

Code of Conduct

The Morgan County Board of Education set forth their expectations for student behavior in a conduct code (Policy JCDA). Though the ideal situation would be for all students to meet those expectations, the nature of childhood and adolescence results in inevitable violations of those rules by some students. Teaching students that there are consequences for the choices anyone makes regarding behavior is an important part of their education.

Therefore, the following guidelines have been provided for the teachers and administrators to use in assigning consequences for violation of the rules set forth by the Board of Education. Of course, each case is different in circumstances and in the previous conduct record of the student, as well as the age of the student. Teachers and administrators will take each of those things into consideration as they find appropriate consequences among the ranges specified here. Teachers are expected to deal with conduct issues in their classrooms unless the matter cannot be solved there, or if the offense requires referral to the principal's office.

There may be instances when a primary or elementary school-aged child commits an offense that does not have specific consequences listed for that age level in the code itself. Should that happen, the principal will determine if the consequences listed for the older child are appropriate for the younger child. The principal may confer with the superintendent regarding appropriate disciplinary actions in regard to the offender.

All rules apply to students on school property at any time; off school grounds at a school activity, function or event; en route to and from school; on a school bus or other vehicle transporting students to school or school activities; or at school bus stops. Major offenses, including, but not limited to, drugs and weapon offenses, can lead to a school being named an unsafe school.

Rule 1. Disruption of and Interference with School

No student shall:

A. Occupy any school property with intent to deprive others of its use; block any entrances or exits of school property to deprive access there to

Range of Consequences: Teacher-parent conference to a disciplinary hearing with a recommendation to suspend long term or expel (middle and high only)

B. Set fire to or otherwise damage any school property

Range of Consequences: Replacement cost and a disciplinary hearing with a recommendation to suspend long term or expel (primary, elementary, middle and high)

C. Prevent another student from attending a class or school activity

Range of Consequences: Teacher consequences within the confines of the classroom for initial or minor offenses, to referral to a disciplinary hearing with a recommendation to suspend long term or expel (primary, elementary, middle and high)

D. Prevent or attempt to prevent the normal functioning of school, a class activity or lawful assembly on the school campus.

Range of Consequences: Short-term out-of-school suspension if the act was a prank to a disciplinary hearing with a recommendation to suspend long term or expel if the act was a threat to safety (primary, elementary, middle and high)

E. Block normal pedestrian or vehicular traffic on campus or adjacent grounds.

Range of Consequences: Referral to the principal's office for discipline if the act was a prank to a disciplinary hearing with a recommendation ranging from alternative program placement (short-term) to expulsion if the act was a threat to safety (middle and high only)

F. Continuously and intentionally make noises and act in any manner so as to disrupt class and interfere with the teacher's ability to properly conduct his/her class or any other persistent violation of the code of conduct.

Range of Consequences: Teacher consequences within the confines of the classroom, to referral to principal's office if a repeated offender, to referral to a disciplinary hearing if a chronic offender. (primary, elementary, middle and high)

G. Refuse to identify or falsely identify him/herself upon request of any teacher, principal, superintendent, school bus driver, or other authorized school personnel

Range of Consequences: Teacher consequences within the confines of the classroom, to referral to principal's office if occurs repeatedly or maliciously to avoid punishment, to referral to a disciplinary hearing if occurs concurrently with an act of excessive violence (middle and high only)

H. Urge, encourage or counsel other students to violate any school rule.

Range of Consequences: Teacher conference with the student to referral to principal's office for possible short-term alternative program assignment, to referral to disciplinary hearing (primary, elementary, middle and high)

I. Display, possess, discharge (or threaten to discharge) any explosive on school property

Range of Consequences: Automatic disciplinary hearing with recommendation to expel (primary, elementary, middle and high)

J. Use any electronic devices while inside a school facility or during the process of an instructional activity. Electronic devices that might interfere with school bus communication equipment or the bus driver's operation of the school bus may not be used.

