

# School Community

## EXPECTATIONS

### STUDENTS are expected to:

- Take responsibility for their learning and behavior.
- Come to school every day, on time, ready to learn.
- Follow school and classroom expectations and rules
- Treat teachers, administrators, staff, other students, themselves and property with respect.
- Dress in a manner appropriate to a professional learning community.
- Report serious violations of safety and security to a teacher or other adult at school.

### TEACHERS are expected to:

- Maintain high behavior standards for all students.
- Establish a sense of community in the classroom, including opportunities the school community to learn about, and be respectful of, each other's cultures.
- Communicate regularly with the families of their students.
- Address the needs of the student who misbehaved, those people directly affected by the behavior and the school community.
- Identify students who are struggling with academic, attendance and behavior issues and participate in problem solving to resolve those issues.

### FAMILIES are expected to:

- Hold their child to high standards of achievement and conduct.
- Encourage and praise their child's achievements.
- Teach their child to be respectful of others and reinforce school expectations.
- Model positive, respectful and appropriate school behavior by treating school personnel and others with respect.
- Talk with their child's teacher about their child's academic progress and emotional well being.

### PRINCIPALS are expected to:

- Maintain high expectations for all students.
- Ensure that school staff, students and families know how to bring forward concerns and suggestions and that a process exists for responding to them.
- Provide cultural competence and anti racism leadership with students and staff to ensure a culture of acceptance of the school's diversity.
- Model positive behavior, including practicing fairness and equity.
- Provide positive feedback to students and staff and consult with families of students who are behaving contrary to the policy and school expectations.



This brochure provides highlights of the Minneapolis Public Schools *Code of Conduct* policy. For a full copy of the handbook, talk to your school principal or view online at <http://sss.mpls.k12.mn.us/>

### STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

425 5th St. NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55413  
Ph: (612) 668.0860  
web: [mpls.k12.mn.us](http://mpls.k12.mn.us)

# CODE OF CONDUCT

Minneapolis Public Schools

*Ensuring Safe, Respectful Learning Environments*





## Safe, Respectful Learning Environments

Minneapolis Public Schools is committed to providing safe and respectful learning environments so that all children can reach their academic potential.

To achieve this goal we believe that each member of our community – students, families, teachers, staff, administrators – has a responsibility for fostering a welcoming learning environment where everyone is treated with dignity and kindness.

To this end, Minneapolis Public Schools has policies in place, such as the *Code of Conduct Handbook*, that describe the expectations we have for students (grades pre K-12), staff and families.

We are also here to help. If you have concerns about your child's behavior, well-being, or academic performance, please contact your school principal or one of the district offices listed under **Support Services and Resources** for help.

## How Parents Can Help

**Get to know your children's schools and teachers.** Help your children identify a caring adult in school that they can go to when they need support.

**Talk about school every day.** This tells your child that you believe school is important and helps you stay on top of your child's homework and school activities. Talking can help identify problems before they affect your child's learning.

**Check your child's backpacks daily.** This can help prevent your child from taking a dangerous item to school unintentionally (for example, cap guns, pocket knives, lighters, etc.). Teachers often send notes home with children regarding their progress or homework.

**Talk to your children about making safe and healthy decisions at an early age.** Children don't always know which situations could be dangerous and parents often don't realize how early children are exposed to dangers like tobacco, alcohol and illegal drugs.

**Teach your children to choose friends wisely.** Being with other children who make bad decisions increases the risk that your child might also make bad decisions.

**Role play ways to resist peer pressure.** If your child knows what to say, and has practiced what to say, it will be easier for your child to resist peer pressure.

## Continuum of Interventions

While Minneapolis Public Schools has strict consequences for misbehavior, the District also has a continuum of interventions that help prevent the escalation of misbehavior that might end in a suspension, transfer or expulsion. These proactive approaches include:

- Establishing** caring relationships between students and families.
- Building** a sense of community in the school and in each classroom.
- Teaching** school community expectations.
- Engaging** students in quality instruction.
- Connecting** students and their families to support services such as social worker services, peer mediation, time outs, alternative instruction, and more.

## Infractions and Consequences

Misbehavior in school disrupts teaching and learning and may cause injuries, damage property or violate school rules or civil law. Listed below are misbehaviors that are so serious that a student must be removed from school to maintain a safe and orderly learning environment.

Mandatory Suspension	Definite Referral for Expulsion	Possible Referral for Expulsion	Possible Referral for Administrative Transfer
Weapons Assault Fighting Alcohol and other drugs; possession, use and/or sale Bomb or terrorist threat	<b>Grades 6-12</b> Weapons Assault Sale of alcohol or other drugs	Bomb or terrorist threat Harassment Property offenses Other safety violations	Bomb or terrorist threat Bullying Harassment Other safety violations <b>Grades K-5:</b> Weapons Assault Sale of alcohol or other drugs

## Support Services and Resources

**Academic Affairs Office** provides support to schools and oversight of administrators  
Ph: (612) 668 0640.

**Alternative Schools Office** links students to alternative educational programs, including smaller learning environments, culturally specific programming and opportunities to make up credits for graduation.  
Ph: (612) 668 0720.

**Attendance Office** oversees the District's attendance policies and procedures and provides interventions for truant students.  
Ph: (612) 668 0860.

**Guidance & Counseling** provides supports to students ranging from academic, career development, and personal/social services (counseling, grief/loss support groups, alcohol and other drug counseling, etc).  
Ph: (612) 668 5478.

**Health Related Services/Student Support Services** addresses the social, emotional and physical health needs of students through social work, psychological, counseling and nursing services.  
Ph: (612) 668 0850.

**Hearings and Appeals Office** manages referrals for student transfers and expulsions. Ph: (612) 668 0949.

**Homeless and Highly Mobile Students** provides academic assistance and other services to students who are homeless.  
Ph: (612) 668 5480; For shelter placement, call (612) 332 4500.

**Office of Safe & Drug Free Schools** can help students dealing with alcohol, tobacco and other drug use. Ph: (612) 668 0860.

**District Ombudsman** (District Representative) responds to families and the public's questions and concerns about all things concerning the District.  
Ph: (612) 668 1848.

**Out & Good** creates safe and supportive schools for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students, families, and staff.  
Ph: (612) 668 5482.

**Student Placement Services** (PreK-12 Registration) helps families find the best school to meet your child's educational needs. Ph: 668 1840; English Language Learners families call (612) 668 3700.

**Teenage Pregnant and Parenting Programs (TAPP)** provides support for teen parents and their children to ensure that teen parents graduate. Ph: (612) 668 4700.

## Grievance Procedure

A parent has the right to make a formal complaint against a teacher\* when other attempts to reconcile the conflict have been tried. To activate a Grievance Procedure, the parent should first inform the principal, which will set in motion a formal grievance conference where the parent, teacher (and his/her representative if desired), principal and other District administrators will meet to try and reconcile the conflict. Any complaint remaining unresolved after the school level conference may be forwarded to the Superintendent of Schools for further action. Another meeting will be scheduled for the purpose of reviewing the facts, making further explanations and clarifying the issues.

\*Complaints against school administrators follow the same protocol, except the initial complaint is made to the Associate Superintendent call the Academic Affairs Office for the correct contact person. Ph: (612) 668 0640.