

**DISCIPLINARY RESPONSES TO STUDENT MISBEHAVIOR  
(DCPS Student Discipline Policy, DCMR Chapter 25)**

Current as of July 6, 2009

**Tier 1**

Tier 1 behaviors are those behaviors that are insubordinate or cause minor disruptions to the academic environment but do not involve damage to school property or harm to self or others. Tier 1 behaviors result in classroom-level disciplinary responses that may be elevated to administrative response if they are not successfully abated by the teacher or the appropriate school-level committee.

<b>Behavior</b>	<b>Disciplinary Response(s)</b>
Refusal to present school-issued identification upon request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Verbal redirection or reprimand</li> <li>● Teacher/student conference</li> <li>● Parental contact in writing or by phone</li> <li>● Teacher/Parent conference</li> <li>● Temporary Removal of Student from Classroom*</li> <li>● In-School Disciplinary Action*</li> <li>● Behavior contract</li> <li>● Other school-based consequences as approved by a person designated by the Chancellor</li> </ul>
Noncompliance with an approved dress code <sup>1</sup>	
Attending class without required class materials or assigned work	
Off-task behaviors that demonstrate disengagement from classroom learning	
Unexcused lateness for school or class	
Behaviors that disrupt or interfere with classroom teaching and learning	
Inappropriate displays of affection	
Excessive noise in the classroom, hall, or building	
Running in the classroom, hall, or building	
Communication with staff and peers that is not polite, courteous, or respectful	
Directing profanity or obscene/offensive gestures toward peers	
Refusal to comply with reasonable staff instructions, or classroom or school rules	
Any behavior or other conduct not specifically enumerated in any other tier in this chapter that is insubordinate or causes minor disruption to the academic environment but does not involve damage to school property or harm to self or others	

<sup>1</sup> In the case of non-compliance with an approved dress code or uniform policy, disciplinary actions are described in DCMR Chapter 24 Section B2408.16

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**Tier 2**

Tier 2 behaviors are those behaviors not specifically enumerated in any other tier in this chapter that cause disruption to the academic environment, involve damage to school property, or may cause minor harm to self or others. Tier 2 behaviors result in school-based and administrative disciplinary responses.

<b>Behavior</b>	<b>Disciplinary Response(s)</b>
Using computer/office equipment without permission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Verbal redirection/reprimand</li> <li>● Teacher/student conference or Administrator/student conference</li> <li>● Parental contact in writing or by phone</li> <li>● Administrator/parent conference</li> <li>● Temporary Removal of Student from Classroom*</li> <li>● In-School Disciplinary Action*</li> <li>● Behavior contract</li> <li>● Other school-based consequences as approved by a person designated by the Chancellor</li> </ul>
Intentional misuse of school equipment/supplies/facilities	
Unauthorized use of portable electronic devices during school hours (e.g. mp3 players, cell phones)	
Leaving classroom without permission	
Unexcused absence from class	
Unauthorized presence in hallway during class time	
Unexcused absence from school <sup>2</sup>	
Inappropriate or disruptive physical contact between students	
Directing profanity or obscene/offensive gestures toward staff	
Throwing objects that may cause injury or damage property	
Any behavior or other conduct not specifically enumerated in any other tier in this chapter that causes disruption to the academic environment, involves damage to school property, or may cause minor harm to self or others	
Documented pattern of persistent Tier 1 behavior	

<sup>2</sup> DCMR Chapter 21 (Attendance and Transfers) provides guidance about student attendance

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**Tier 3**

Tier 3 behaviors are those behaviors not specifically enumerated in any other tier in this chapter that cause significant disruption to the academic environment or cause harm to self or others. In addition to lesser consequences, Tier 3 behaviors may result in either on-site or off-site Suspension.