"Electronic devices" includes cell phones and pagers, radios, tape or compact disc players, Ipod/mp3 music players, or any other communication and/or entertainment equipment. At the bus driver's discretion, he/she may allow use of radios, tape or compact disc players or

Ipod/mp3 music players WITH HEADPHONES ONLY.

The only exception would be a parent placing on file in the principal's office a statement of a licensed physician certifying that such a device is necessary for the health of the student.

Range of Consequences: Referral to the principal's office for consequences to include confiscation of the device until parents retrieve it, possible short term alternative program placement, or possible out-of school suspension

K. Distribute materials that would cause substantial disruption of the educational setting or any school activity. Such prohibited materials include, but are not limited to: materials which are obscene; materials which incite students to violate a federal, state or local law, or a state or local school board policy; pornographic materials; materials degrading to any specific individual; materials designed for commercial purposes.

Range of Consequences: Teacher conference with the student with confiscation of the item for primary and elementary students, to referral to the principal's office for consequences, to referral to a disciplinary hearing with a recommendation to suspend long term or to expel for middle and high students

L. Perform any other act that in any way disrupts or obstructs any lawful mission, process or function of the school.

Range of Consequences: Teacher consequences for minor acts, to referral to the principal's office if the disruption affects the entire school, to referral to a disciplinary hearing if the act poses a threat of any kind (primary, elementary, middle or high)

Rule 2. Damage or Destruction of School Property

A. A student shall not intentionally cause or attempt to cause damage to school property, including but not limited to marking, defacing or destroying said property.

Range of Consequences: Restitution costs in every case; teacher consequences to include a conference with the parent if damage is a matter requiring cleaning; referral to principal's office with parent conference if damage is a matter requiring repair; and referral to a disciplinary hearing if damage is substantial and requires replacement (primary, elementary, middle and high)

B. A student shall not steal or attempt to steal school property.

Range of Consequences: Restitution costs in every case; teacher consequences to include a parent conference if the matter involves school materials/supplies; referral to principal's office with parent conference if the matter involves equipment or money; and referral to a disciplinary hearing with a recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion if the matter involves a substantial amount or value in the opinion of the principal (primary, elementary, middle and high)

Rule 3. Damage or Destruction of Private Property

A. A student shall not intentionally cause or attempt to cause damage to private property, to include but not be limited to marking, defacing or destroying said property.

Range of Consequences: Restitution costs in every case; teacher consequences to include a conference with the parent if damage is a matter requiring cleaning; referral to principal's office with parent conference if damage is a matter requiring repair; and referral to a disciplinary hearing if damage is substantial and requires replacement (primary, elementary, middle and high)

B. A student shall not steal or attempt to steal private property.

Range of Consequences: Restitution costs in every case; teacher consequences to include a parent conference if the matter involves school materials/supplies; referral to principal's office with parent conference if the matter involves money or valuable possessions; and referral to a disciplinary hearing with a recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion if the matter involves a substantial amount or value in the opinion of the principal (primary, elementary, middle and high)

C. A student shall not conspire to steal or damage private property.

Range of Consequences: Restitution costs in every case; teacher consequences for primary and elementary students; referral to the principal's office for middle and high school students with possible referral to disciplinary hearing if the matter involves a substantial amount or value in the opinion of the principal

Rule 4. Assault on, Battery or Disrespect to a School Employee

A. A student shall not verbally or physically threaten physical violence to a school employee or any person attending a school-related function.

Range of Consequences: Report to law enforcement and notification of parents of a disciplinary hearing with a recommendation to expel for a minimum of the remainder of the school year with the opportunity to apply to the alternative education program the subsequent year. Notification of law enforcement as required by law is the responsibility of the principal.

B. A student shall not commit any act of physical violence toward any school employee or behave in such a way that physical injury to any school employee or any person attending a school related function could result.

