



Board Agenda Item #	Agenda # II A- Consent Item
Date:	September 13, 2018
To:	Magnolia Board of Directors
From:	Alfredo Rubalcava, CEO & Superintendent
Staff Lead:	David Yilmaz, Chief Accountability Officer
RE:	Approval of proposed changes to the MPS Student/Parent Handbook and its policies to comply with AB 699

Proposed Board Recommendation

I move that the board approve the proposed changes to the MPS Student/Parent Handbook and its policies to comply with AB 699.

Background

- AB 699 is a new bill on education equity around immigration and citizenship status. AB 699 requires that all local educational agencies in California implement additional protections to ensure that all students, regardless of immigration status or country of birth, have the opportunity to pursue their education without undue fear or risk.
- On June 21, 2018 LAUSD asked all charter schools to provide evidence of board adopted policies in accordance with AB 699:

Dear Charter School Leaders and Governing Board Chairpersons:

As part of oversight in the 2018-2019 school year, each charter school will be asked to provide evidence of their school’s board-adopted policy, in accordance with AB 699. We are asking charter schools to email their policy, with a copy of the board agenda and minutes in which the board reviewed and approved the policy, to [charterschools@lausd.net](mailto:charterschools@lausd.net) no later than October 5, 2018. The subject on the e-mail must identify the name of the school and AB 699 Policy i.e. Our future – AB 699 Policy.

*(LAUSD notice is attached.)*

- On March 9, 2017 MPS Board of Directors adopted “MPS Safe Zones Resolution” for the safety of our students and families. The background of the resolution, as included on the cover page of the agenda, stated:

“With the current immigration climate, we want to ensure that our families and students feel safe at all of our MPS campuses by becoming a safe school. This resolution will allow for us, as an organization, to protect student records in the event that the U.S.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) requests access to such records.

It is important that we continue to provide a high-quality educational program in a safe environment where everyone is welcome no matter their immigration status, ethnicity, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, disability, or beliefs.”

And the said Resolution resolved that, “That the Magnolia Public Schools Board of Directors directs the Chief Executive Officer to designate all MPS campuses as safe zones. This designation shall mean that:

- MPS campuses will offer counseling and referrals to agencies that offer assistance on immigration matters to all student and their families who need support and resources;
- All if any, ICE requests of student records or access to any MPS campus must be submitted in writing to the MPS CEO and/or designee for review and response in consultation with legal counsel.”

*(MPS Resolution is attached.)*

- Besides having a “Safe Zones Resolution” MPS has worked with our legal counsel, YMC, to review our Student/Parent Handbook to ensure compliance with AB 699. The following yellow highlights are the proposed additions to the handbook and its policies.

Pg. 6 under FERPA	Note that MPS will not release information to third parties for immigration-enforcement purposes, except as required by law or court order.
Pg. 47 under Visitation Guidelines	All visitors shall register in the main office immediately upon entering any school building or grounds when during regular school hours, including immigration enforcement officers. When registering, the visitor is required to provide his/her name, address, age (if under 21), his/her purpose for entering school grounds, and proof of identity. If the visitor is a government officer/official (including but not limited to local law enforcement officers, immigration enforcement officers, social workers, district attorneys, or U.S. attorneys), the officer will also be asked to produce any documentation that authorizes school access. MPS shall make reasonable efforts to notify parents or guardians prior to permitting a student to be interviewed or searched, consistent with the law and/or any court order, warrant or instructions from the officer/official. A copy of the documentation provided by the officer and notes from the encounter may be maintained by MPS. The MPS Governing Board and Bureau of Children’s Justice in the California Department of Justice, at BCJ@doj.ca.gov, will be timely informed regarding any attempt by a law-enforcement officer to access a school site or a student for immigration-enforcement purposes, as recommended by the Attorney General.
Pg. 66 under Title IX	As used in this policy, discrimination, sexual harassment, harassment, intimidation, and bullying are described as the intentional conduct, including verbal, physical, written communication or cyber-bullying, including cyber sexual bullying, based on the actual or perceived characteristics of disability, pregnancy, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, ancestry, race or ethnicity, immigration status, religion, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, childbirth or related medical conditions, marital status, age, or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual

	or perceived characteristics or any other basis protected by federal, state, local law, ordinance or regulation. In addition, bullying encompasses any conduct described in the definitions set forth in this Policy. Hereafter, such actions are referred to as “misconduct prohibited by this Policy.”
Pg. 71 under UCP	a. MPS shall investigate and seek to resolve complaints using policies and procedures known as the Uniform Complaint Procedure (“UCP”) adopted by our local board. Unlawful discrimination harassment, intimidation, or bullying complaints may be based on actual or perceived characteristics of age, ancestry, color, disability, ethnic group identification, gender expression, gender identity, gender, genetic information, nationality, national origin, immigration status, race or ethnicity, religion, sex, or sexual orientation, or on the basis of a person’s association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics, in any MPS program or activity.
Pg. 73 under UCP	<b>For allegation(s) of unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying, please check the basis of the unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying described in your complaint, if applicable:</b>  <b>Immigration Status (is added to the categories)</b>

*(Revised Student/Parent Handbook is attached.)*

- Please find attached the cover letter to LAUSD outlining the policy updates we made for compliance with AB 699.
- Also attached is the Attorney General’s “Know Your Rights” information handout. In accordance with Education Code Section 234.7 and consistent with the cover letter to the District, the “Know Your Rights” handout will be provided to parents/guardians upon enrollment to the School.

Budget Implications

N/A

How Does This Action Relate/Affect/Benefit All MSAs?

This action ensures policy compliance with AB 699.

Name of Staff Originator:

David Yilmaz, Chief Accountability Officer

Attachments

- 1. LAUSD AB 699 notice to schools
- 2. MPS Safe Zones Resolution
- 3. Draft Letter to LAUSD
- 4. “Know Your Rights” handout
- 5. Revised MPS Student-Parent Handbook\_2018-19



**LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
CHARTER SCHOOLS DIVISION**

333 South Beaudry Avenue, 20<sup>th</sup> Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017  
Office: (213) 241-0399 ♦ Prop. 39: (213) 241-5130 ♦ Fax: (213) 241-2054

**AUSTIN BEUTNER**  
*Superintendent of Schools*

**FRANCES GIPSON, Ph.D.**  
*Chief Academic Officer  
Division of Instruction*

**JOSÉ COLE-GUTIÉRREZ**  
*Director, Charter Schools Division*

June 18, 2018

**SUBJECT: EDUCATIONAL EQUITY: IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP STATUS  
BILL (AB 699)**

Dear Charter School Leaders and Governing Board Chairpersons:

As you may be aware, on October 5, 2017, the California Legislature passed Assembly Bill 699 titled the *Educational Equity: Immigration and Citizenship Status* bill (AB 699). AB 699 amended Sections 200, 220 and 234.7 of the Education Code to help California's public K-12 schools and other local educational agencies protect the rights of undocumented students and their families. California laws not only empower schools to provide all students equal access to a public education, but also provide equal educational rights to immigrant students in safe and welcoming school environments.

As part of AB 699, Attorney General Xavier Becerra published, "*Promoting a Safe and Secure Learning Environment for All: Guidance and Model Policies to Assist California's K-12 Schools in Responding to Immigrant Issues*," found here: <https://oag.ca.gov/sites/all/files/agweb/pdfs/bcj/school-guidance-model-k12.pdf>. This guide equips California's public schools with information and resources to safeguard the rights and privacy of students and their families in the event of immigration enforcement at public schools. The guide offers governing law and model policies for handling and responding to the following circumstances:

1. Gathering and Handling Student and Family Information.
2. Sharing Student and Family Information.
3. Responding to Requests for Access to School Grounds for Immigration-Enforcement Purposes.
4. Responding to Detention or Deportation of a Student's Family Member.
5. Responding to Hate Crimes and Bullying Related to National Origin or Ethnicity.

AB 699 encompasses the following requirements for Local Educational Agencies, (LEA), including charter schools:

- a) Requires all LEAs to adopt the Attorney General's model policies, or equivalent policies, by July 1, 2018.
- b) Requires the superintendent of a school district, "and the principal of a charter school, as applicable" to report to the governing board in a timely manner any requests for information or access to a school site by a law enforcement agency for the purpose of enforcing immigration law.

- c) Requires the governing board or body of an LEA to provide information to parents/guardians regarding their children's right to a free public education, regardless of immigration status or religious beliefs.
- d) Requires the governing board or body of an LEA to educate pupils about the negative impact of bullying based on actual or perceived immigration status or religious beliefs.

As part of oversight in the 2018-2019 school year, each charter school will be asked to provide evidence of their school's board-adopted policy, in accordance with AB 699. ***We are asking charter schools to email their policy, with a copy of the board agenda and minutes in which the board reviewed and approved the policy, to [charterschools@lausd.net](mailto:charterschools@lausd.net) no later than October 5, 2018. The subject on the e-mail must identify the name of the school and AB 699 Policy.***

Please note that in addition to the Attorney General's guide, additional publications are available at the [Bureau of Children's Justice's website](#), such as a [Quick Reference for School Officials](#) and a [Student and Family Checklist](#), which is provided in English, Spanish, Traditional Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Tagalog and Arabic.

Sincerely,



José Cole-Gutiérrez, Director  
Charter Schools Division



Board Agenda Item #	Item II B
Date:	March 9, 2017
To:	Magnolia Board of Directors
From:	Caprice Young, Ed.D., CEO & Superintendent
Staff Lead:	Alfredo Rubalcava, Chief External Officer
RE:	MPS Safe Zones Resolution

**Proposed Board Recommendation**

I move that the board approve the Safe Zones Resolution for the safety of our students and families.

**Background**

With the current immigration climate, we want to ensure that our families and students feel safe at all of our MPS campuses by becoming a safe school. This resolution will allow for us, as an organization, to protect student records in the event that the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) requests access to such records.

It is important that we continue to provide a high-quality educational program in a safe environment where everyone is welcome no matter their immigration status, ethnicity, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, disability, or beliefs.

**Budget Implications**

No budget implications at this time.

**CFO Approval**

No approval needed at this time.

**How Does This Action Relate/Affect/Benefit All MSAs?**

This resolution and action that follow will benefit all students, parents, and staff at MPS by offering services as needed.

