

STUDENT USAGE OF CELL PHONES, ELECTRONIC DEVICES, GAMES AND TOYS

This policy is intended to ensure that a student's personal electronic devices on school property do not interfere with the learning, safety, and well-being of students and staff.

Effective at the start of the 2023 – 2024 school year, students will be allowed to possess cell phones and other personal electronic devices on school buses and at school during the school day according to the specific guidelines and consequences for violating the guidelines developed by the individual schools and posted in the Parent/Student Handbook of each school.

If a student has written authorization from a physician to wear a medical alert device, the student may wear the device and not be in violation of this policy, but the student must present the written authorization from the physician to the principal or his designee at the beginning of the first day the device is worn to school and it must be included in the student's health plan.

If there is a medical reason for a student to possess a cell phone, that may be allowed only pursuant to a section 504 plan or a health plan with prior approval of the principal.

Violation of this policy will result in the confiscation of the device by school authorities and shall be grounds for disciplinary action according to the individual school's hierarchy of consequences for violations of the Student Usage of Cell Phones, Electronic Devices, Games and Toys Policy.

Neither the Morehouse Parish School Board nor its employees will be responsible for loss of or damage to a confiscated electronic device.

Neither the principal or his/her designee shall impose on a student any disciplinary action when any electronic communications device is stored in a motor vehicle and there is no evidence of the student's intent to use or operate the device contrary to the provisions of this policy. Neither the Morehouse Parish School Board, the school or any employee or representative of the Morehouse Parish School Board will be responsible for the loss or damage of any electronic device that may be stolen, damaged, destroyed or confiscated.

Notwithstanding the provisions hereinabove set forth, this policy shall not affect the conduct of law enforcement activities including the use of electronic detection devices, dogs or other means of conducting searches for weapons, drugs or other contraband in whatever manner is otherwise permitted by law and consistent with local School Board policy.

SCHOOL BUS SUSPENSION .

School principals may, upon the recommendation of the bus operator, suspend bus riding privileges. Principals shall notify the Supervisor of Child Welfare and Attendance and the Coordinator of Transportation of all bus suspensions. In all cases of suspension, the parent, the Superintendent of Schools, the Supervisor of Child Welfare and Attendance and the Coordinator of Transportation shall be notified in writing, within a 24 hour period, of the facts concerning each suspension, including reason thereof and terms thereof.

Upon being suspended the student will be given a hearing by the principal or his designee, informing the student as to why he is being suspended and for how long. The student, at that time, must be given an opportunity to explain his version of the facts to the principal or his designee.

FIGHTING

Fighting is unacceptable for any reason at any Morehouse Parish School. A fight is a physical altercation between two or more students. The physical nature of a fight could include, but is not limited to, hitting, punching, slapping, poking, grabbing, pulling, tripping, kicking and pushing.

Students and parents will be informed of the policy regarding the consequences for fighting. They will also be informed to report the incidences of bullying and other hostile behaviors, as soon as they occur, to teachers and administrators.

After each incident of fighting, all efforts will be made to determine the underlying cause of the altercation through assistance from school administrators, the parish psychologist, or the school counselor.

Each student participating in the fight will give his/her account in writing to a school administrator, and if a student's participation in the fight is deemed as self-defense, no punishment will be issued to that participant.

Students in all grades who congregate around a fight preventing school staff members from breaking up a fight or who film or post a video of a fight on social media will also be subject to disciplinary action.

Notwithstanding any other provision contained in this policy manual or any other document, commencing with the 2024-2025 school year students in Pre-K through grade 6 who are found fighting will be suspended three(3) days out of school for the first and second fight. Students in grades 5 and 6 accused of a third fight will be suspended pending a Superintendent's (or designee's) hearing. If found guilty at the hearing the student will be assigned thirty (30) days at the alternative school.

Notwithstanding any other provision contained in this policy annual or any other document, commencing with **2024-2025** School Year, students in grades 7 - 12 who engage in such action as fighting as described above shall follow the hierarchy of offenses listed below.

First Offense Fighting

- The student shall be suspended from school. **A superintendent's (or designee's) hearing will be scheduled, and if the suspension is upheld the student will be assigned to the alternative school for thirty (30) days.** Parents will be informed of the suspension by a phone call and a letter stating the reason for the suspension.
- The parent/guardian of the student must meet with the school principal or his/her designee during the period of the suspension regarding the student's behavior to develop an Action Plan on how to help prevent future altercations before the student can be

admitted back to the school of origin. A copy of the Action Plan should be placed in the student's permanent records.

Second Offense Fighting

- The student shall be suspended for thirty (30) days from school. Parents will be informed of the suspension by a phone call and a letter stating the reason for the suspension.
- The student shall be referred to law enforcement by the school administrator or School Resource Officer.
- After a hearing before the Superintendent or his/her designee, a student found guilty of fighting as a second offense in the same school year shall attend the Fresh Start Alternative School Program for a time period of no more than 30 days. A student may gain early readmission on a probationary basis to his/her school of origin after 20 days based on earning 10 points under the following guidelines:
 1. Five (5) points for the student and his/her parent/guardian attending Saturday Seminar
 2. A half-point (1/2) for each day of attendance with no tardies, leaving before the dismissal bell, dress code violations, or minor rules infractions such as disrespect, disobedience, and disruptions.
 3. Two (2) points for completing and presenting orally a written assignment related to the reason for the student's suspension and ways to prevent future altercations with students.
- Two documented conferences between the student and a school administrator or the school psychologist shall be held during the 30 days to discuss effective ways to handle conflict among his/her peers.
- The parent/guardian of the student must meet with the school principal or his/her designee during the period of the suspension regarding the student's behavior to develop an Action Plan on how to help prevent future altercations before the student can be admitted back to the school of origin. A copy of the Action Plan should be placed in the student's permanent records.