Range of Consequences: In the case of irresponsible actions or physical violence that does not result in harm, referral to the principal's office (or Director of Operations if a bus incident) for consequences including a parent conference (to write a bus behavior contract if incident occurred on bus) to referral to a disciplinary hearing (primary, elementary, middle and high)

When, in the judgment of the principal (or Director of Operations in a bus incident), a case of an actual act of physical violence against a teacher, school bus driver, or other school official or employee, the student will be suspended from school for a period of up to 10 school days pending a disciplinary hearing.

If the hearing officer/tribunal finds the student has committed an act of physical violence against a teacher, school bus driver, school official or school employee, the student shall be expelled from the public school system for the remainder of the student's eligibility to attend public

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school pursuant to Code Section §20-2-150. The Board of Education, at its discretion, may permit the student to attend an alternative education program for the period of the student's expulsion. If such an act is committed by a student in grades K-8, then the Board of Education, at its discretion and with the recommendation of the hearing officer/tribunal, may permit such a student to re-enroll in the regular public school program for grades nine through 12. If the student is in grades K-5, the Board, at its discretion and with the recommendation of the hearing officer/tribunal, may allow the student to re-enroll in the public school system at a date determined by them. The student will be referred to juvenile court as required by law.

C. A student shall not through physical actions, gestures or verbal abuse, such as profane and obscene language, show disrespect to any school employee or any person attending a school related function.

Range of Consequences: Teacher consequences for initial or minor infractions; referral to the principal's office if repeated or substantial in nature; referral to a disciplinary hearing if chronic (primary, elementary, middle and high)

D. A student shall not intentionally fail to obey any teacher, substitute teacher, student teacher, paraprofessional, administrator, or other authorized school personnel's lawful and reasonable request.

Range of Consequences: Teacher consequences for initial or minor infractions; referral to the principal's office if repeated or substantial in nature; referral to a disciplinary tribunal if chronic (primary, elementary, middle and high)

Rule 5. Physical and Verbal Abuse by a Student to Another Student or Person not Employed by the School

A. A student shall not through physical actions, gestures or verbal abuse, such as profane and obscene language, show disrespect to any other student or person not employed by the school at school related functions.

Range of Consequences: Teacher consequences for initial or minor infractions; referral to the principal's office if repeated or substantial in nature; referral to a disciplinary hearing if chronic (primary, elementary, middle and high)

B. A student shall not threaten, cause or attempt to cause bodily injury to any other student or person not employed by the school at school related functions.

Range of Consequences: Referral to the principal's office for consequences including a parent conference for all grade levels, to a referral to a disciplinary hearing for violence or threats of violence of a serious nature for middle and high school students. Report to law enforcement required if assault is of an aggravated nature. *In compliance with O.C.G.A. § 40-5-22, a student may lose his/her driver's license, or be prohibited from obtaining such a license, if he/she has violated this rule.*

C. A student shall not threaten another student or person not employed by the school at any school related function with sexual harassment as defined pursuant to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. (Refer to Rule #13).

Rule 6. Weapons and Dangerous Instruments

A student shall not possess, handle or transmit an object that can reasonably be considered a weapon, including those defined in state law and Morgan County Board of Education Policy JCDAE and all knives. Exceptions to the rule are also noted in state law and Morgan County Board of Education Policy JCDAE.

A student shall not use self-defense sprays such as mace or pepper gas to threaten, intimidate or injure any person or to otherwise cause fear for the safety of any person.

Range of Consequences:

1) Possession of a knife with a blade less than 2": Conference with Parents to Suspension from School at Principal's discretion (all levels)

2) Possession of any weapon as defined in federal or state law and/or Morgan County Schools Board Policy, or use of any knife of any size to threaten or harm another: Automatic disciplinary hearing with recommendation to expel for a full calendar year, according to requirements of the law. Law enforcement will be notified. (primary, elementary, middle and high)

If the hearing officer/tribunal allows, an expelled student may enroll in the CrossRoads Alternative School or another appropriate alternative setting. Each case is subject to review by the superintendent, who has the authority to modify the expulsion requirement in unusual circumstances.