**Name of Staff Originator:**

Alfredo Rubalcava, Chief External Officer

**Attachments**

**MPS Safe Schools Board Resolution**

Magnolia Public Schools  
Board of Directors

Resolution: 20170309-1

**MPS CAMPUSES ARE SAFE ZONES FOR IMMIGRANT STUDENTS AND FAMILIES**

**Whereas**, Magnolia Public Schools (MPS) provides a college preparatory educational program emphasizing Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) in a safe environment that cultivates respect for self and others regardless of, but not limited to, their immigration status, ethnicity, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, disability, or beliefs;

**Whereas**, MPS students reside in some of the most underserved area of Los Angeles, Orange County and San Diego including the communities of Reseda, Van Nuys, Carson, Northridge, Bell, Palms, Venice, and Santa Ana – a region that is home to a large immigrant population;

**Whereas**, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) certifies to not conduct immigration enforcement activity at any sensitive location including schools. Such conduct would require prior approval by specific federal law enforcement officials unless exigent circumstances exist. State and federal laws prohibit educational agencies from disclosing personally identifiable student information to law enforcement, without the consent of a parent or a guardian, a court order or lawful subpoena, or in the case of a health emergency;

**Now, therefore, be it resolved**, That the Magnolia Public Schools Board of Directors directs the Chief Executive Officer to designate all MPS campuses as safe zones. This designation shall mean that:

- MPS campuses will offer counseling and referrals to agencies that offer assistance on immigration matters to all student and their families who need support and resources;
- All if any, ICE requests of student records or access to any MPS campus must be submitted in writing to the MPS CEO and/or designee for review and response in consultation with legal counsel.

**Passed and adopted** by the Board of Directors at a meeting held on March 9, 2017, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Umit Yapanel, Secretary  
MPS Board of Directors

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



September 14, 2018

Via U.S. Mail and Email to:  
*charterschools@lausd.net*

José Cole-Gutiérrez, Director  
Los Angeles Unified School District  
Charter Schools Division  
333 South Beaudry Avenue, 20<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

**Re: Educational Equity: Immigration and Citizenship Status (AB 699)**

Dear Mr. Cole-Gutiérrez:

On behalf of Magnolia Public Schools (“MPS” or “Charter School”), this letter responds to your June 18, 2018 letter regarding the Educational Equity: Immigration and Citizenship Status Bill (AB 699). AB 699 protects the rights of undocumented students to equal access to a public education. As set forth in detail below, MPS has revised or adopted a number of policies to comply with AB 699.

On March 9, 2017, Charter School adopted Resolution No. 20170309-1, which recognized Charter School as a Safe Haven School and declared the Charter School Board of Directors’ commitment to the success of all students, irrespective of their immigration status, ethnicity, race, religion, sexual orientation, ability, sex and gender identity, socio-economic status or beliefs.

MPS has updated its Student/Parent Handbook and revised and adopted specific Board Policies equivalent to the Attorney General’s Model Policy to implement AB 699, as follows:

- Student Educational Records and Student Information Policy and FERPA Annual Notice
- Classroom and School Volunteer, Visitation, and Removal Policy
- Uniform Complaint Procedures and Annual Notice
- Title IX, Harassment, Intimidation, Discrimination, and Bullying Policy and Annual Notice
- Non-Discrimination Statement



Consistent with your June 18, 2018 letter, the Resolution, Board policies and Student/Parent Handbook address the following topics covered by AB 699:

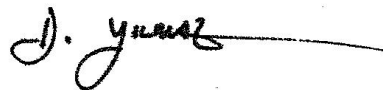
- Gathering and Maintaining Student and Family Information.
- Releasing/Sharing Student and Family Information.
- Responding to Requests for Access to School Grounds for Immigration-Enforcement Purposes.
- Responding to Detention or Deportation of a Student's Family Member.
- Addressing Hate Crimes and Bullying Related to National Origin or Ethnicity.

As required by AB 699 and the Los Angeles Unified School District, the Charter School's Board of Directors adopted these updates to its policies for distribution to MPS families at the start of the 2018-2019 school year. The updated policies require the Charter School Principal to timely report to the Charter School's Board of Directors any requests for information or access to the school site by a law enforcement agency for the purpose of enforcing immigration law.

Information about children's rights to a free education regardless of immigration status or religious beliefs and the Attorney General's *Know Your Rights* handout will be provided to students upon enrollment to Charter School. This handout further includes information and rights regarding detention or deportation of a student's family member. Students will also receive education regarding the negative impact of bullying based on actual or perceived immigration status or religious beliefs.

This letter is intended to provide evidence of Charter School's compliance with AB 699 as also required by the District. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Yilmaz", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David E. Yilmaz  
Chief Accountability Officer  
Magnolia Public Schools  
[dyilmaz@magnoliapublicschools.org](mailto:dyilmaz@magnoliapublicschools.org)  
(213) 628-3634 x115

## Appendix G

### Know Your Educational Rights

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#### Your Child has the Right to a Free Public Education

- All children in the United States have a Constitutional right to equal access to free public education, regardless of immigration status and regardless of the immigration status of the students' parents or guardians.
- In California:
  - All children have the right to a free public education.
  - All children ages 6 to 18 years must be enrolled in school.
  - All students and staff have the right to attend safe, secure, and peaceful schools.
  - All students have a right to be in a public school learning environment free from discrimination, harassment, bullying, violence, and intimidation.
  - All students have equal opportunity to participate in any program or activity offered by the school, and cannot be discriminated against based on their race, nationality, gender, religion, or immigration status, among other characteristics.

#### Information Required for School Enrollment

- When enrolling a child, schools must accept a variety of documents from the student's parent or guardian to demonstrate proof of child's age or residency.
- You never have to provide information about citizenship/immigration status to have your child enrolled in school. Also, you never have to provide a Social Security number to have your child enrolled in school.

#### Confidentiality of Personal Information

- Federal and state laws protect student education records and personal information. These laws generally require that schools get written consent from parents or guardians before releasing student information, unless the release of information is for educational purposes, is already public, or is in response to a court order or subpoena.
- Some schools collect and provide publicly basic student "directory information." If they do, then each year, your child's school district must provide parents/guardians with written notice of the school's directory information policy, and let you know of your option to refuse release of your child's information in the directory.

#### Family Safety Plans if You Are Detained or Deported

- You have the option to provide your child's school with emergency contact information, including the information of secondary contacts, to identify a trusted adult guardian who can care for your child in the event you are detained or deported.
- You have the option to complete a Caregiver's Authorization Affidavit or a Petition for Appointment of Temporary Guardian of the Person, which may enable a trusted adult the authority to make educational and medical decisions for your child.

Magnolia Public Schools

# Student/Parent Handbook 2018-19

Magnolia Public Schools  
250 E. 1<sup>st</sup> St., Ste. 1500  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Tel: (213) 628-3634  
Fax: (714) 362-9588

[www.magnoliapublicschools.org](http://www.magnoliapublicschools.org)

Dear Parents and Students,

Magnolia Public Schools (MPS) staff believes that education is a shared responsibility between parents, teachers and students. The successful operation of this school depends on the cooperation of everyone concerned. Each group is responsible for doing its part to make school a place where we can learn and play together in harmony. Everyone has the right to feel safe, secure, and accepted regardless of color, race, gender, popularity, ability, religion or nationality. This handbook allows us to share our vision with the students and parents of our team.

MPS is a reflection of all of us. All of our policies are intended to provide a safe and orderly environment that will be conducive to learning. Our faculty and staff look forward to sharing their expertise in academics, special programs, and extracurricular activities. We encourage you to get to know the school, its programs, activities, and schedule. Become an active participant in your education. Get involved through classes, clubs, and activities.

MPS is aware of the fact that a school environment is viable only with clearly defined and implemented rules. MPS compiled this student-parent handbook (pending board approval), which addresses the school's regulations and policies to set a standard for our students. It is an essential reference book describing what we expect and how we do things. Read it carefully, discuss it with your parent/guardian, and let it act as a guide for your effective involvement in all aspects of school. Keep this handbook so you can refer to it throughout the school year.

Sincerely,

MPS Administration

# Magnolia Public Schools

## ***The Vision***

*Graduates of Magnolia Public Schools are scientific thinkers who contribute to the global community as socially responsible and educated members of society.*

## ***The Mission***

*Magnolia Public Schools provides a college preparatory educational program emphasizing science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) in a safe environment that cultivates respect for self and others.*

## ***Core Values***

*Magnolia Public Schools has identified the following core values which are reinforced through its Life Skills curriculum, student learning outcomes (SLOs), and all school activities:*

- *Excellence*
- *Innovation*
- *Connection*

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## ***Locations***

<i>Magnolia Science Academy-1</i>	<i>18238 Sherman Way, Reseda, CA 91335</i>	<i>(818) 609-0507</i>
<i>Magnolia Science Academy-2</i>	<i>17125 Victory Blvd., Van Nuys, CA 91406</i>	<i>(818) 758-0300</i>
<i>Magnolia Science Academy-3</i>	<i>1254 East Helmick St., Carson, CA 90746</i>	<i>(310) 637-3806</i>
<i>Magnolia Science Academy-4</i>	<i>11330 W Graham Place, Los Angeles, CA 90064</i>	<i>(310) 473-2464</i>
<i>Magnolia Science Academy-5</i>	<i>18230 Kittridge St., Reseda, CA 91335</i>	<i>(818) 705-5676</i>
<i>Magnolia Science Academy-6</i>	<i>3754 Dunn Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90034</i>	<i>(310) 842-8555</i>
<i>Magnolia Science Academy-7</i>	<i>18355 Roscoe Blvd., Northridge, CA 91325</i>	<i>(818) 221-5328</i>
<i>Magnolia Science Academy-8 (Bell)</i>	<i>6411 Orchard Ave, Bell, CA 90201</i>	<i>(323) 826-3925</i>
<i>Magnolia Science Academy-San Diego</i>	<i>6525 Estrella Ave., San Diego, CA 92120</i>	<i>(619) 644-1300</i>
<i>Magnolia Science Academy-Santa Ana</i>	<i>2840 W 1<sup>st</sup> St., Santa Ana, CA 92703</i>	<i>(714) 479-0115</i>

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## **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY & NON- DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT**

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In compliance with federal and state equal opportunity laws, equal opportunity will be afforded to all applicants and students regardless of race, color, sex, age, religious creed, disability, national origin, ancestry, immigration status or citizenship, or sexual orientation in every aspect of the school community. MPS adheres to all provisions of federal law related to students with disabilities, including but not limited to, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004.

MPS is committed to providing a working and learning environment that is free from unlawful discrimination and harassment. MPS prohibits discrimination and harassment based on an individual's actual or perceived sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, ethnic group identification, race, ancestry, national origin, immigration status or citizenship, religion, religious affiliation, color, creed, mental or physical disability, age, and any other basis protected by federal, state, and/or local law, ordinance, or regulation, or on the basis of a person's association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. Harassment based on any of the above-protected categories is a form of unlawful discrimination and will not be tolerated by MPS.