<b>Behavior</b>	<b>Disciplinary Response(s)</b>
Inappropriate use of DCPS computer or network (restricted websites, offensive emails)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Verbal redirection/reprimand</li> <li>● Teacher/student conference or Administrator/student conference</li> <li>● Parental contact (written or by phone)</li> <li>● Parent conference</li> <li>● Temporary Removal of Student from Classroom*</li> <li>● Behavior contract</li> <li>● In-School Disciplinary Action*</li> <li>● Grade reduction for academic dishonesty</li> <li>● On-site Short-Term Suspension* with provision of appropriate intervention services</li> <li>● Off-site Short-Term Suspension*, except in response to unexcused tardiness or absence</li> <li>● Off-site Medium-Term Suspension*, except in response to unexcused tardiness or absence</li> </ul>
Sale or distribution of any item without authorization	
Possession or distribution of obscene or pornographic material on school premises	
Possession or use of tobacco	
Use of alcohol	
Use of marijuana, controlled dangerous substances, imitation controlled substances, inhalants, other intoxicants, or drug paraphernalia	
Unauthorized possession, use, or distribution of over-the-counter medication	
Verbal, written, or physical threat to person or property (including intimidating postures)	
Obscene, seriously offensive, or abusive language or gestures	
Causing disruption on school properties or at any DCPS-sponsored or supervised activity	
Gambling	
Communicating slurs based on actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, genetic information, disability, source of income, status as a victim of an intrafamily offense, or place of residence or business, including derogatory sexual language	
Engaging in sexual acts on school premises or at school-related functions	

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**Tier 3 (continued)**

<b>Behavior</b>	<b>Disciplinary Response(s)</b>
Leaving school without permission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Verbal redirection/reprimand</li> <li>● Teacher/student conference or Administrator/student conference</li> <li>● Parental contact (written or by phone)</li> <li>● Parent conference</li> <li>● Temporary Removal of Student from Classroom*</li> <li>● Behavior contract</li> <li>● In-School Disciplinary Action*</li> <li>● Grade reduction for academic dishonesty</li> <li>● On-site Short-Term Suspension* with provision of appropriate intervention services</li> <li>● Off-site Short-Term Suspension*, except in response to unexcused tardiness or absence</li> <li>● Off-site Medium-Term Suspension*, except in response to unexcused tardiness or absence</li> </ul>
Academic dishonesty	
Forgery	
Lying to or giving misleading information to school staff	
Posting or distributing material or literature that is disrespectful, demeaning, humiliating, or damaging to students and/or staff. This includes posting material on internet or sending material electronically (via email or cell phone)	
Engaging in behavior that demonstrates gang/neighborhood crew affiliation (displaying clothing or gestures associated with gangs)	
Hazing	
Bullying, or using humiliating, or intimidating language or behavior including Internet bullying	
Possession of tools or instruments which school administrators deem could be used as weapons	
Engaging in reckless behavior that may cause harm to self or others	
Extortion	
Fighting where there is no injury and no weapon	
Trespassing	
Any behavior or other conduct not specifically enumerated in any other tier in this chapter that causes significant disruption to the academic environment or causes harm to self or others	
Documented pattern of persistent Tier 2 behavior	

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**Tier 4**

Tier 4 behaviors are those behaviors not specifically enumerated in any other tier in this chapter that cause disruption to the school operation, destroy school property, or cause significant harm to self or others. Tier 4 behaviors result in off-site Suspension.

<b>Behavior</b>	<b>Disciplinary Response(s)</b>
Acts of vandalism, destruction of property, or graffiti (tagging)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Off-site Short-Term Suspension*, except in response to unexcused tardiness or absence</li> <li>● Off-site Medium-Term Suspension*, except in response to unexcused tardiness or absence</li> <li>● Off-site Long-Term Suspension*, except in response to unexcused tardiness or absence</li> </ul>
Documented theft of school or personal property without force	
Interfering with school authorities or participating a major disruption of the school's operation	
Tampering with, changing, or altering an official record or document of a school	
Persistent Harassment based on actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, genetic information, disability, source of income, status as a victim of an intrafamily offense, or place of residence or business	
Lewd or indecent public behavior or sexual misconduct	
Sexual harassment	
Retaliation for reporting harassment and sexual harassment	
Fighting which creates substantial risk of or results in minor injury	
Inciting others to violence or disruption	
Activating false alarm	
Contaminating food	
Possession of a weapon* or replica or imitation of a weapon (including water guns), other than weapons subject to the requirements of the Gun-Free Schools Act	
Using an article that is not normally considered a weapon to intimidate or threaten another individual	
Any behavior or other conduct not specifically enumerated in any other tier in this chapter that causes disruption to the school operation, destroys school property, or causes significant harm to self or others	
Documented pattern of persistent Tier 3 behavior	

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**Tier 5**

Tier 5 behaviors are those behaviors not specifically enumerated in any other tier in this chapter that are illegal, cause significant disruption to the school operation, or cause substantial harm to self or others. Tier V behaviors result in off-site Suspension or Expulsion.