Rule 7. Narcotics, Tobacco, Alcoholic Beverages and Drugs

A. A student shall not possess, sell, use, transmit or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, inhalant, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant of any kind or any type of medicine for which the student does not have on file with the school appropriate medical documentation as required by the district's medication policy and procedure.

Range of Consequences: Referral to the principal's office for consequences that range from a parental conference to a disciplinary hearing with a recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion with referral to law enforcement if required by law (primary, elementary, middle and high).

B. A student shall not possess, sell, use, or transmit any tobacco product.

Range of Consequences: Referral to the principal's office for consequences that range from five days out-of-school suspension to a disciplinary hearing for repeat offenders, where the maximum consequence is long-term suspension for the remainder of the semester (middle and high).

C. A student shall not possess, sell or transmit any substance under the pretense that it is, in fact, a prohibited substance.

Range of Consequences: Referral to the principal's office for consequences that range from five days out-of-school suspension to a disciplinary hearing for repeat offenders, where the maximum consequence is long-term suspension for the remainder of the semester (middle and high)

D. A student with an illness or condition that requires a medical prescription or the use of an over-the-counter medication must comply with the School District's medication policy and procedure and leave that medication in the school office with a note from the parent or the doctor regarding the proper dispensing of the medication. No medications are to be carried on a student's person or left in a locker with the one exception of asthma medication and epinephrine that may be self-administered.

Range of Consequences: Referral to the principal's office for consequences that range from a parental conference to disciplinary hearing with a recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion.

Rule 8. Indecency

A student shall conform to established local mores of decency. They should refrain from:

1. Use of vulgar or profane language,
2. public display of affection,
3. indecent exposure ,or
4. other acts considered indecent

Range of Consequences: For items 1 and 2 listed above, teacher consequences are appropriate for minor infractions at all grade levels. For 3 and 4 listed above, referral to the principal's office is appropriate for consequences that range from parental conference to referral to a disciplinary hearing for cases of a shocking or serious nature committed by middle and high school students.

Rule 9. Inappropriate Sexual Behavior

A student shall not engage in acts that are inappropriate sexual behavior, including, but not limited to:

1. Improper touching
2. Crude and unacceptable language
3. Crude and unacceptable gestures.

Range of Consequences: Referral to principal's office with consequences ranging from a parent conference to referral to a disciplinary hearing for cases of a serious nature in the judgment of the principal or principal's designee—Notification of law enforcement or DFACS may be required, based on act (middle and high). *In light of O.C.G.A. § 40-5-22, a student may lose his/her driver's license or be prohibited from obtaining such a license if he/she has committed any sexual offense prohibited under Chapter 6 of Title 16 of the Georgia Code of Law.*

Rule 10. Truancy

Failure to comply with compulsory attendance as required under O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-690.1, including deception about an absence or tardy to school authorities, parents or both is prohibited. No student shall encourage, urge or counsel other students to be truant.

Range of Consequences: Referral to principal's office for consequences that range from a conference with the student to referral to the school social worker (primary, elementary, middle and high). *In light of O.C.G.A. § 40-5-22, a student may lose his/her driver's license, or be prohibited from obtaining such a license if he/she has accumulated 10 or more unexcused absences in the previous school year and/or the current school year (not cumulative).*

Rule 11. Felony Offenses and Off-Campus Acts that Impact Schools

A. A student who has been arrested, charged or convicted in a court with a felony or an offense which would be considered to be a felony if the student were an adult may be disciplined or excluded from school.

Range of Consequences: Short-term out-of-school suspension to referral to a disciplinary hearing with a recommendation to expel (middle and high); all teachers to whom the student is assigned will be notified of the student's status and given an opportunity to review the student's file.