Harassment is intimidation or abusive behavior toward a student or employee that creates a hostile environment and can result in disciplinary action against the offending student or employee. Harassing conduct may take many forms, including but not limited to, verbal remarks and name-calling, graphic and written statements, or conduct that is threatening or humiliating. This nondiscrimination policy covers admission or access to treatment or employment in all MPS programs and activities, including vocational education. The lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission to or participation in MPS programs or activities.

MPS does not condone or tolerate harassment of any type, including bullying, discrimination, or intimidation, by any employee, independent contractor or other person with which MPS does business, or any other individual, student, or volunteer. This applies to all employees, students, or volunteers and relationships, regardless of position or gender. MPS will promptly and thoroughly investigate any complaint of harassment and take appropriate corrective action, if warranted.

Based on Federal law, Title IX, State law and MPS policy, no student shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived sex, sexual orientation, and gender (including gender

identity, gender expression, marital status, parenting, pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy or related medical condition). Male and female students have the right to equal learning opportunities in their schools and must be treated the same in all MPS educational activities and programs, including:

- Athletics
- Physical education
- The classes they can take
- The way they are treated in the in educational programs and activities
- The kind of counseling they are given
- The extracurricular activities, programs and clubs in which they can participate
- The honors, special awards, scholarships and graduation activities in which they can participate.

Students who feel that their rights are being violated have the right to take action and should not be afraid of trying to correct a situation by speaking to a school administrator, Title IX Coordinator, psychologist, counselor, or trusted adult at school, or filing a complaint (see Uniform Complaint Procedures). Students are encouraged whenever possible to try to resolve their complaints directly at the school site. Any student who believes he or she is being discriminated against in violation of Title IX has the right to file a complaint. For further information or assistance, including the Title IX Coordinator contact information, see the TITLE IX, HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, DISCRIMINATION, AND BULLYING POLICY in this Handbook.

Additional information prohibiting other forms of unlawful discrimination or harassment, inappropriate behavior, and/or hate-motivated incidents/crimes may be found in MPS policies. It is the intent of MPS that all such policies be reviewed consistently to provide the highest level of protection from unlawful discrimination in the provision of educational services and opportunities.

MPS prohibits retaliation against anyone who files a complaint or who participates in a complaint investigation. For inquiries or complaints related to discrimination or harassment based on student's sex (Title IX); sexual orientation or gender identity (Title 5, CCR, §4910); race, color, or national origin (Title VI); or mental or physical disability (Section 504), contact MPS.

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## **PUPIL RECORDS, INCLUDING CHALLENGES AND DIRECTORY INFORMATION**

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The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a Federal law that affords parents and students who are 18 years of age or older ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 5 days after the day MPS receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the MPS

principal or designee a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The MPS official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA

Parents or eligible students who wish to ask MPS to amend a record should write the MPS principal or designee, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If MPS decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, MPS will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. See 'Pupil Records Challenges' section, below, for MPS' policy and procedures regarding this hearing.

3. The right to provide written consent before MPS discloses personally identifiable information ("PII") from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to MPS officials with legitimate educational interests. An MPS official is a person employed by MPS as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel) or a person serving on the MPS board. An MPS official also may include a volunteer or contractor outside of MPS who performs an institutional service of function for which MPS would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting MPS School official in performing his or her tasks. An MPS official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, MPS discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer.

Note that MPS will not release information to third parties for immigration-enforcement purposes, except as required by law or court order.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by MPS to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202

FERPA permits the disclosure of PII from student's education records, without consent of the parent or eligible student, if the disclosure meets certain conditions found in §99.31 of the FERPA regulations. Except for disclosures to MPS officials, disclosures related to some judicial orders or lawfully issued subpoenas, disclosures of directory information, and disclosures to the parent or eligible student, §99.32 of the FERPA regulations requires MPS to record the disclosure. Parents and eligible students have a right to inspect and review the record of disclosures. MPS may disclose PII from the education records of a student without obtaining prior written consent of the parents or the eligible student —

1. School employees who have a legitimate educational interest as defined by 34 C.F.R. Part 99;
2. Other schools to which a student seeks or intends to enroll so long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer. MPS will make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent or eligible student of the request for records at his/her last known address, unless the disclosure is initiated by the parent or eligible student. Additionally, MPS will give the parent or eligible student, upon request, a copy of the record that was disclosed and give the parent or eligible student, upon request, an opportunity for hearing pursuant to the procedures outlined here and more completely in the full policy;
3. Certain government officials listed in 20 U.S.C. § 1232g(b)(1) in order to carry out lawful functions;
4. Appropriate parties in connection with a student's application for, or receipt of, financial aid if it is necessary to determine eligibility, amount of aid, conditions for aid or enforcing the terms and conditions of the aid;
5. Organizations conducting certain studies for the MPS in accordance with 20 U.S.C. § 1232g(b)(1)(F);
6. Accrediting organizations in order to carry out their accrediting functions;
7. Parents of a dependent student as defined in section 152 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;
8. Individuals or entities, in compliance with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena. Subject to the exceptions found in 34 C.F.R. 99.31(a)(9)(i), reasonable effort must be made to



notify the parent or eligible student of the order or subpoena in advance of compliance, so that the parent or eligible student may seek a protective order;

9. Persons who need to know in cases of health and safety emergencies;
10. State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law;
11. A foster family agency with jurisdiction over a currently enrolled or former student, a short-term residential treatment program staff responsible for the education or case management of a student, and a caregiver (regardless of whether the caregiver has been appointed as the pupil's educational rights holder) who has direct responsibility for the care of the student, including a certified or licensed foster parent, an approved relative or nonrelated extended family member, or a resource family, may access the current or most recent records of grades, transcripts, attendance, discipline, and online communication on platforms established by MPS for student and parents, and any individualized education program ("IEP") or Section 504 plan that may have been developed or maintained by MPS; and/or
12. A victim of an alleged perpetrator of a crime of violence or a non-forcible sex offense. The disclosure may only include final results of the disciplinary proceedings conducted by MPS with respect to that alleged crime or offense. MPS may disclose the final results of the disciplinary proceeding, regardless of whether MPS concluded a violation was committed.

### **Directory Information**

"Directory Information" is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released. Directory information can be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish year books. MPS has designated the following information as directory information:

1. Student's name
2. Student's address
3. Parent's/guardian's address
4. Telephone listing
5. Student's electronic mail address
6. Parent's/guardian's electronic mail address
7. Photograph
8. Date and place of birth
9. Dates of attendance
10. Grade level

11. Weight and height of members of athletic teams
12. Degrees, honors, and awards received
13. The most recent educational agency or institution attended
14. Student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identified used to communicate in electronic systems that cannot be used to access education records without a PIN, password, etc. (A student's social security number, in whole or in part, cannot be used for this purpose.)

If you do not want MPS to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify MPS in writing at the time of enrollment or re-enrollment. Please notify the MPS Principal of your child's school at the contact number on Page 3.

A complete copy of the MPS policy is available upon request in each MPS school's main office.

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## **RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

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### ***Effective Communication:***

When issues or concerns arise with a teacher, staff member or administrator, students and parents are encouraged to address the situation with the person involved first.

If students express that they are having a problem at school, it is important for parents to understand the best way to address these problems. If the problem involves a classroom situation or a situation with a teacher, the following remedies are recommended:

**1<sup>st</sup>:** Parents should encourage their child to talk with the teacher.

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Parents can encourage their child to talk with an administrator.

**3<sup>rd</sup>:** If the child is reluctant to talk with a teacher or administrator, a parent may offer to accompany their child and talk with the teacher.

It is very important to demonstrate to children how to actively and constructively solve a problem. If the problem is important enough for the child to talk about, it is important for the child to learn how to be a part of the solution.

If parent feels there is a concern they should:

**1<sup>st</sup>:** Talk with the teacher. Teachers can explain classroom situations from an adult perspective and from a professional perspective, and usually that will resolve misunderstandings.

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** If the problem persists after a reasonable time, talk with the teacher again.

**3<sup>rd</sup>:** If the problem is still not resolved, make an appointment with the related administrator.

For example, if you are unsure of a decision made in the classroom about a consequence given for a behavior, you should discuss the situation with the teacher first. If after this discussion, you feel the situation is unresolved, it should be brought to the attention of the Dean of Students. If it is still not handled to your satisfaction, the Principal should be notified.

If after meeting with the Principal, you still have concerns, please refer to the Complaint policies contained in this Handbook and available in the MPS office.

Teachers, staff, and administration are available through email, phones, in person and by appointment. Due to the busy schedules of the teachers and administration, parents are asked to not "drop in" for appointments, but to set up a meeting in advance. Parents should not talk to teachers, other parents, students, or administrators in a disrespectful or threatening manner. Please see the "Conditions for Classroom and School Visitation, Shadowing, and Removal Policy" under the section titled "Visitors" in this Handbook.

***Students' Rights and Responsibilities:***

- To be informed of all school rules and regulations.
- To have access to your student account in SIS.
- To have a safe and educational environment.
- To attend class regularly and on time.
- To obey school rules and regulations.
- To respect your rights and the rights of your peers.
- To be familiar with school policies, rules and regulations.
- To be prepared for class with appropriate materials and ready to work.
- To respect all school personnel and their authority (administrators, teachers, office personnel, janitorial staff, security guards, etc.).

***Parents' Rights and Responsibilities:***

- To be informed of the school's rules and regulations.
- To be informed of all school actions related to their child.
- To have access to your personal parent accounts in SIS.
- To contact school to participate in conferences pertaining to academic and behavioral status of their child.
- To provide a supportive environment at home making sure their child gets enough sleep and adequate nutrition before coming to school.
- To be familiar with school policies, rules and regulations.
- To contact teachers directly via phone or email to schedule a conference.
- To be familiar with the handbook signed at the beginning of the school year.
- To monitor your child's academic progress and behavior records on a weekly basis.

- To ensure that your child does his/her homework on a daily basis and to facilitate a home environment conducive to home study.

***Teachers' Rights and Responsibilities:***

- To expect students to behave in a positive manner that will not interfere with other students' learning.
- To expect parental support related to academic and social progress.
- To expect all students to participate and put forth effort in order to expand their education and earn a passing grade.
- To be familiar with school policies, rules and regulations.
- To inform parents through progress reports, report cards, and conferences about the academic progress and behavior of their child.
- To conduct a well-planned and effective classroom program.
- To initiate and enforce a set of classroom rules, consistent with the school's discipline policies.
- To keep assignments, grading, and attendance current in SIS.
- To have administrative support for discipline in and outside the classroom.
- To explain the Student Code of Conduct and Bullying Policy to their students.
- To enforce the Student Code of Conduct and Bullying Policy in a consistent manner.
- To function as a positive role model for their students.
- To contact parents as deemed necessary to enforce the Student Code of Conduct and to maintain parent/guardian involvement.