<b>Behavior</b>	<b>Disciplinary Response(s)</b>
Acts of Exceptional Misconduct at other schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Off-site Long-Term Suspension*, except in response to unexcused tardiness or absence</li> <li>• Expulsion*</li> </ul>
Vandalism/destruction of property over \$500	
Selling or Distribution of marijuana, prescription drugs, controlled dangerous substances, imitation controlled substances, inhalants, other intoxicants, controlled or drug paraphernalia	
The Possession or Distribution of alcohol	
The Possession of drug paraphernalia or controlled substance, irrespective of the amount or type, pursuant to the criminal statutes of the District of Columbia, codified at D.C. Official Code § 48-1101 et seq. (2001)	
Causing serious disruption or damage to school’s computer systems, electronic files, or network	
Possession of fireworks or explosives	
Theft or attempted theft using force, coercion, intimidation or Threat of violence	
Assault/physical attack on student or staff	
Fighting which results in a serious physical injury	
Participating in group fight which has been planned, causes major disruption to school day or results in substantial bodily injury	
Using an article that is not normally considered a weapon to injure another individual	
Use, threatened use, or transfer of any weapon*	
Use, Possession, or bringing to school a loaded or unloaded firearm, as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921 (2000), including but not limited to pistols, blank pistols, starter pistols, revolvers, rifles, and shotguns.	
Any behavior that violates the Gun Free School Act	

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**Tier 5 (continued)**

<b>Behavior</b>	<b>Disciplinary Response(s)</b>
Assault with a weapon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Off-site Long-Term Suspension*, except in response to unexcused tardiness or absence</li> <li>• Expulsion*</li> </ul>
Commission or attempted commission of any act of sexual assault or sexual aggression	
Arson	
Biohazard	
Bomb threat	
Any other intentional use of violence, force, coercion, Threats, intimidation, or other comparable conduct which causes or attempts to cause severe physical injury, substantial disruption, or obstruction of any lawful mission, process, or function of the D.C. Public Schools	
Any behavior or other conduct not specifically enumerated in any other tier in this chapter that is illegal, causes significant disruption to the school operation, or causes substantial harm to self or others	
Documented pattern of persistent Tier 4 behavior	

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**Definitions of Disciplinary Responses**

**Temporary Removal of Student from Classroom** – removal from the student’s classroom for less than half a school day, not to extend beyond the time of dismissal on the day of the disciplinary action. During any such removal, the student shall be supervised and provided with instructional materials.

**In-School Disciplinary Action** –disciplinary actions such as after-school detention, loss of privileges (including recess), exclusion from extracurricular activities, written reflection, conflict resolution, mediation, or similar actions of short duration that do not result in the student’s loss of academic instruction time.

**Short-Term Suspension**—on-site or off-site suspension for one (1) to five (5) school days for Secondary students or one (1) to three (3) school days for Elementary students).

**Medium-Term Suspension**—suspension for six (6) to ten (10) school days.

**Long-Term Suspension**—suspension for eleven (11) to ninety (90) school days.

**Expulsion**—the denial of the right of a student to attend any DCPS school or program, including all classes and school activities, except DCPS Alternative Educational Settings, for one (1) calendar year.

**Notice of non-discrimination.** In accordance with the D.C. Human Rights Act of 1977, as amended, D.C. Official Code §§ 2-1401.01 et seq. (Act), the District of Columbia does not discriminate on the basis of actual or perceived: race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, genetic information, disability, source of income, or place of residence or business. Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination which is prohibited by the Act. In addition, harassment based on any of the above protected categories is prohibited by the Act. Discrimination in violation of the Act will not be tolerated. Violators will be subject to disciplinary action. The following office has been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies: Equal Employment Opportunity Office, District of Columbia Public Schools, 825 North Capitol Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002.

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