




Marietta City Schools Discipline Handbook Review

2009-2010



Especially for Parents

- In accordance with O.C.G.A. § 20-2-751.5, students and parents/guardians are asked to read the discipline handbook and sign/date the form at the front of the handbook.
- If your parent/guardian does not want you to participate in the statewide needs assessment survey, they must sign and return the form in the front of the discipline handbook.

Especially for Parents (cont.)

- If your parent/guardian does not want you to participate in a club or activity, they must sign the form in front of the discipline handbook.
- If your parent/guardian does not want your photograph or other information that has been classified as “directory information” released, they must sign the “opt-out” form that is in the discipline handbook.

Page 4 (Interrogations, Searches, and Complaints)

- The principal or his/her representative has the right to interrogate and search students **without** prior parental knowledge or consent.
- Any student who believes that a decision made by a school employee is unfair or in violation of a school policy may appeal that decision to the principal. The appeal must be made **in writing within two school days** of the decision.

Page 5 (Disruptive Students)

- Teachers may remove students who repeatedly or substantially interfere with the teacher's ability to communicate effectively with the students in the class or with the ability of the student's classmates to learn ... or determines that such behavior of the student poses an immediate threat to the safety of the student's classmates or the teacher.

Page 6 (Assignment to Alternative School)

- Marietta City Schools retains the right to assign disruptive students or students who frequently or severely violate the student discipline code to an alternative educational setting (applicable to grades 6-12). Unless a minimum time period is specified by a disciplinary tribunal or through a waived tribunal, students shall be assigned for a minimum of one complete semester.

Page 7&8 (Drivers' Licenses)

- Students (17) years of age and younger may lose their eligibility for a Georgia instructional /learner's permit or driver's license if:
 - They dropped out of school for 10 consecutive days
 - Have more than 10 school days of unexcused absences in the current academic year or 10 or more school days of unexcused absences during the previous academic year;

Page 7&8 (Drivers' Licenses, cont.)

- Have been found guilty by a disciplinary tribunal or waived their right to a hearing and pleaded guilty to one of the following:
 - Threatening/striking/causing bodily harm to a teacher or other school personnel
 - Possession or sale of drugs or alcohol at school or at school sponsored event
 - Possession or use of a weapon at school or at school sponsored event
 - Any sexual offense prohibited under Chapter 6 of Title 16 of the Georgia Criminal Offenses Code
 - Causing substantial or visible bodily harm to or seriously disfiguring another person, including another student.

Page 8 (Jurisdiction & Definitions)

- This code is in effect on school property, engaging in or attending a school-sponsored event, or while using the school technology resources.
- Key Definitions:
 - Bullying – willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so; or intentional displays of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm. Some examples include, but are not limited to, standing someone against a wall and daring them to move; pretending like you are going to hit someone with the intention of trying to scare them; or making someone pay a toll to walk down a hallway or use the restroom.

Page 9 (Definitions) cont.

- Key Definitions:
 - Sexual harassment – Verbal, visual or physical conduct of a sexual nature (including, but not limited to, unwelcome sexual advances or gestures, requests for sexual favors, sexually offensive slurs, sexually offensive drawings or posters directed towards another person) where there is a pattern of harassing behavior or a single significant incident.

Page 10

- Discipline Levels

- Level 1 discipline is used for minor acts of misconduct which interfere with the good order of the school.
 - Consequences range from administrative conference to 3 days ISS and/or restitution. May also include detention, work detail, and/or Saturday school
- Level 2 discipline is used for intermediate acts of misconduct.
 - Consequences range from an administrative conference to 5 days OSS and/or restitution. May also include ISS, detention, work detail and/or Saturday school.
- Level 3 discipline is used for serious acts of misconduct.
 - Consequences range from OSS to permanent expulsion and may include referral to an alternative educational program. **Repeated violation of any part of this behavior code may be considered a Level 3 offense.**

Page 10 - 27

- Violations:
 - Alcohol/illegal drugs/inhalants – No student shall possess, consume, transmit (give away), store, buy, sell, be under the influence, etc.
 - Attendance violations -
 - No student shall fail to attend school as required by the Georgia Compulsory Attendance laws.
 - No student shall miss any class or activity, or be tardy, for which he or she is enrolled without a valid excuse.
 - Students shall not leave school grounds during the course of the regularly scheduled school day without the permission of a parent and school principal or designee. Students must follow the established procedure for checking in or out of school.

Page 11- 27 (cont.)

