related offenses
- The District may expel for criminal mischief, if punishable as a felony
- The District may expel for continued serious or persistent misbehavior while the student is placed in a DAEP
- The District may expel if necessary to protect persons or property, or for intentionally or knowingly damaging personal property of another person valued at more than \$1500.00, regardless of where the conduct occurred
- The District may expel for engaging in conduct relating to a false alarm or report (including a bomb threat) or a terroristic threat involving a public school

Additionally, the Education Code provides unique procedures and specific consequences for two categories of Level III serious offenses (Registered Sex Offenders; Certain Felonies) whereby the District may expel a student and order placement in DAEP or JJAEP regardless of:

- The date on which the student's conduct occurred,
- The location at which the conduct occurred,
- Whether the conduct occurred while the student was enrolled in the District, or
- Whether the student has successfully completed any court disposition requirements imposed in connection with the conduct.