B. A student who is charged with an assault on another student, a violation of the drug laws or sexual misconduct of a serious nature and whose presence at school is likely to endanger other students or staff or cause substantial disruption to the educational climate may be disciplined or excluded from school.

Range of Consequences: From short-term out-of-school suspension to referral to a disciplinary hearing with a recommendation to expel (middle and high); all teachers to whom the student is assigned will be notified of the student's status and given an opportunity to review the student's file.

Rule 12. Gambling

Gambling on school property or at any school function is prohibited.

Range of consequences: Teacher consequences for minor offenses or incidents occurring in all schools; referral to principal's office with consequences ranging from a parent conference to referral to a disciplinary hearing for cases involving an organized "business" operation for students at the middle or high schools

Rule 13. Harassment

A student shall not violate Board Policy JGIA: Sexual Harassment or JGIB: Racial Harassment.

Range of Consequences: Referral to the principal's office with consequences ranging from out of school suspension to referral to a disciplinary hearing with a recommendation to expel and notification of law enforcement when required (elementary, middle and high)

Rule 14. Bullying

A student must not attempt to use, nor threaten to use, force to inflict injury on another student when there is an apparent ability to do so.

A student must not exhibit an intentional display of force that would cause the victim to fear or expect bodily harm.

Range of Consequences: Referral to the principal's office for consequences that range from short-term assignment to an alternative educational setting to automatic assignment to alternative school upon the third offense (middle and high)

Rule 15. Cheating and/or Forgery

A student must not use the work of others nor represent it as his or her own.

Range of Consequences: Teacher consequences in the confines of the classroom to referral to the principal's office for consequences ranging from parental conference to loss of credit (primary, elementary, middle and high)

Rule 16. Bus Transportation

All rules in the regular Code of Conduct (JCDA-R) apply to behavior on a school bus or at a school bus stop. The Morgan County School System operates bus service for all pupils. A student is expected to act in a quiet and orderly manner when loading, riding, and unloading the bus. This service is a privilege and may be denied for undesirable behavior. The bus driver must be obeyed at all times. If a student feels an order from the driver is unjust, it should be obeyed nonetheless and then the incident reported to the transportation director. Students who come to school on the bus should return home on the bus unless he or she has a note from the parent or guardian and signed by the principal or designee. All bus discipline cases of safety violation are viewed as serious violations. Bus conduct rules are listed in Policy JCDA-R/EDCB-R.

Drivers will make the final decision as to whether or not to file a report on a student for any rule violation. If a report is filed on a student, the consequences are:

Grades 6-12:

1st Offense: Off bus five (5) days, with parent conference

2nd Offense: Off bus rest of the school year

Please note there is not an official warning in writing from a driver or the Director of Operations in grades 6—12. The rules are communicated, the consequences are communicated and these students know what they are.

Physical violence (or language that leads to physical violence) of any kind will result in suspension from the bus for the balance of the year and some offenses are so bad that a more severe penalty may occur. Physical violence within the last 45 days of school may have consequences that carry into the next school year. See Policy JCDA-R/EDCB-R (Sent home with students at the beginning of the year or upon enrollment).

NOTE TO PARENTS REGARDING SCHOOL CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS:

Clubs and organizations are available for your child's participation during the year at Morgan County Elementary, Morgan County Middle and Morgan County High Schools. A complete list of the names of the clubs, mission or purpose of the club, the club's faculty advisor, and a description of past or present planned activities is available for your review at each school. If you should object to your child's participation in any of these clubs, you must write a letter to that effect, listing the club(s) you do not want your child to join, signing it, and sending it to the principal of your child's school.

Note: The Student Code of Conduct may be amended at any time by the Board of Education.

The updated version is always available at www.morgan.k12.ga.us.

Note: The student code of conduct is not intended to cover every possible circumstance occurring at Morgan County High School. The administration will develop school policies and procedures necessary to carry out the mission of Morgan County High School.