- Bomb Threat – defined as transmitting in any manner a false alarm to the effect that a bomb or other explosive of any nature is concealed on school property creating a potentially dangerous situation.
- Bullets, BB's Paint Ball Pellets – Students may not possess ammunition, BB's, paint pellets, or CO2 cartridges. These items are disruptive to the function of the school and may pose a safety risk.

Page 11 – 27 (cont.)

- Bus behaviors – Students shall follow all student behavior policies and regulations while on school provided transportation, including, but not limited to, the prohibitions on physical violence, bullying, assault, battery, disrespectful behavior, or other unruly behavior.
- In the event a student's bus privileges are suspended, it shall be the responsibility of the parent, or the student if over 18 years old, to provide transportation to and from school and to and from extra-curricular and interscholastic activities.

Page 11 – 27 (cont.)

- Communications devices – The possession or use of cell phones, or other electronic communication devices during school hours, within the school building, or on a school bus is prohibited. There is no prohibition against students storing such devices in their personal automobiles parked on campus.
- Disrespectful and disruptive behavior is expressly prohibited.

Page 11 – 27 (cont.)

- False reports – No student shall make false calls to emergency services or report false fire alarms which create a potentially dangerous interruption to the normal school operation. No student shall make false reports regarding inappropriate teacher, administrator or school employee behavior.
- Gambling – No student shall participate in any type of gambling activity as defined by state law or that involves the wagering or betting of services, money or other items.

Page 11 – 27 (cont.)

- Gang-related activity:
 - A gang is defined as any group or association of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, which encourages, solicits, promotes, urges, counsels, furthers, advocates, condones, assists, causes, advises, procures, or abets any illegal or disruptive activity or behavior of any kind, whether on or off school campuses or school property.
 - Gang related violations of the behavior code will be dealt with severely.

Page 11 – 27 (cont.)

- Off-campus offenses – Off-campus misconduct for which a student shall be disciplined includes, but is not limited to, any off-campus conduct that is:
 - Prohibited by Georgia or U.S. criminal codes
 - Punishable as a **felony** or would be punishable as a felony if committed by an adult
 - Conduct for which a student has been arrested, indicted, adjudicated to have committed, or convicted.

Page 11 – 27 (cont.)

- **Parties to the offense:**
 - **No student shall urge, encourage, counsel, further, promote, assist, cause, advise, procure, or abet any other student(s) to violate any section or paragraph of the behavior code.**
 - **In other words, if you are boosting your friend to fight another student; or you are standing around a fight and encouraging the two combatants to fight, you are violating the behavior code and are subject to punishment as written in the behavior code.**

Page 11 – 27 (cont.)

- Physical offense: Fighting, mugging, intentionally spitting at someone, physical bullying, horseplay etc., are expressly prohibited.
 - Consequence are applied in relation to the severity and frequency of the offense.
- Prescription drugs:
 - No student shall be in possession of prescription medication not prescribed for the student. No student shall sell, distribute, or possess with intent to distribute any prescribed medication on school property.

Page 11 – 27 (cont.)

- Property related offense:
 - Parents and/or students will be held responsible for restitution of the full value of any damaged or stolen property. This is in addition to whatever consequence the student is given for violating the behavior code.
- Sexual offense:
 - Three types and three levels of severity:
 - Sexual misconduct: amorous kissing and other improper displays of affection.
 - Sexual harassment: defined on page 9 of the handbook
 - Sexual battery/molestation: criminal offense as well as a violation of the behavior code. Violators will be dealt with severely.

Page 11 – 27 (cont.)

- Tobacco:
 - Student possession or use of tobacco or tobacco product substitutes and cigarette look-alikes on school property and at school-sponsored events is prohibited.
 - Marietta City Schools is a tobacco free zone for students and employees.
- Weapons: A student shall not possess, handle, transmit, or cause to be transmitted; use or threaten to use; sell; attempt to sell; or conspire to sell a weapon, either concealed or open to view, on school property.
 - The penalty for violating the weapons provisions of the behavior code range from OSS to permanent expulsion and the filing of criminal charges.

Page 11 – 27 (cont.)

- Clubs and Organizations:
 - The names of student clubs and organizations, the mission or purpose of such clubs or organizations, the names of the club's or organization's contacts or faculty advisors, and a description of past or planned activities, are contained at the back of the discipline handbook.
- **RSVP (Report School Violence Pronto): Anyone having information concerning violence or potential violence should call 770-499-3911 or dial 911. All information is confidential and you may remain anonymous if you wish.**