***Administrators' Rights and Responsibilities:***

- The right to address the Board of Trustees on any issue.
- To hold students to strict accountability for any disorderly conduct in school or around school.
- To take appropriate action in dealing with students who choose not to follow the rules.
- To recommend in-school suspension, suspension, or expulsion as the situation demands.
- To provide rich leadership that will establish, encourage and promote effective teaching and learning.
- To be familiar with school policies, rules and regulations.
- To establish, promote, and enforce school rules that facilitate effective learning and positive habits and attitudes of excellent citizenship among students.

**POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

As a student at MPS, you are required to abide by and respect all rules and regulations in the handbook, both on and off campus. The handbook was established to maintain a safe and healthy school environment conducive to learning.

**I. ACADEMIC POLICIES**

**A. GENERAL GUIDELINES**

**CAASPP Opt Out:**

MPS shall annually administer required state testing to the applicable grades (e.g., the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress.) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a parent's or guardian's written request to School officials to excuse his or her child from any or all parts of the state assessments shall be granted.

**Child Find and Section 504:**

MPS is dedicated to the belief that all students can learn and must be guaranteed equal opportunity to become contributing members of the academic environment and society. MPS provides special education and instruction and related services in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act ("IDEIA"), Education Code requirements, and applicable policies and procedures of the charter authorizer. These services are available for special education students enrolled in MPS. We offer high quality educational programs and services for all our students in accordance with the assessed needs of each student. MPS collaborates with parents, the student, teachers, and other agencies, as may be indicated, in order to appropriately serve the educational needs of each student.

MPS also recognizes its legal responsibility to ensure that no qualified person with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program of MPS. Any student who has an objectively identified disability which substantially limits a major life activity, including but not limited to learning, is eligible for accommodations by MPS. The parent of any student suspected of needing or qualifying for accommodations under Section 504 may make a referral for an evaluation to the Principal. A copy of MPS' Section 504 Policies and Procedures is available upon request in each MPS school's main office.

**Math Placement:**

MPS has adopted a math placement policy to establish a fair, objective, and transparent protocol for

placement in mathematics courses in order to ensure the success of every student. Please see the main office of your MPS school for the math placement policy.

**Grading:**

The primary purpose for grading is to provide feedback to students and parents on the achievement of learning goals. At MPS course report card grades are to be represented in letter-grade equivalent to the percentage earned in each course. Course report card grades are based on performance and practice assessments, as can be seen in the following table.

Aligned with the grading guidelines, each department will work with the Department Chair and the Dean of Academics to develop specific and consistent weights for each grading subcategory, to be shared with parents and students.

Teachers will create reasonable number of assignments for each subcategory in their grading system. Teachers will provide students with access to course material, homework assignments, projects, and students' grades through the school information system, and update SIS records daily/weekly.

Category	Subcategories
Performance Assessments <i>(Summative)</i>  70%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Unit assessments <i>(no more than 50%)</i></li> <li>▪ Benchmark assessments <i>(no more than 30%)</i></li> <li>▪ Final assessment <i>(no more than 30%)</i></li> <li>▪ Performance tasks  (Projects, portfolios, essays, artwork, models, visual representations, multimedia, oral presentations, live or recorded performances, labs, etc.)</li> </ul>
Practice Assessments <i>(Formative)</i>  30%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Independent practices</li> <li>▪ Daily assignments</li> <li>▪ Classwork</li> <li>▪ Homework <i>(no more than 15%)</i></li> <li>▪ Warm-ups</li> <li>▪ Reviews</li> <li>▪ Quizzes</li> </ul>

**Extra Credit:**

With prior approval from the Dean of Academics, teachers may offer extra credit. A maximum of five (5) extra credit points (out of 100-point numerical grade) may be applied to a student's grade in each of their classes. Additionally, for both English and Math classes, a student may earn up to five (5) extra credit

points by demonstrating growth in their overall MAP RIT scores, increasing the maximum allowable extra credit points to ten (10). Points may be earned in the testing cycle from Fall to Spring and would be applied to the student's second semester English/Math grades. If Winter MAP test is offered during the first semester, students may also earn points towards their first semester grades. For each point increase in their overall RIT score, students will earn one (1) point of extra credit towards their applicable grade, up to five (5) credit points maximum for each subject area. Regardless of their growth score, students will earn extra five (5) credit points if they meet or exceed the following "Standard Met" cut scores on their Fall or Winter MAP test in the first semester or Spring MAP test in the second semester:

Grade	MAP RIT ELA* F-W-S	MAP RIT Math* F-W-S
3	192-199-202	191-199-204
4	202-207-209	206-212-217
5	208-212-214	219-225-229
6	214-217-218	222-227-230
7	219-221-222	229-233-235
8	223-224-225	238-240-242
* Source: Linking Data Table: Smarter Balanced & MAP		
9	226-227-228	243-244-245
10	229-230-231	246-247-248
11	232-233-234	249-250-251

### Homework:

Homework is essential to success at MPS. Doing homework will help students develop many valuable skills such as good study habits, time management, responsibility, and perseverance. Teachers will assign homework that will foster individual learning and growth that is appropriate for the subject area. Homework is part of all student evaluations. It is the student's responsibility to complete and turn in homework on time. If the student or parent has questions about homework, s/he should immediately contact the teacher who assigned it.

Generally, all homework assignments will be posted online, either on teacher/class web pages or on the school information system, which will be accessible to the parents/guardians by using an authenticated password. The password will protect confidentiality and allow parents/guardians to access their children's academic records. SIS is not intended to replace contacting parents for regular conferences to discuss student progress.

### Final Assessments/Exams:

All academic classes will have cumulative final assessments/exams at the end of each semester. These final assessments may be in different forms such as test, essay, project, book report, etc. depending on individual teachers' discretion upon approval by the MPS administration. All students are required to take these final assessments. Cumulative assessments are part of the college preparatory culture; these assessments will help students learn how to study more effectively, as well as improve their retention of the subject content.

### Make-up Procedures - Incomplete Grades:

Every effort should be made for a student to make-up work as soon as possible when returning to school from an absence or series of absences. If a student fails to complete a significant number of performance and/or homework tasks due to absence or other extraordinary circumstances, a grade of Incomplete (I) may be assigned with administrative approval. If the necessary performance and/or homework tasks are not complete by the end of the following marking period, the report card grade will revert to the earned numeric grade. In the final marking period, an Incomplete (I) will revert to the earned numeric grade if not complete by a date agreed upon by the teacher and administrator.

### Course Withdrawals:

Students may withdraw from a course without penalty of an F grade within 15 school days from the beginning of the course. After 15 school days, students must remain in the course until its conclusion. Proof of extenuating circumstances must be provided for any late requests to be considered.

### Class Change:

During the first 5 school days from the beginning of the course, students will attend the classes they are assigned and/or they signed up for; no changes will be allowed unless there is a scheduling error on the student's schedule. After the first 5 school days, if necessary academic changes arise, students will have 10 school days to complete changes. After 15 school days, students must remain in the course until its conclusion. Proof of extenuating circumstances must be provided for any late requests to be considered.

Scheduling errors will receive immediate attention by the Dean of Academics. The following are considered scheduling errors: missing a class period, double up of courses in the same period, missing a course needed for graduation, student has not met the prerequisite for a course, etc.

The School will not consider schedule changes for the following reasons: to be with friends, to change teachers, athletics, early/late arrival adjustments (unless required by state or federal law), etc. Class change is at the discretion of the school administration.

## B. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GRADING SYSTEM

MPS will follow the standard scale below to assign percentages/proficiency level for semester work. Individual teachers will establish grading policies and procedures for their classes, and their grades will correspond with this scale. Each teacher will give written policies to students the first week of school.

Percentage	Achievement Level
90% - 100%	Level 4: Standard Exceeded
80% - 89%	Level 3: Standard Met
70% - 79%	Level 2: Standard Nearly Met
Below 70%	Level 1: Standard Not Met

### Elementary School Grade Retention/Promotion:

The following is MPS' policy regarding the retention of pupils in grades K-5:

- Grades K-2: Any student who is not at benchmark based on reading benchmark assessments, math benchmark assessments or report card grades will be identified for retention. Retention will only occur if the teacher and parent are in agreement that retention is the best intervention to ensure student success.
- Grades 3-5: Any student who does not meet the achievement standards and needs substantial improvement to demonstrate the knowledge and skills in ELA/Literacy or math needed or likely success in future coursework based on Smarter Balanced assessments (Level 1 on Smarter Balanced assessments) or any student who is more than one year behind grade level in mathematics or ELA/Literacy as determined by the MAP tests will be identified for retention.

An identified student who is performing below the minimum standard for promotion shall be recommended by the student's teacher for retention in the current grade unless the student's teacher determines in writing that retention is not the appropriate intervention for the student's academic deficiencies. The teacher's recommendation to promote is contingent upon a detailed plan to correct deficiencies. At MPS, the following steps will be taken prior to a student's being retained:

- A letter shall be sent to the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) informing them that their child is at risk of retention.
- The teacher's evaluation shall be provided to and discussed with the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) and the principal before any final determination of pupil retention. The parent(s)/guardian(s) are informed at that meeting that their child is recommended for retention. This meeting is documented with an

academic support plan signed by both the teacher and parent/guardian.

- The principal shall make a decision regarding the recommended retention. Upon the acceptance or rejection of the above stated plan by the principal, a letter shall be sent within five (5) school days to formally inform the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) of the principal's decision regarding the retention.
- The parent(s) or guardian(s) shall have the right to appeal the decision to the Chief Academic Officer (CAO) of Magnolia Public Schools (MPS). If the decision of the CAO is not in agreement with the parent(s)/ guardian(s), the latter have the right to appeal directly to the MPS Board of Directors. This meeting will take place at the next regularly scheduled board meeting or by direction of the board president. Or the Board may form a committee to review the appeal and make a recommendation to the Board for approval at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

The program design of MPS is to ensure that all children succeed. Students who are in jeopardy of retention are individually counseled and given extra help in their specific areas of concern, both in class and through intervention offerings.

### Report Cards:

Student report cards create a succinct written record of student performance by compiling data from multiple assessments both formal and informal. Report cards are one of several ways to keep parents informed about student performance and to ensure that data collection is regular and consistent. Report cards reflect student achievement toward state standards, and summarize narratives, anecdotal records, attendance data, and information about student participation in class and school life. Results of standardized tests are mailed separately as well as included in the student grade report with explanations designed to help students and parents interpret their relationship to other assessments.

