

Weymouth Public School Middle School Handbook

2017-2018

Proposed Changes

Second Reading July 27th

*Please note that this is a draft and that the page numbers will not always align until the final draft is completed

General Information

Student Expectations

Old Text:

Students are subject to disciplinary actions up to and including suspension for the following reasons:

1. Bullying
2. Smoking or possession of nicotine related substances, including, but not limited to, snuff and dip chewing tobacco
3. Possession or use of alcohol or alcohol-related substances
4. Possession or use of any controlled substance, including drugs and prescription medication
5. Truancy
6. Violation of the school's tardy policy
7. Leaving the building without permission
8. Fighting, or threatening to fight. Students who encourage others to fight, attend fights, or set up fights between other individuals may also be subject to disciplinary actions.
9. Disrespectful behavior or threats toward other students, administrators, teachers or other staff members, both on and off school property.
10. Stealing
11. Skipping class
12. Loitering on school grounds before and after school hours
13. Possession and /or use of fireworks, including snaps
14. Vandalism, including graffiti
15. Repeated office referrals
16. Failure to report to office detention
17. Abusive or vulgar language
18. Anything that threatens the health, safety and/or property of any student or staff member
19. Insubordination and/or refusal to obey any reasonable request by a staff member
20. Any gambling, including card playing
21. Causing false fire alarms or evacuations
22. Possession or use of a dangerous weapon, or an item assumed to be one

23. Buying or selling items not authorized by the school, or exchanging money for any reason
24. Possession and/or use of inappropriate items for school such as, but not limited to:
 - a. Water pistols
 - b. Lighters/matches
 - c. Leather straps/large chains
 - d. Stars
 - e. Studded clothing
 - f. Music playing devices
 - g. Electronic games—laser pens
 - h. Beepers or personal phones
 - i. Inhalants
 - j. Over the counter medication
25. Forgery, or signing a name other than your own, to any school related document
26. Public displays of affection (kissing, embracing, and/or other forms of inappropriate sexual behavior)
27. Stink bombs or similar items
28. Sexual harassment
29. Disruptive hallway behavior, such as running, shouting and/or shoving
30. Inappropriate use of the computer network, including but not limited to email and the Internet
31. Continued disregard of the dress code policy
32. Continued disregard of school policy
33. Other disruptive or inappropriate acts judged serious by a member of the administration

Range of Consequences

Any student who violates the Code of Conduct may be assigned a range of consequences based on the severity of the offense. This range of consequences includes:

Confiscation

Students who are in possession of or who are using item not allowed in school by the Code of Conduct, may have the item confiscated for a period of time ranging from overnight to the balance of the school year.

Warning

For minor issues, a student may be advised that a behavior or comment is inappropriate for the school environment, and that, if it is repeated, an escalated consequence will be assigned.

Lunch Detention

A student who has exceeded the number of tardies for any quarter, or who has shown inappropriate behavior in the cafeteria, may be assigned to eat lunch in an area outside of the cafeteria. Such lunch detention is completed in silence, and is under the supervision of a staff member.

Teacher Detention

Teachers are authorized and have the responsibility for maintaining order within the school and on school property. Teachers may assign teacher detention for infractions of class rules or behavior. The length of the detention will be determined by the teacher. Failure to report to

teacher detention will result in an office referral.

Office Detention

A detention is a consequence that requires a student to stay after school. You may be assigned a detention for violating any of the school rules or policies. Students will be notified at least one day prior to his/her serving the detention. The student is responsible for keeping track of assigned detentions. Further consequences may be assigned for students who fail to meet regular detention obligations or have accumulated more than five office detentions during a term.

Long Detention

Long detentions take place two days a week until 5:00 p.m. Students are assigned long detention for more serious or continuously repetitive actions or behaviors. During this extended after school time, students are expected to bring academic work to be completed during this time. Parents are notified prior to the specific long detention day. Transportation home is not provided.

Suspension

Suspension is a very serious consequence for violations of school rules. When a suspension is assigned, a student is either removed from his/her classes and placed in the independent work station in school, or is sent home to be supervised by his/her parent or guardian. Parental contact must be made before home suspension is enforced.

An independent work station is a consequence which requires the student to remain under the direct supervision of a staff member. During that time, the student will be provided with schoolwork by his/her teachers. The assigned work must be completed and returned to teachers by the end of the day. In the case of either an independent work station or out of school suspension, a parental conference is required with a school administrator before the student will be readmitted to his/her program.

Exclusion/Expulsion

The following provisions relate to the possible exclusion of students. These provisions are excerpted from recent statutes:

1. Any student who is found on school premises or at a school-sponsored or school-related event, including athletic games, in possession of a dangerous weapon, including but not limited to, a gun or knife, or a controlled substance.
2. Any student found in possession of, or using, a substance as defined by Chapter 94C, including, but not limited to, marijuana, cocaine or heroin, may be subject to expulsion from the school or the school district by the principal.
3. Any student who feigns possession or use of any of the above-mentioned is subject to disciplinary action.
4. Any student who assaults a principal, housemaster, teacher, or other staff member on school premises or at a school-sponsored or school-related event, including athletic games, may be subject to expulsion from the school or the school district by the

principal.

5. Upon the issuance of a criminal complaint charging a student with a felony delinquency complaint, the principal may suspend such student for a period of time determined appropriate by the principal, if the principal determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school.

All other cases of exclusion or expulsion will be heard by the School Committee.

