

MEDFORD AREA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

DATE ADOPTED:	May 20, 1999	FILE SECTOR:	STUDENTS
DATE REVISED:	September 19, 2002	POLICY TITLE:	CODE OF CLASSROOM
DATE REVISED:	April 16, 2009		CONDUCT
DATE REVISED:	April 21, 2011		
DATE REVISED:	December 18, 2014		
DATE REVISED:	November 30, 2020		

Medford Area Public School District (MAPSD) is committed to maintaining a favorable academic atmosphere. Every member of the school community is expected to cooperate in this mission. Staff, including teachers and administration, must work to create positive learning climates and maintain proper order in their classrooms. Students must come to school ready and willing to learn. Students are expected to abide by all rules of behavior established by the Board of Education (BOE), administration and their classroom teachers as outlined in the student handbook and referenced policies. Parent(s)/guardian(s) should be aware of their child's behavior in school and are asked to cooperate and consult with the school to prevent or address misbehavior.

MAPSD shall not discriminate in standards and rules of behavior, including student harassment, or in disciplinary measures, including suspension and expulsion, on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, color, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, physical, mental, emotional or learning disability. Discrimination complaints shall be handled in accordance with established procedures.

Student behavior that is dangerous, disruptive or unruly or that interferes with the teacher's ability to teach effectively will not be tolerated. Any student who engages in such behavior may be subject to removal from class and placement procedure as outlined in this policy. In addition, the student may be subject to other disciplinary action in accordance with established BOE policies and school rules.

CROSS REFERENCE: JF, JFCH, JFCJ, JFCJA, JFCN, JFG, JFI and JGA
LEGAL REFERENCE: §118.164 & 120.13(1)(a), Wis. Stats. and 20 USC 1415(k)

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This Code of Classroom Conduct applies to all students in grades PreK-12.

For purposes of this policy only, a “teacher” *is defined as a person holding a license or permit issued by the State Superintendent whose employment by MAPSD requires that they hold that license or permit, including teacher assistants.*

For purposes of this policy only, “class/ classroom” *is defined as school premises or environment including, but not limited to: buses, classroom, hallways, parking lot, and out of district events (academic and athletic).*

Reasons for Student Removal from Class

A teacher may remove a student from class for:

- Dangerous, disruptive or unruly behavior or inappropriate behavior of a serious nature that interferes with the ability of the teacher to teach effectively. This type of behavior may include, but is not limited to:
 - Possession or use of a weapon or other item that might cause bodily harm to persons in the classroom.
 - Being under the influence of alcohol, controlled substances or controlled substance analogs, or otherwise in violation of MAPSD student alcohol, tobacco and other drug policies.
 - Sexual or other harassment, including behavior that interferes with another student’s work or school performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive classroom environment.
 - Fighting, taunting, baiting, inciting and/or encouraging a fight or disruption.
 - Disruption or intimidation caused by gang or group symbols or gestures, gang or group posturing to provoke altercations or confrontations.
 - Inappropriate physical contact such as biting, pinching, pushing or striking—another person.
 - Obstruction of classroom activities or other intentional action of a serious nature taken to prevent the teacher from exercising their assigned duties.
 - Interfering with the orderly operation of the classroom by using, threatening to use or counseling others to use violence, force, coercion, threats, intimidation, fear or disruptive means.
 - Dressing or grooming in a manner that presents a danger to health or safety, causes interference with work or creates classroom disorder.

- Repeated disruption or violation of classroom rules, confronting staff argumentatively, or refusing to follow directions.
- Behavior that causes the teacher or other students fear of physical or psychological harm.
- Physical confrontations or verbal/physical threats.
- Willful damage to school property or that of another student.
- Possession of personal property which is prohibited by school rules and disruptive to the teaching and learning of others.
- Repeated use of profanity and obscenities.

When a teacher removes a student from class, the reason must be consistent with provisions outlined above, reasonable, serve a legitimate educational purpose and be nondiscriminatory.

Procedures for Removing a Student from Class

When a student is removed from class for a violation(s) of this Code of Conduct, the teacher shall send the student to the building principal or designee and inform them of the reason(s). The teacher (using an appropriate form) shall provide a written explanation of the reason(s) to the principal or designee within 24 hours.

The principal shall inform the student and/or the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the reason(s) for the removal from class and shall allow the student the opportunity to present their version of the situation. The principal shall then determine the appropriate educational placement for the student.

Placement Procedures

The building principal or designee shall place a student who has been removed from a class by a teacher in one of the following alternative educational settings:

- An alternative education program if available.
- Another class in the school or another appropriate place in the school as determined by the building principal or their designee.
- Another instructional setting.
- The class from which the student was removed if the principal or designee determines that readmission to the class is the best or only alternative.

When making placement decisions, the building principal or designee should consider the following factors:

- The reason the student was removed from the class (severity of the offense), the type of placement options available for students in that particular school and any limitations on such placements (costs, space availability, location, supervision).
- The estimated length of time of placement.
- The student's individual needs and interests.
- Whether the student has been removed from a teacher's class before (repeat offender).
- The relationship of the placement to any disciplinary action (e.g., if student suspension from school is required as a result of the student's conduct, is the placement applicable before and or after the suspension?)

The building principal or designee may consult with other appropriate school personnel when making or evaluating placement decisions. A student's parent(s)/guardian(s) may also be consulted regarding student placement decisions when determined by the building principal or designee to be in the best interests of the persons involved or as required by law.

- All placement decisions shall be made consistent with established BOE policies and in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations.
- The parent(s)/guardian(s) of a minor student shall be notified of a student's placement in an alternative educational setting.
- Except that a student with a disability may be removed from class and placed in an alternative educational setting only to the extent authorized by state and federal laws and regulations.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Notification Procedures

The building principal or designee shall notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) of a minor student when a teacher has removed a student from a class for violation(s) of this Code of Conduct. The initial notice must be attempted by phone and shall be followed, within one day of receipt of written notice from the teacher, by a written parental/guardian notice. The written notification to parent(s)/guardian(s) should be completed on the appropriate form and shall include the reasons for the student's removal from class along with any placement decision involving the student.

If the removal from class and change in educational placement involves a student with a disability, parent(s)/guardian(s) notification shall be made consistent with state and federal laws and regulations.

If the student removed from a class is also subject to additional disciplinary action for the particular classroom conduct (i.e., detention, suspension or expulsion), the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) shall also be notified of the disciplinary action in accordance with legal and policy requirements.

Exceptions

Instances may occur when a teacher sends a student to the principal, designee, or office for reasons other than those described in this Code of Conduct (i.e. minor recess playground rule violations, lunchroom rule violations, counseling, etc.). In these cases it shall be the principal's or designee's determination as to whether a teacher must file a written report and if parent(s)/guardian(s) notification is required.