Third Offense Fighting

Any student who is readmitted to his/her school of origin under a probationary period and who is found, after a hearing before the Superintendent or his/her designee, a student found guilty of fighting as a Third Offense in the same school year shall be expelled for one (1) complete school semester and assigned to the Home Bound Program for a period of at least forty-five (45) days. At the end of the time of the Home Bound Program, the student shall be allowed to return to his/her home-based school on probation for the remainder of the original expulsion.

Commencing with the 2020-2021 School Year, students in Pre-K through Grade 4 who are

found fighting will be administered corporal punishment or suspended three (3) days out of school notwithstanding any other provision which may be contained in the policy manual or any other document. Parents will be notified by phone and by letter regarding the disciplinary action.

The provisions of this policy shall be applicable to exceptional children provided special education services pursuant to part I of chapter 8 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes only to the extent the provisions are not in conflict with federal or state statutes, rules, regulations and guidelines applicable to the education of exceptional students.

B. Mandatory suspensions

1. Possession or use, or being under the influence of narcotics, alcoholic beverage, or any controlled dangerous substance governed by the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Law on school grounds during the school day or at school sponsored events or on a school bus to or from school or to or from school sponsored events. A school administrator may reasonably suspect that a student is under the influence of narcotics, an alcoholic beverage or any controlled dangerous substance if any of the following exists: observation of drug use; physical symptoms of intoxication, such as slurred speech, glassy eyes, or breath that smells of alcohol; apparent drug intoxication, abnormal or erratic behavior, or possession of alcoholic beverages or controlled dangerous substances. If a school administrator reasonably suspects that a student is under the influence of narcotics, alcoholic beverages or any controlled dangerous substance, the student's parent or legal guardian will be contacted and requested that the student be given a drug/alcohol screen through the appropriate authorities.
2. Possession or use of **a vape or** tobacco on school grounds during the school day, or at school sponsored events or on a school bus to or from school or school sponsored events.
3. The presence of a student on any school campus or at a school sponsored event in which a Morehouse Parish School is participating if the student is suspended from school, or truant
4. Unauthorized presence of a student at a school to which he is not assigned during school hours
5. Threatening a teacher or other school personnel
6. Violation of closed campus rules including leaving school without permission
7. Refusal of corporal punishment
8. Initiating false fire alarms or other false alarms
9. Any other reason which the principal or assistant principal deems necessary in aiding the student in modification of unacceptable behavior
10. Harassment, intimidation, or bullying pursuant to policy H-15.1
11. **Defacing or destroying of school property - Pupil or parents or guardians are to pay cost of repairs or replacement**
12. **Cutting, defacing or injuring school buses. Pupil or parents or guardian are to pay cost of repairs or replacement**
13. **Cutting, defacing or injuring property of another student, a teacher, principal or employee of the school board**
14. **Leaving classroom during class hours or detention without permission**
15. **Truancy**

- C. Discretionary Suspensions- The principal or principal's designee must document at least 4 interventions prior to any discretionary suspension including but not limited to: (1) conference with the student; (2) time in office; (3) parent conference; (4) individualized instruction; (5) refer to counselor/behavioral specialist; (6) detention; (7) time out at home (not to exceed one day); (8) community service; (9) restitution; (10) mediation; (11) conflict resolution; (12) corporal punishment.
1. Inappropriate clothing or appearance at school, on a school bus or at a school sponsored event
 2. Stealing or cheating
 3. Forging or using forged notes or excuses
 4. Committing act of defiance, either in language or action, in or out of classroom
 5. Position of fireworks or other explosives on the school campus or school sponsored events
 6. Refusing to comply with any reasonable request of a teacher or other school employee in or out of the classroom
 7. **LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY**
 8. Willful disobedience
 9. Intentional disrespect to a teacher. principal. Superintendent. member, or employee of the school board
 10. The making against any one of the above individuals of an unfounded charge
 11. Unchaste or profane language
 12. Immoral or vicious practices or conduct or habits injurious to other parties at school
 13. Disturbing the school, classroom, or students (includes school bus)
 14. **LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY**
 15. **LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY**
 16. Writing any profane or obscene language or drawing obscene pictures in or on any school material or in any public school premises, or on any fence, pole, sidewalk or building on the way to or from school, or on any school bus
 17. Throwing missiles or other items which could injure other persons on school grounds or on any school bus
 18. Violation of traffic and safety regulations
 19. **LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY**
 20. Habitual tardiness or absenteeism
 21. Instigating or participating in a fight-Pre-K-grade 6
 22. **LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY**
 23. **LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY**
 24. Violation of any other school rule unique to the individual school
 25. Any other serious offense
 26. Any other reason which the principal or assistant principal deems necessary in aiding the student in modification of unacceptable behavior
 27. Misbehavior on a school bus or school pick up site
 28. Threatening or making a threat to another student.