Students will receive a progress report mid-semester and a final report card at the end of each semester. Teachers will arrange a conference to discuss student progress with at least one parent/guardian each semester. End-of-the-year conferences are prioritized for parents/guardians of students not making progress, low-achieving students, and those identified for retention. Other parents/guardians are encouraged to attend teacher conferences at the end of the year as well.

Ongoing communication between teachers, parents, and students is an essential component of MPS. MPS' school information system provides a very effective online communication tool for teachers, students and parents for course material, homework assignments, projects, course grade statistics and records of student grades. In addition to progress reports, report cards, and assessment reports, newsletters are distributed monthly. Parents can

conference with teachers on an informal basis as needed, and on a formal basis at least twice (2) a year, to discuss students' progress reports and proficiency levels. Back to School Nights and Open Houses also take place each year to provide parents with information about the Charter School's programs.

### C. MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL GRADING SYSTEMS

#### Grading Scale:

MPS will follow the standard scale below to assign letter grades for semester work. Grading is based on a 4.0 (unweighted) scale for regular courses and a 5.0 (weighted) scale for Honors, AP, and approved college courses.

Individual teachers will establish grading policies and procedures for their classes, and their grades will correspond with this scale. Each teacher will give written policies to students the first week of school.

Courses at MPS have passing grades that are outlined in the below grading scale, with a minimum passing score of 70%.

Numerical Grade	Letter Grade Equivalent	Grade-Point Eqv.	Grade-Point Eqv.
		Unweighted	Weighted
98 – 100	A+	4.0	5.0
93 – 97	A	4.0	5.0
90 – 92	A-	3.7	4.7
87 – 89	B+	3.3	4.3
83 – 86	B	3.0	4.0
80 – 82	B-	2.7	3.7
75 – 79	C+	2.3	3.3
70 – 74	C	2.0	3.0
<b>Below 70</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

#### Assignment Grades:

Teachers will create reasonable number of assignments for each subcategory in their grading system and assign a weight to each assignment. The weight of an assignment depends on its importance relative to the other assignments in the same subcategory. Students will receive numerical grades for each graded assignment and the student's final semester grade will be a weighted average of the assignment grades, scaled to a maximum of 100 points. SIS will automatically convert student's final numerical grade to a final letter grade according to the scale in the above table.

MPS promotes use of numerical grades for grading accuracy and our teachers typically use numerical grades when grading student assignments. In the case that a letter grade or a check grade system is used for an individual assignment, SIS will convert those grades to numerical grades according to the following conversion table.

Letter Grade	→ Converted to Numerical Grade	Special Grades	→ Converted to Numerical Grade
A+	100	Check Plus ("+")	100
A	97		
A-	92	Check ("=")	85
B+	89		
B	86	Check Minus ("-")	70
B-	82		
C+	79	Unsatisfactory ("I")	50
C	74		
<b>F</b>	<b>50</b>	Missing ("M")	<b>0</b>
		Excused ("X")	<b>N/A</b>
		Not Assessed ("NA")	<b>N/A</b>

#### Standards-Based Grading (SBG):

Standards-based grading (SBG) measures student's mastery of the essential standards for a class, or how well the student understands the material in class. MPS would like to report grades that are accurate, consistent, meaningful, and supportive of learning. While most MPS teachers currently implement points-based grading and reporting, MPS encourages teachers to explore and implement standards-based grading and reporting. We will keep you updated of our progress.

#### No "D" Policy:

There will not be a "D" grade option in the grading scale. The primary concern of MPS is the educational success of our students. This policy will allow for MPS to maintain a high standard throughout its program and ensure that MPS students remain competitive, especially in the area of college and scholarship applications.

**[For High School Only]** The "No D Policy" applies to all students in grades 9-12 effective of 2012-13 school year. Students who have earned credits at MPS with a "D" grade prior to 2012-13 school year will keep their credits and do not have to make up credits for

any previously passed course at MPS. Also courses transferred from another accredited school will appear on student's transcript as they are and "D" will be accepted as a passing grade for all transferred courses. Therefore, the "No D Policy" does not negatively impact graduation.

**Determining Final Grades:**

In middle and high school, course grades are semester-based and credit is granted at the end of each semester. Students need to have an end-of-the-semester final grade of at least a "C" (=2.0) to earn credit for the course. MPS grade promotion policy is based on each semester grade and not on yearly average of two semester grades.

**Grading for Transfer Students Entering Mid-Semester to MPS from Another School:**

When a transfer student enters mid-semester to MPS, the transfer grade from the previous school for the same class, if available, will be given the following weights to determine the final semester grade:

Week of the semester student enrolled in MPS	Weight of transfer grade	Weight of grade at MPS
1-6	0	1
7-9	1/3	2/3
10-12	1/2	1/2
13+	2/3	1/3

**Honor Roll/High Honor Roll:**

At the end of each semester MPS publishes the honor rolls for students.

Honors and High Honors are awarded to all students with a semester GPA of 3.00-3.49 (Honors) and 3.50+ (High Honors). Students must pass all classes to make the semester honor rolls.

**Grade requirement for school team participation:**

All students are required to maintain a "C" or better in all classes to play/participate on a school team.

**Middle School Grade Promotion:**

**Core Courses:** Core courses are Math, Science, English Language Arts, and History/Social Science.

**Criteria:** To be promoted to the next grade, a middle school student must have a 2.0 grade point average (GPA) and passing grades in all core courses by the end of the school year or by the end of the summer before the start of the next school year.

**Summer School:** Students who fail any core courses should attend summer school at MPS, if available, or at a public school to make up failed course courses during summer. Students who perform successfully at summer school will receive a passing grade as their final grade on their transcript for that course. Student transcripts will be updated to include summer grades and GPA will be recalculated. If a student earns passing grades during the summer for all the failed core courses and have a recalculated GPA of at least a 2.0, he or she may be promoted to the next grade.

**Retention:** If the student has a failed core course or has a recalculated GPA less than 2.0 after the summer before the start of the next school year, student will be recommended for retention in the current grade unless the school administration determines that retention is not the appropriate intervention for the student's academic deficiencies. In that case, promotion is contingent upon a detailed plan to correct deficiencies. At MPS, the following steps will be taken prior to a student's being retained:

- A letter shall be sent to the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) before the end of the school year informing them that their child is at risk of retention.

Week of the semester student enrolled in MPS	Credit
1-6	Full credit enrollment
7-9	Student may or may not be enrolled in new class. If enrolled, it may be either for full credit or for no-credit observation only. Decision will be made on a case by case basis. If a decision is made for full credit enrollment, the student is expected to commit to intense intervention which may include attending after-school tutoring and receiving out-of-school support.
10+	Student may or may not be enrolled in new class. If enrolled, it is for no-credit observation only. The decision will be based on the best interest of the student.

The teacher may assign make-up work to determine the grade if no transfer grade is available. Make-up work must be assigned within a reasonable time frame that allows the student to complete the work for credit.

The following guidelines apply when a transfer student wants or needs to enroll in a class that s/he was not taking at her/his previous school. The decision will be made on a case by case basis.

- A meeting will be set up with the parent(s)/guardian(s). The student's grade reports shall be provided to and intervention options, including summer school, will be discussed with the student's parent(s)/guardian(s). The parent(s)/guardian(s) may be informed at that meeting that their child is recommended for retention. This meeting will be documented with an academic support plan signed by the school administration and the parent(s)/guardian(s).
- By the end of the summer before the start of the next school year, the school administration will make their final decision based on student's performance in summer school and readiness for next grade. A letter shall be sent to formally inform the student's parent(s)/ guardian(s) of the school administration's decision regarding the retention.
- The parent(s)/guardian(s) shall have the right to appeal the decision to the Chief Academic Officer (CAO) of Magnolia Public Schools (MPS). If the decision of the CAO is not in agreement with the parent(s)/ guardian(s), the latter have the right to appeal directly to the MPS Board of Directors. This meeting will take place at the next regularly scheduled board meeting or by direction of the board president. Or the Board may form a committee to review the appeal and make a recommendation to the Board for approval at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

The program design of MPS is to ensure that all children succeed. Students who are in jeopardy of retention are individually counseled and given extra support in their specific areas of concern, both in class and through intervention offerings.

**Participation in Promotion Activities/ Ceremony:** In order for students to participate in any promotion activities they must fulfill all the promotion requirements and not be on suspension or recommended for expulsion at the time of the Promotion Ceremony.

**Tardies/Absences:** After 20 tardies or unexcused absences students will not be allowed to walk on stage for promotion. This is a privilege.

**High School Credit Earned in Middle School:** Students who take high school courses in middle school have the option to have these courses counted toward graduation. These courses must have the same expectations, curriculum and final exams as the equivalent courses taught in high school. Students who choose to have their middle school courses counted toward graduation need to consult with the school administration since these courses need to be reflected on the student's high school transcript. Grades from such courses will not be included in high school cumulative GPA calculations.

The following middle school courses have been identified for high school credit: Mathematics (Algebra 1, Geometry, Integrated Mathematics I, and other

high school level mathematics courses), Computers & Technology (approved high-school level courses), and Language Other Than English (LOTE). For middle school LOTE course(s), one year of high school credit will be given for each different language if students demonstrate proficiency by passing those courses or a LOTE proficiency test provided by the School. Again, middle school courses must be comparable in content to courses offered at the high school level. Magnolia Public Schools Home Office ("Home Office") has the final authority to decide which middle school courses will be counted toward graduation.

#### **D. HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

##### **High School Grade Promotion:**

**Criteria:** To be promoted to the next grade, a high school student must have a 2.0 grade point average (GPA) and the minimum required credits described below by the end of the school year or by the end of the summer before the start of the next school year.

Student transcripts will be updated to include summer grades and GPA will be recalculated. If students have the minimum required credits and at least a 2.0 recalculated GPA, they will be promoted to the next grade.

**Core Courses:** Core courses are Math, Science, English, and History/Social Science.

##### **Minimum required credits:**

**To be enrolled in grade 10,** a student must have a minimum of 50 credits, including at least 20 credits in core courses.

**To be enrolled in grade 11,** a student must have a minimum of 100 credits, including at least 50 credits in core courses.

**To be enrolled in grade 12,** a student must have a minimum of 150 credits, including at least 90 credits in core courses.

A student's grade level placement remains the same for an entire school year.

**Participation in Senior Activities/ Graduation Ceremony:** In order for students to participate in any senior activities they must have a total of 150 credits at the beginning of the first semester and/or 180 credits at the beginning of the second semester of their senior year. In addition, students have to fulfill all the graduation requirements, described herein, and not be on suspension, or recommended for expulsion at the time of the Graduation Ceremony.