New Text:

~~Students are subject to disciplinary actions up to and including suspension for the following reasons:~~

- ~~34. Bullying~~
- ~~35. Smoking or possession of nicotine related substances, including, but not limited to, snuff and dip chewing tobacco~~
- ~~36. Possession or use of alcohol or alcohol related substances~~
- ~~37. Possession or use of any controlled substance, including drugs and prescription medication~~
- ~~38. Truancy~~
- ~~39. Violation of the school's tardy policy~~
- ~~40. Leaving the building without permission~~
- ~~41. Fighting, or threatening to fight. Students who encourage others to fight, attend fights, or set up fights between other individuals may also be subject to disciplinary actions.~~
- ~~42. Disrespectful behavior or threats toward other students, administrators, teachers or other staff members, both on and off school property.~~
- ~~43. Stealing~~
- ~~44. Skipping class~~
- ~~45. Loitering on school grounds before and after school hours~~
- ~~46. Possession and/or use of fireworks, including snaps~~
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- ~~48. Repeated office referrals~~
- ~~49. Failure to report to office detention~~
- ~~50. Abusive or vulgar language~~
- ~~51. Anything that threatens the health, safety and/or property of any student or staff member~~
- ~~52. Insubordination and/or refusal to obey any reasonable request by a staff member~~
- ~~53. Any gambling, including card playing~~
- ~~54. Causing false fire alarms or evacuations~~
- ~~55. Possession or use of a dangerous weapon, or an item assumed to be one~~
- ~~56. Buying or selling items not authorized by the school, or exchanging money for any reason~~
- ~~57. Possession and/or use of inappropriate items for school such as, but not limited to:~~
 - ~~a. Water pistols~~
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- i. ~~Inhalants~~
- j. ~~Over the counter medication~~
- 58. ~~Forgery, or signing a name other than your own, to any school related document~~
- 59. ~~Public displays of affection (kissing, embracing, and/or other forms of inappropriate sexual behavior)~~
- 60. ~~Stink bombs or similar items~~
- 61. ~~Sexual harassment~~
- 62. ~~Disruptive hallway behavior, such as running, shouting and/or shoving~~
- 63. ~~Inappropriate use of the computer network, including but not limited to email and the Internet~~
- 64. ~~Continued Disregard of the dress code policy~~
- 65. ~~Continued Disregard of school policy~~
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 10. Upon the issuance of a criminal complaint charging a student with a felony delinquency complaint, the principal may suspend such student for a period of time determined appropriate by the principal, if the principal determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school.

Students are expected to act with proper behavior at all times. This includes traveling to and from school, on school premises, on school buses, at bus stops, at school sponsored or school related events, and at athletic events.

Violations or disregard for school rules and regulations will lead to disciplinary action by school administrators; (Principal and Assistant Principal) which could result in ~~early dismissal~~ **emergency removal** from school, parental conference, detention, internal or external suspension from school for one to ten days, or exclusion from school and restitution for any damages to private or school property.

The following offenses will lead to disciplinary action:

- Physical assault, fighting or other acts of violence on any member of the school community
- Threats of violence directed toward any member of the school community
- Use of obscene, abusive or profane language or gestures
- Hazing
- Committing acts of vandalism
- Harassment, which is defined as discriminatory remarks or actions regarding, but not limited to the following: race/color, sex, religion, disability, national origin, sexual orientation and gender identity.
- The sale, distribution, use or unauthorized possession of drugs (including synthetic substance or materials that simulate drugs), alcoholic beverages or any other devices or materials of any sort injurious to the well-being of the school community
- Possession of weapons of any kind including knives of any length or shape, firearms, firecrackers, or any other explosive materials
- Possession of simulated weapons, laser lights, or any other items not herein specified that would upset the school's normal operation. School personnel will confiscate inappropriate items
- Theft of school or personal property or receiving such stolen items
- Obtaining money, material goods or favors by threat of physical harm
- Destruction of or damage to school or personal property. Restitution will be required
- Sounding false alarm for fire/police, tampering with the call box covers, calling a bomb threat, or disrupting the normal school procedure in any way
- Starting a fire
- Truancy
- Leaving the school building or school property during school hours without permission
- Failure to meet detention obligations
- Loitering within the school building or on the school grounds after the normal school day
- Using any of the school facilities without supervision of a teacher or coach on school grounds
- Forgery of school related documents
- Open and continued defiant behavior toward school personnel

- The use of personal listening devices/video devices, telephones, pagers, still or video cameras (unless used for approved school activities), or other electronic devices is prohibited during the school day. If a student chooses to bring an electronic device to school (i.e. cell phone, iPod or texting device), it is to be silenced during the school day, unless used for specific instructional purposes as designated by the supervising teacher. Failure to follow this policy will result in the confiscation of the electronic devices and possible further disciplinary actions.
- Public displays of affection are not in good taste and are unacceptable in a public school
- Committing any illegal act on school property or at school sponsored events off school property
- Intimidating behavior directed towards faculty, staff, or peers, including any behavior involving physical contact, emotional manipulation, verbal abuse, and purposeful embarrassment (behavior may include but is not limited to, inappropriate epithets, derogatory comments, slurs, and lewd propositions, impeding or blocking movement, violations of personal space, offensive touching or any physical interference with normal work or movement, and visual insults involving drawing or postings)

Any act, not herein specified, which is unfavorable to the interest of the school and community as determined by the Principal/Associate principal, and/or Dean.

Education Service Plan

In accordance with Massachusetts General Law 37 H ¾, when a student has been suspended or expelled, he/she will continue to be provided with education services during the period of suspension or expulsion from the district. Weymouth Public Schools may offer student the services including, but not limited to:

- Independent Work Station
- Home Tutoring

Rationale:

To align language with the student expectation language in the High School Handbook