

Weakley County Board of Education

Descriptor Code:
6.313

Discipline Procedures

Revised Date:
10/21/14

The following levels of misbehavior and disciplinary procedures and options are designed to protect all members of the educational community in the exercise of their rights and duties. ¹

MISBEHAVIORS: Level I

Level I Misbehavior is minor misbehavior on the part of the student which impedes orderly classroom procedures or interferes with the orderly operation of the school, but which can usually be handled by an individual staff member.

Examples (not an exclusive listing):

- Classroom disturbances
- Classroom tardiness
- Cheating and lying
- Abusive language
- Nondefiant failure to do assignments or carry out directions
- Harassment (Sexual, Racial, Ethnic, Religious)

Disciplinary Procedures:

- Immediate intervention by the staff member.
- Determine what offense was committed and its severity.
- Determine offender and that he/she understands the nature of the offense.
- Employ appropriate disciplinary options.
- Record the offense and disciplinary action maintained by staff member.

Disciplinary Options:

- Verbal reprimand
- Special Assignment
- Restricting activities
- Assigning work details
- Counseling
- Withdrawal of privileges
- Issuance of demerits which might affect citizenship or department grades
- Strict supervised study
- Detention
- Corporal punishment
- In-school suspension

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MISBEHAVIORS: Level II

Level II Misbehavior is misbehavior whose *frequency* or *seriousness* tends to disrupt the learning climate of the school. Included in this level are misbehaviors which do not represent a direct threat to the health and safety of others but whose educational consequences are serious enough to require corrective action on the part of administrative personnel.

Examples (not an exclusive listing):

- Continuation of unmodified Level I behaviors
- School or class tardiness
- School or class truancy
- Use of tobacco in unauthorized areas
- Using forged notes or excuses
- Disruptive classroom behavior
- Harassment (Sexual, Racial, Ethnic, Religious)

Disciplinary Procedures:

- Student is referred to principal for appropriate disciplinary action.
- Principal meets with student and teacher.
- Principal hears the accusation made by teacher, permits the student the opportunity of explaining his/her conducts, denying it or explaining any mitigating circumstances.
- Principal takes appropriate disciplinary action and notifies teacher of action.
- Records offense and disciplinary action maintained by principal.

Disciplinary Options:

- Teacher/schedule change
- Modified probation
- Behavior modification
- Social probation
- Peer counseling
- Referral to outside agency
- In-school suspension
- Transfer
- Detention
- Suspension from school-sponsored activities or from riding school bus
- Corporal punishment
- Restricting school related honors student is otherwise due
- Out-of-school suspension (not to exceed ten (10) days).

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MISBEHAVIORS: Level III

Level III Misbehavior acts directly against persons or property but whose consequences *do not seriously endanger* the health or safety of others in the school.

Examples (not an exclusive listing):

Continuation of unmodified Level I and II behaviors
Fighting (simple)
Vandalism (minor)
Stealing
Threats to others
Harassment (Sexual, Racial, Ethnic, Religious)

Disciplinary Procedures:

Student is referred to principal for appropriate disciplinary action.
Principal meets with student and teacher.
Principal hears accusation by the accusing party and permits offender the opportunity of explaining the conduct.
Principal takes appropriate disciplinary action.
Principal may refer incident to director of schools and make recommendations for consequences.
If student's program is to be changed, adequate notice shall be given to the student and his/her parents of the charges against him, his/her right to appear at a hearing and to be represented by a person of his/her choosing.
Any change in school assignment is appealable to the Board.
Records offense and disciplinary action maintained by principal or director of schools.

Disciplinary Options:

In-school suspension
Detention
Corporal punishment
Restitution from loss, damage or stolen property
Out-of-school suspension not to exceed ten (10) days
Social adjustment classes
Transfer
Expulsion

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MISBEHAVIORS: Level IV

Level IV Misbehavior is an act that results in violence to another's person or property or that *poses a threat* to the safety of others in the school. These acts are so serious that they usually require administrative actions which result in the immediate removal of the student from the school, the intervention of law enforcement authorities and action by the Board.

Examples (not an exclusive listing):

Unmodified Level I, II and III behaviors
Death threat (hit list)
Extortion
Bomb threat
Possession/use/transfer of dangerous weapons *
Assault
Battery *
Vandalism
Theft/possession/sale of stolen property
Arson
Possession of unauthorized substances *
Use/transfer of unauthorized substances
Harassment (Sexual, Racial, Ethnic, Religious)

Disciplinary Procedures:

Principal confers with appropriate staff members and with the student.
Principal hears accusation by accusing party and permits offender opportunity of explaining conduct.
Parents are notified.
Law enforcement officials are contacted.
Incident is reported and recommendations made to the director of schools.
Complete and accurate reports are submitted to the director of schools.
Student is given hearing before disciplinary hearing authority.

Disciplinary Options

Expulsion
Alternative schools
Other hearing authority or Board action which results in appropriate placement
* Expulsion/Remand for a period of not less than one (1) calendar year subject to modification by the director of schools on a case-by-case basis.

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ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES:

1. A student shall not be suspended solely because charges are pending against him/her in juvenile or other court.
2. A principal shall not impose successive short term suspensions that cumulatively exceed ten (10) days for the same offense.²
3. A teacher or other school official shall not reduce or authorize the reduction of a student's grade because of discipline problems except in deportment or citizenship.
4. A student shall not be denied the passing of a course or grade promotion solely on the basis of absences except as provided by board policy.
5. A student shall not be denied the passing of a course or grade promotion solely on the basis of failure to:
 - a) pay any activity fee;
 - b) pay a library or other school fine; or
 - c) make restitution for lost or damaged school property.

Legal Reference:

1. TCA 49-6-4001 through 49-6-4105; TCA 49-6-4018
2. TCA 49-6-3007(1)

Cross Reference:

Suspension/Expulsion/Remand 6.316