**Tardies/Absences:** After 20 tardies or unexcused absences students will not be allowed to walk on stage for graduation. This is a privilege.



**Graduation:** MPS believes that students need to have physical and mental experience in high school, which includes academic, life skills, and applied experiences. MPS meets and exceeds the admission requirements of all four-year universities including University of California ("UC").

Students must meet the following requirements to graduate from MPS:

**Credit Requirement:** Currently, every student must earn a total of 210 semester credits in grades 9 through 12 in order to receive a high school diploma. (See section "High School Credit Earned in Middle School" for middle school courses identified for high school credit.) Each high school course at MPS is semester based and worth 5 credits, with an exception of courses such as Sustained Silent Reading (SSR) or Advisory which last one-half of a typical class period or less and are worth 2.5 credits. Students need to have an end-of-the-semester final grade of at least a "C" (=2.0) to earn credit for the course. Credit is awarded on the basis of student participation, mastery of subject matter, and/or attainment of skills.

**Specific Course Requirements:** The following table lists courses required in order to graduate from MPS.

**Diploma Types:** MPS offers three different high school diploma types: **Standard (S)**, **Advanced (A)**, and **Honors (H)**. Each diploma has minimum requirements that meet and exceed the state graduation requirements and the "a-g" subject requirements of California's four-year public universities. Students are always welcome, and often encouraged, to exceed these minimum requirements.

**Math Requirement:** MPS math requirements are threefold:

**1) Credit requirements:** MPS requires at least 30 semester credits of math for a standard diploma and 40 semester credits of math for an advanced or honors diploma. Some of these credits can be earned in middle school.

**2) Year requirements:** MPS requires students to be enrolled in a math course for at least two years in grades nine through twelve for a standard diploma (*state requirement*) and at least three years in grades nine through twelve for an advanced or honors diploma. For example; a student may take Mathematics-I or Algebra I in seventh grade, Mathematics II or Geometry in eighth grade, and Mathematics III or Algebra II in ninth grade. The student still needs to take one more year of math for a standard diploma and two more years of math for an advanced or honors diploma.

**3) Course requirements:** Students need to complete three years of math courses that include the topics covered in elementary and advanced algebra and two-and-three dimensional geometry before graduation. Integrated math courses fulfill this requirement.

**Service Learning:** Completing 40 hours of

MPS Graduation Requirements				
Subject Area	Requirements	Diploma Type		
		S	A	H
(a) History / Social Science	Three years of history/social studies, including one year of U.S. history and geography; one year of world history, culture, and geography; one semester of American government and civics, and one semester of economics.	30	30	30
(b) English	Four years of approved courses	40	40	40
(c) Mathematics	Three years of college-preparatory math, including or integrating the topics covered in elementary and advanced algebra and two- and three-dimensional geometry. <i>(Four years recommended)</i>	30	40	40
(d) Science	Two years of laboratory science providing fundamental knowledge in at least two of the three disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics. <i>(Three years recommended)</i>	20	30	40
(e) Language Other Than English	Two years of the same language other than English or equivalent to the second level of high school instruction. <i>(Three years recommended)</i>	20	20	30
(f) Visual & Performing Arts	One year chosen from dance, music, theater or the visual arts.	10	10	10
(g) Electives*	Additional courses in Social Science, English, Mathematics, Science, Language Other Than English, Visual & Performing Arts, Computers & Technology <i>(20-30 credits of electives required depending on diploma type)</i>	30	30	20
Physical Education	Two years	20	20	20
Computers & Technology	One year	10	10	10
<b>Total Required Credits:</b>		<b>210</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>240</b>
AP* Course /College Credit Requirements	AP or college courses can be taken to meet minimum course requirements or as elective. <i>(Not required for a standard diploma.)</i>	N/A	20	30
Other Requirements	Minimum Cumulative GPA	<b>2.00</b>	<b>3.25</b>	<b>3.50</b>
	Req. Service Learning Hrs.	N/A	40	40
		MPS encourages students to participate in Congressional Award programs and engage in more than 40 hours of community service to develop and demonstrate crucial life skills.		

community service before graduation is no longer a high school requirement for a standard diploma beginning with the class of 2013. However, MPS encourages students to engage in community service to develop and demonstrate crucial life skills. This will help students gain “real life” experience and develop responsibility, caring and respect for the community. Therefore, students will be required to earn 40 hours of community service before graduation for an advanced or honors diploma. Students may begin to earn these hours once they complete their 8th grade year.

**[For High School Only] Cumulative GPA:**

A cumulative GPA is calculated for all high school level courses based on the number of credits received and their weighted grade point equivalencies. Cumulative GPAs are used to determine class rank and graduation honors, eligibility for National Honor Society, by colleges as part of the admission criteria, by many scholarship and grant providers, and occasionally, by employers. This information is reported to parents on the student’s high school transcript. The high school transcript is a record of all final course grades received for high school courses.

MPS requires a minimum of 2.00 cumulative GPA for graduation, 3.25 for an advanced diploma, and 3.50 for an honors diploma.

All graduating students who are eligible to receive an Honors diploma with a cumulative GPA of 4.0 or above shall be designated as the Valedictorian. Cumulative GPA computation for Valedictorian shall be based upon student’s projected grades as of the first of June prior to the date of graduation.

**Note:** UC/CSU systems do their own GPA calculations for a-g courses taken between the summer following 9<sup>th</sup> grade through the summer following 11<sup>th</sup> grade in calculating a student’s GPA. Please see your high school college advisor for further details.

**Language other than English (LOTE) Courses:** MPS will allow other options to satisfy the “e”-LOTE requirement for graduation. Completion of higher-level LOTE coursework with a grade of C or higher may validate D or F grades earned in lower-level courses or when a lower-level course is skipped. Please check UC Admissions website for details of course validation. UC-transferable college courses or satisfactory scores on SAT Subject, AP or IB exams can also be used to fulfill the LOTE subject requirement.

Generally, bilingual students are considered to have met the “e” subject requirement and may choose not to enroll in LOTE courses. Students who elect not to take courses in a LOTE may satisfy the “e” requirement (*for all diploma types*) by one of the following methods:

- Formal schooling in a language other than English – Students who have completed two years of formal schooling at the sixth-grade level

or higher in a school where a LOTE was used as the medium of instruction have met the LOTE requirement. A school transcript or other official document is required.

- Assessment by a recognized test or University – Earning a satisfactory score on a SAT Subject, AP or IB exam, or a proficiency test administered by a UC campus or other university can demonstrate a student’s proficiency in a LOTE. Most language departments at universities will conduct an assessment and issue a statement of competency on official letterhead serving as certification.
- Certification by high school principal – In cases where the options above are not available, certification by the high school principal is acceptable. Principals should develop and maintain clear standards for providing this certification. Certification should be based on the judgment of language teachers, advice of professional or cultural organizations with an interest in maintaining language proficiency, or other appropriate sources of expertise. The principal notes the certification of competency on the student’s transcript with the language and level of proficiency.

**Credit Acceptance:** Students transferring to MPS from another accredited school, private or public, a home school, or an alternative school, will receive credit toward graduation for courses successfully completed in the sending school.

These courses will appear on student’s transcript as they are transferred and will be included in cumulative GPA calculations. Upon review and approval by the school administration, students transferring to MPS from a non-accredited school may receive credit toward graduation within the following guidelines:

Documentation must be provided to MPS by the sending school as to the course of study the student followed, materials used, course description, total number of contact hours per course, grading criteria, teacher name and qualifications, student work or projects, and scores of any standardized tests the student has taken. Grades from such courses will not be included in cumulative GPA calculations.

Normally, students may not retake courses that they have already passed and for which they have earned credit. Credit is not awarded for classes repeated to raise a grade unless the grade previously earned was a Fail (F) or Incomplete (I). However, the school administration reserves the right to final decision in case of any extenuating circumstances. Extenuating circumstances may include foreign transcripts, transcripts from non-accredited schools, college courses, ESL/ELD courses, and other approved courses on a case-by-case basis. Please consult with the school administration. If the school administration allows repeat of a course for extenuating circumstances, MPS will use the new grade when calculating the student’s GPA. However, the repeated grade will not be used in calculating the “a-g” GPA for

UCs if a student repeats a course used to satisfy the "a-g" requirement in which the student originally earned a grade of C or higher.

**Credit Recovery:** A high school student who fails a course at MPS is expected to take full responsibility for their personal credit recovery process. Following are some recovery options:

**Summer School:** Students can take a summer school course at any public school to recover missing credits. MPS may offer summer school depending on student needs and availability of teachers and resources.

**Online Courses:** Students who are credit deficient may enroll in accredited online courses to recover missing credits. Some examples to accredited online course providers are: APEX Learning, FuelEd, BYU, etc. College advisor's approval is necessary in order for the grade of an online course to be included in cumulative GPA calculations.

**College Dual Enrollment:** Students may enroll in a post-secondary course creditable toward high school completion. College advisor's approval is necessary in order for the grade of a college course to be included in cumulative GPA calculations.

**WASC Accreditation & Transferability of Courses:**

All MPS schools are WASC-accredited and all A-G courses of MPS are transferable to other public schools and meet the rigorous requirements for admission to both the UC and state university systems. Every transfer student will participate in an intake meeting which includes a review of his/her transcript and tracking towards graduation. Every exiting student will also receive a transcript to provide him/her with an official record of courses completed and credits earned. In addition, the school's master schedule will be informed by student needs to ensure sufficient intervention opportunities are available for the student population. Please contact your MPS school's Dean of Academics & College Advisor for further information.

**Advanced Placement (AP) Courses:** MPS will offer Advanced Placement (AP) classes depending on student needs/demands and availability of teachers and resources. AP courses are college-level courses, taught with college textbooks and exams that can give students college credit in the form of advanced standing when they enter their freshman year. Students have to pass the corresponding AP test in order to get college credit.

**Dual Enrollment:** Dual enrollment is a program that allows eligible high school students to enroll in a college course. Dual enrollment eliminates duplication of coursework between high school and college and allows students to earn their college degree in less time, save money, and experience the college environment. Junior and senior high school students who have demonstrated academic, personal and social maturity are welcome to apply. Students should visit their high school college advisor prior to the beginning of the semester to seek permission for

enrolling and complete a dual enrollment registration / parent consent form.

