

Student Behavior Discipline Policy—Chapter 25

Current as of the printing of this planner. For the most up-to-date information on the DCPS student discipline policy, visit: <https://dcps.dc.gov/chapter25>

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.

Behavior	Disciplinary Response(s)
Refusal to present school-issued identification upon request	Verbal redirection or reprimand Teacher/scholars conference
Noncompliance with an approved dress code	Parental contact in writing or by phone Teacher/Parent conference
Attending class without required class materials or assigned work	Temporary Removal of Scholars from Classroom*
Off-task behaviors that demonstrate disengagement from classroom learning	In-School Disciplinary Action* Behavior contract
Unexcused lateness for school or class	Other school-based consequences as approved by a person designated by the Chancellor
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	

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.

Behavior	Disciplinary Response(s)
Using computer/office equipment without permission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbal redirection/reprimand • Teacher/scholars conference or Administrator/scholars conference • Parental contact in writing or by phone • Administrator/parent conference • Temporary Removal of Scholars from Classroom* • In-School Disciplinary Action* • Behavior contract • Other school-based consequences as approved by the Chancellor
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	
Inappropriate or disruptive physical contact between scholars	
Directing profanity or obscene/offensive gestures toward staff	
Throwing objects that may cause injury or damage to 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	

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.

Behavior	Disciplinary Response(s)
Inappropriate use of DCPS computer or network (restricted websites, offensive emails)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbal redirection/reprimand • Teacher/scholars conference or Administrator/scholars conference • Parental contact (written or by phone) • Parent conference • Temporary Removal of Scholars from Classroom* • Behavior contract • In-School Disciplinary Action* • Grade reduction for academic dishonesty • On-site Short-Term Suspension* with provision of appropriate intervention services • Off-Site Short-Term Suspension*, except in response to unexcused tardiness or absence • Off-site Medium-Term Suspension*, except in response to unexcused tardiness or absence • Off-site Medium-Term Suspension*, except in response to unexcused tardiness or absence • Verbal redirection/reprimand • Teacher/scholars conference or Administrator/scholars conference • Parental contact (written or by phone) • Parent conference • Temporary Removal of Scholars from Classroom* • Behavior contract • In-School Disciplinary Action*
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 intra-family offense, or place of residence or business, including derogatory sexual language.	
Engaging in sexual acts on school premises or at school-related functions	
Leaving school without permission	
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 scholars and/or staff. This includes posting material on Internet or sending material electronically (via email or cell phone)	

Tier 3 (continued)

Behavior	Disciplinary Response(s)
Engaging in behavior that demonstrates gang/ neighborhood crew affiliation (displaying clothing or gestures associated with gangs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade reduction for academic dishonesty • On-site Short-Term Suspension* with provision of appropriate intervention services • Off-site Short-Term Suspension*, except in response to unexcused tardiness or absence • Off-site Medium-Term Suspension*, except in response to unexcused tardiness or absence
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 for 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	

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.

Behavior	Disciplinary Response(s)
Acts of vandalism, destruction of property, or graffiti (tagging)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Off-site Short-Term Suspension*, except in response to unexcused tardiness or absence • Off-site Medium-Term Suspension*, except in response to unexcused tardiness or absence • Off-site Long-Term Suspension*, except in response to unexcused tardiness or absence
Documented theft of school or personal property without force	
Interfering with school authorities or participating in 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 intra-family offense, or place of residence or business.	

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 for others. Tier 5 behaviors result in off-site Suspension or Expulsion.

Behavior	Disciplinary Response(s)	
Acts of Exceptional Misconduct at other schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Off-site Long-Term Suspension*, except in response to unexcused tardiness or absence • Expulsion* 	
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 § 48-11-1 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 scholars or staff		
Fighting which results in a serious physical 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		
Assault with a weapon		

Tier 5 (continued)

Behavior	Disciplinary Response(s)
Commission or attempted commission of any act of sexual assault or sexual aggression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Off-site Long-Term Suspension*, except in response to unexcused tardiness or absence • Expulsion*
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	

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 students 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.