If a student wishes to receive high school credit for a college class, a 3.0 unit or more one-semester college class will earn two semesters worth of high school credit (10.0 credits). The following table will be used for conversion of college units to high-school credits:

College units	High school credits
1 semester college unit or 1-2 quarter college units	2.5 high school credits
2 semester college units or 3 or more quarter college units	5.0 high school credits
3 or more semester college units	10.0 high school credits

To determine how a college course fulfills a high school requirement see your high school college advisor. College advisor's approval is necessary in order for the grade of a college course to be included in cumulative GPA calculations. *Academic college courses that meet the University of California "a-g" requirements will be given a weighted grade point on the high school transcript and included in cumulative GPA calculations.*

All students in grades 11 and 12 are required to be enrolled in at least five courses each semester. These courses can be classroom-based courses taken at MPS, online courses provided by MPS or approved online course-providers, CSU, UC or community college courses, and other courses and activities for which academic credit will be provided upon satisfactory completion. MPS requires that the average number of minutes of attendance in any two consecutive schooldays is no less than 240 and minutes of attendance in any one school day is no less than 180.

**Counseling programs:**

MPS offers a comprehensive counseling and guidance program addressing personal/social, career, and academic needs for all grades. Students may sign up to see the counselor at any time to discuss personal or academic concerns. Social skills, career, and college planning lessons will be provided by the counselor at various times throughout the school year depending on grade level, need etc. The counseling office provides the following resources:

- Academic advising
- College planning resources
- Scholarship information
- SAT/ACT test dates and materials
- Career planning resources
- Conflict resolution
- Family resources
- Counseling resources

Students who wish to see the counselor can make an appointment. Parents are always welcome to make an appointment to see the counselor. All information discussed is confidential except when it involves your safety or the safety of someone else.

MPS adheres to the National Counseling Standards. The standards are as follows:

### **Academic Development**

*Standard A:* Students will acquire the attitudes, knowledge, and skills that contribute to effective learning in school and across the life span.

*Standard B:* Students will complete school with the academic preparation essential to choose from a wide range of substantial post-secondary options, including college.

*Standard C:* Students will understand the relationship of academics to the world of work and home and community life.

### **Career Development**

*Standard A:* Students will acquire the skills to investigate the world of work in relation to knowledge of self and to make informed career decisions.

*Standard B:* Students will employ strategies to achieve future career success and satisfaction.

*Standard C:* Students will understand the relationship between personal qualities, education and training, and the world of work.

### **Personal/Social Development**

*Standard A:* Students will acquire the attitudes, knowledge, and interpersonal skills to help them understand and respect self and others.

*Standard B:* Students will make decisions, set goals, and take necessary action to achieve goals.

*Standard C:* Students will understand safety and survival skills.

### **PSAT/NMSQT Tests & Applications:**

MPS is dedicated to providing a comprehensive college preparatory program that facilitates students' ambitions to pursue higher education at the nation's top universities and colleges. As part of this process, grades 9 through 11 are required to take the PSAT/NMSQT test in Fall.

PSAT/NMSQT stands for Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. It is a standardized test that provides firsthand practice for the SAT Reasoning Test.™ It also gives the students a chance to enter National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) scholarship programs.

The PSAT/NMSQT measures:

- critical reading skills;
- math problem-solving skills; and
- writing skills.

The most common reason for taking the PSAT/NMSQT is for the students to receive feedback on their strengths and weaknesses on skills necessary for college study. Students can then focus their preparation on those areas that could most benefit from additional study or practice.

### **Cal Grant program for College**

A Cal Grant is money for college that does not have to be paid back. To qualify, a student must meet the eligibility and financial requirements as well as any minimum grade point average (GPA) requirements. Cal Grants can be used at any University of California, California State University or California Community College. Some independent and career colleges or technical schools in California also take Cal Grants.

In order to assist students to apply for financial aid, all grade 12 students are automatically considered a Cal Grant applicant and each grade 12 student's GPA will be submitted to the California Student Aid Commission ("CASC") electronically by a school or Home Office official. A student, or the parent/guardian of a student under 18 years of age, may complete a form to indicate that he/she does not wish for the school to electronically send CASC the student's GPA. Until a student turns 18 years of age, only the parent/guardian may opt out the student. Once a student turns 18 years of age, only the student may opt himself/herself out, and can opt in if the parent/guardian had previously decided to opt out the student. All grade 12 students' GPA will be sent to CASC by October 1. The Cal Grant application submission deadline is October 1 of the grade 12 year.

### **E. ATTENDANCE**

Absence from school shall be excused only for health reasons, family emergencies and justifiable personal reasons, as permitted by law or Board policy.

A student's absence shall be excused for the following reasons:

1. Personal illness;
2. Quarantine under the direction of a county or city health officer;
3. Professional appointments such as medical, dental, optometric, or chiropractic appointments:
  - a. Insofar as class participation is an integral part of students' learning experiences, parents/guardians and students shall be encouraged to schedule medical appointments during non-school hours.
4. Attendance at funeral services for a member of the immediate family:
  - a. Excused absence in this instance shall be limited to one (1) day if the service is conducted in California or three (3) days if the service is conducted out of state.

- b. "Immediate family" shall be defined as mother, father, grandmother, grandfather, spouse, son/son-in-law, daughter/daughter-in-law, brother, sister or any relative living in the student's immediate household.
5. Participation in religious instruction or exercises in accordance with MPS policy:
    - a. The student shall be excused for this purpose on no more than four school days per month.

In addition, a student's absence shall be excused for justifiable personal reasons such as:

1. Appearance in court;
2. Attendance at a funeral;
3. Observation of a holiday or ceremony of his/her religion;
4. Attendance at religious retreats for no more than four hours during a semester;
5. Attendance at the pupil's naturalization ceremony to become a United States citizen;
6. Attendance at an employment conference;
7. Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day.

Other reasons will be considered that are requested in writing and approved by MPS. If the excuse is not one of the valid excuses listed above, the MPS administrators are authorized to excuse school absences due to the pupil's circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

#### **Unexcused Absences/Tardies for Classroom Based Attendance**

Students will be marked unexcused if they:

1. Do not bring a written note within two (2) school days following an absence;
2. Leave school without signing out at the school office;
3. Are absent from class without teacher permission, including walking out of class;
4. Are absent from class without parent permission, (except students who are being excused to receive confidential medical services without parental permission);
5. Get a pass to go to a certain place but do not report there; and/or
6. Are absent/tardy for reasons **not acceptable** to the administration including but not limited to:
  - Not waking up on time
  - Transportation problems (missing the bus, traffic, car trouble, etc.)
  - Inclement weather
  - Running errands for family
  - Work
  - Babysitting
  - Hair appointment
  - Needed at home
  - Vacations or trips
  - Athletic workout

- Socializing/Lingering in the hallway

#### **Method of Verification**

A parent/guardian must inform the MPS main office via phone of their child's absence/tardy the morning of the absence/tardy. When students who have been absent return to school, they must present a satisfactory explanation verifying the reason for the absence/tardy within two (2) school days of the excused absence and/or upon the student's return. If a satisfactory explanation is not provided within two (2) school days of the absence/return, the absence will be marked as "unexcused." The following methods may be used to verify student absences/tardies:

1. Signed, written note from parent/guardian, parent representative;
2. Conversation, in person or by telephone, between the verifying employee and the student's parent/guardian or parent representative. The employee shall subsequently record the following:
  - a. Name of student;
  - b. Name of parent/guardian or parent representative;
  - c. Name of verifying employee;
  - d. Date or dates of absence; and
  - e. Reason for absence.
3. Visit to the student's home by the verifying employee, or any other reasonable method, which establishes the fact that the student was absent for the reasons stated. A written recording shall be made, including information outlined above.
4. Healthcare provider verification
  - a. When excusing students for confidential medical services or verifying such appointments, MPS staff shall not ask the purpose of such appointments but may contact a medical office to confirm the time of the appointment.
  - b. A healthcare provider's note of illness will be accepted for any reported absence. When a student has had twenty (20) absences in the school year verified by methods listed in #1-#3 above without a healthcare provider's note, any further absences for illness must be verified by a healthcare provider.

Students should not be absent from school without their parents/guardians' knowledge or consent except in cases of medical emergency. Student absence for religious instruction or participation in religious exercises away from school property may be considered excused subject to administrative regulations and law.

Students the arrive to school late must report to the main office when he or she arrives. If the student fails to do this, he or she will receive an unexcused tardy. If the student fails to present a satisfactory explanation verifying the reason for the tardy, he or she will receive an unexcused tardy. The student will be given a "late slip" from office staff to be admitted to class.

### **Extracurricular Activities**

When a student misses ten (10) full unexcused days in a semester, he or she may not be allowed to participate in any extracurricular activities in that semester. Special circumstances with documented explanations should be reviewed with the administration. After twenty (20) unexcused absences/tardies, the student will not be allowed to walk on stage for promotion/graduation.

### **Make up Work for Excused Absences**

An absence from school, even for several days, does not excuse students from responsibilities in the classroom. On the day of return, it is the students' responsibility to find out what work is required and when the work needs to be completed. Students will be given the same number of days they were absent to make up missed work. For students with excused absences, make-up tests will be scheduled at a time designated by the teacher or as outlined in the teacher's syllabus. It is the students' responsibility to take the test at that time. If the student fails to do this, the teacher is not obligated to set another time for make-up. Please check teacher's syllabus and make sure for their individual policy.

### **Independent Study Policy**

Students with a legitimate need for an extended absence can enroll in independent study. Please see the main office of your MPS school for the independent study policy.

### **Unexcused Absences/Truancy for Classroom Based Attendance**

Each person between the ages of 6 and 18 years old is subject to compulsory full-time education. (Education Code sections 48200 and 48410). Students shall be classified as "truant" if the student is absent from school without a valid excuse three (3) full days in one school year, or if the student is tardy or absent for more than any 30-minute period during the school day without a valid excuse on three occasions in one school year, or any combination thereof. (Education Code section 48260). Such students shall be reported to the MPS Principal or designee.

In addition, students shall be classified as a "chronic truant" if the student is absent from school without a valid excuse for 10 percent or more of the school

days in one school, from the date of enrollment to the current date. (Education Code section 48263.6).

The MPS Principal or designee, shall implement positive steps to reduce truancy, including working with the family in an attempt to resolve the attendance problem. A student's progress and learning may be affected by excessive unexcused absences. In addition, MPS is fiscally dependent on student attendance and is negatively impacted by excessive unexcused absences. If all attempts to resolve the student's attendance problem are unsuccessful, MPS will implement the processes described below.

### **PROCESS FOR UPHOLDING THE ATTENDANCE POLICY**

#### **First Day of School Process:**

When students are not in attendance on the first five (5) consecutive days of school, MPS will attempt to reach the parent/guardian on a daily basis for each of the first five days to determine whether the student has an excused absence, consistent with the process outlined in this policy. If the student has a basis for an excused absence, parents must notify MPS of the absence and provide documentation consistent with this policy. However, consistent with process below, students who are not in attendance due to an unexcused absence by the fifth day of school will be voluntarily disenrolled from the MPS roster, as it will be assumed that the student has voluntarily chosen another school option.

1. Students who are not in attendance on the first day of school will be contacted by phone to ensure their intent to enroll.
2. Students who have indicated their intent to enroll, but have not attended by the third day will receive a letter indicating the student will be disenrolled after the fifth day of school if the student has not attended school without valid excuse.
3. Students who have indicated their intent to enroll, but have not attended by the fifth day will receive a phone call reiterating the content of the letter.
4. Students who have not attended by the sixth day, and do not have an excused absence as defined above for not being in attendance will be disenrolled from the roster.
5. MPS will use the contact information provided by the parent/guardian in the registration packet.
6. The District of Residence will be notified of the student's failure to attend MPS and the voluntary disenrollment.

#### **Truancy Process:**

1. Each of the first two (2) unexcused absences or unexcused tardies over 30 minutes will result in a call home to the parent/guardian

- by the MPS Principal or designee. The student's classroom teacher may also call home.
2. Each of the third (3rd) and fourth (4th) unexcused absences or unexcused tardies over 30 minutes will result in a call home to the parent/guardian by the MPS Principal or designee. In addition, the student's classroom teacher may also call home and/or MPS may send the parent an e-mail notification. In addition, upon reaching three (3) unexcused absences or unexcused tardies over 30 minutes in a school year, the parent/guardian will receive "Truancy Letter #1" from MPS. This letter must be signed by the parent/guardian and returned to MPS. This letter shall also be accompanied by a copy of this Attendance Policy. This letter, and all subsequent letter(s) sent home, shall be sent by Certified Mail, return receipt requested, or some other form of mail that can be tracked.
  3. Upon reaching seven (7) unexcused absences or unexcused tardies over 30 minutes, the parent/guardian will receive "Truancy Letter #2 – Conference Request," and a parent/guardian conference will be scheduled to review the student's records and develop an intervention plan/contract. In addition, MPS will consult with a school counselor regarding the appropriateness of a home visitation and/or case management.
  4. Upon reaching ten (10) unexcused absences or unexcused tardies over 30 minutes, the student will be referred to a Student Support and Progress Team (SSPT) and the MPS Attendance Review Team (SART). In addition, the parent/guardian will receive a "Habitual Truancy Re-classification Letter #3," and will be asked/invited to attend an evening assembly for parents/guardians of chronically absent students.
  5. The SART panel can include, but is not limited to, the following school members: School Administrators, School Psychologist, Counselor, Nurse, Psychiatric Social Worker, Attendance Clerk, Intervention Teacher(s), MPS Director of Student Services or designee, PSAC or designee. The panel may be composed of any individual who is working with the family and has a viable interest in the student's school attendance. The SART panel will discuss the absence problem with the Parent/Guardian to work on solutions, develop strategies, discuss appropriate support services for the student and his/her family, and establish a plan to resolve the attendance issue.
    - a. The SART panel shall direct the parent/guardian that no further unexcused absences or tardies can be tolerated.
  - b. The parent shall be required to sign a contract formalizing the agreement by the parents to improve the child's attendance or face additional administrative action. The contract will identify the corrective actions required in the future, and indicate that the SART panel shall have the authority to order one or more of the following consequences for non-compliance with the terms of the contract:
    - i. Parent/guardian to attend school with the child for one (1) day
    - ii. Student retention
    - iii. After school detention program
    - iv. Required school counseling
    - v. Loss of field trip privileges
    - vi. Loss of school store privileges
    - vii. Loss of school event privileges
    - viii. Required remediation plan as set by the SART
    - ix. Notification to the District Attorney
  - c. The SART panel may discuss other school placement options.
  - d. Notice of action recommended by the SART will be provided in writing to the parent/guardian.
6. If the conditions of the SART contract are not met, the student may incur additional administrative action up to and including disenrollment from MPS and notification of the disenrollment sent to the student's district of residence.
  7. For all communications set forth in this process, MPS will use the contact information provided by the parent/guardian in the registration packet. It is the parent's or guardian's responsibility to update MPS with any new contact information.
  8. If student is absent ten (10) or more consecutive school days without valid excuse and parent/guardian cannot be reached at the number or address provided in the registration packet and does not otherwise respond to MPS' communication attempts, as set forth above, the student will be in violation of the SART contract, and the SART panel will recommend that the student be deemed to have voluntarily disenrolled and notification of the disenrollment be sent to the student's district of residence.

#### **Removal from Charter School**

If, after the above procedures have been followed, the student continues to have unexcused absences or

tardies, the parent/guardian may receive notice that the student is in violation of the SART contract. The student will then be required to appear before the SART panel again to discuss the unexcused absences or tardies. After such meeting, or after reasonable attempts by the SART panel to schedule the meeting if the parent/guardian is nonresponsive, the SART panel may recommend that the student be deemed to have voluntarily disenrolled from MPS. The parent will receive written notice of the SART panel's recommendation.

The SART panel shall then forward its recommendation to the MPS CEO or designee for review of the matter and final decision. If the MPS CEO or designee makes the decision to disenroll, notice will be sent to the student's district of residence within thirty (30) days. The MPS CEO or designee decision not to disenroll the student does not prevent the SART panel from making a similar recommendation in the future.

#### **Referral to Appropriate Agencies or County District Attorney:**

It is MPS' intent to identify and remove all barriers to the student's success, and MPS will explore every possible option to address student attendance issues with the family. For any unexcused absence, MPS may refer the family to appropriate school-based and/or social service agencies.

If a child's attendance does not improve after a SART contract has been developed according to the procedures above, or if the parents fail to attend a required SART meeting, MPS shall notify the District's Attorney's office, which then may refer the matter for prosecution through the court system. Students 12 years of age and older may be referred to the juvenile court for adjudication.

These policies will be enforced fairly, uniformly, and consistently without regard to the characteristics listed in Education Code Section 220 (actual or perceived disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic that is contained in the definition of hate crimes set forth in Section 422.55 of the Penal Code or association with an individual who has any of the aforementioned characteristics).

#### **Reports**

The MPS Principal, or designee, shall gather and report to the Board the number of absences both excused and unexcused as well as students who are truant, and the steps taken to remedy the problem.

## **II. DISCIPLINE POLICIES**

### **Magnolia Public Schools Student Code of Conduct:**

MPS is committed to excellence in academic instruction and in cooperating with parents/guardians to teach students the behaviors and skills that support social successes throughout life. To accomplish this goal, MPS is taking a proactive approach to teaching social skills as a significant component of the educational program. The curriculum includes teaching of the behaviors necessary for effective and satisfying social interaction in school, on field trips, in the community, and at home.

#### **Uniform and Personal Appearance:**

The uniform policy at MPS helps create a safe and orderly environment, instill discipline, and eliminate the competition and distractions caused by varied dress styles. Students are required to arrive in uniform every day except for "free dress days". Students will not be allowed to enter the school if they are not wearing the proper uniform.

All MPS students are required to wear the school uniform at all times including during the afterschool tutoring/activities. Refer to Student Uniform Policy on later pages.

### **A. EXPECTED STUDENT BEHAVIOR**

Students should always remember that their behavior and actions at school and at school-sponsored activities are a reflection not only of themselves, but also of the school. The following is a guideline of what expected from an MPS student:

#### **Breakfast/Lunch Time:**

Students must:

- Proceed to the eating area as instructed by MPS staff.
- Eat and finish their breakfast/lunch in the assigned area. No food should be eaten outside the designated areas.
- Wait patiently for their food and follow the direction of the adults on duty.
- Clean up after themselves and dispose of their trash in the appropriate area.
- Remember that they are not allowed in the school building without a pass.
- Students must carry a pass that is given to them by security guard/supervisor staff.

#### **On Campus:**

Students must:

- Stay in designated areas on-campus.
- Be courteous and respectful at all times to everyone.
- Not use profanity, lie, fight, gamble, possess inappropriate literature or material, or be involved in the abuse/harassment of others.



- Not use or have cellular phones turned on during school hours; students are allowed to use cellular phones **only** in the designated area after school. Phones should not be used during after school programs, such as tutoring.
- Remember that any electronic devices seen during class time will be confiscated and returned to the student's parents/guardians at the discretion of administration.
- Remember that gum chewing is not allowed anywhere on campus.
- Never ride bicycles, use roller blades or skateboards on campus nor bring them to class.
- Not leave campus without permission during school hours (except students in 7-12 grade who are being excused to receive confidential medical services without parental permission).
- Not use matches, lighters, or any type of explosive incendiary device on campus.
- Remember that **no electronic devices** such as CD/MP3/IPOD players may be visible or used on the campus grounds.
- Students are not allowed to loiter in the hallways.

#### **Assemblies:**

Students must:

- Be courteous and quiet during the entire assembly.
- Be respectful to the presenter/speaker.
- Follow all teacher/staff directions.

#### **Field Trips:**

Students must:

- Be on their best behavior.  
Pay attention to the directives given by the moderator and trip leader.
- Follow all school rules pertaining to behavior.
- Wear MPS uniform unless authorized by administration.

#### **Public areas: Hallways, Lunchroom & Restrooms:**

Hallways, Lunchroom and Restrooms are areas used by all members of School. Students must:

- Use the halls, lunchroom, or restrooms only as needed and then move on to class.
- Eat only in the cafeteria or other designated area.
- Leave gum at home; chewing gum is strictly prohibited anywhere on campus.
- Maintain orderly conduct always; walk in the halls, lunchroom, or restrooms.
- Keep in mind that profanity and vulgar language at any level is unacceptable and is strictly prohibited in all areas and at school functions at all times.
- Limit excessive noise such as yelling, screaming or banging lockers while in these areas.
- Help keep the school clean by picking up after yourself and putting your belongings in their proper place.
- Respect others personal space and keep your hands to yourself even in play.

- Have a pass to be in the above areas during class time.
- Keep in mind that vandalism, littering, or graffiti in the school is prohibited and should be reported as this reflects poorly on everyone.
- Public displays of affection are prohibited.
- Bring only plastic and paper containers to school; all glass containers are prohibited on campus and will be confiscated.
- Be responsible and report any leaks, spills, or other problems in the bathroom to a teacher or the office.
- Be responsible for cleaning up after yourself, including the disposing of or the recycling of garbage.
- Have a hall pass if you are outside of the classroom during class time.
- Not visit with friends or interrupt another classroom.
- Not misuse the hall pass as it will result in loss of the hall pass privilege.
- Get a referral from your teacher before you go to the office. Do not use the hall pass.

#### **Emergency Drills:**

Fire drills, lockdowns, and evacuation drills are conducted periodically for everyone's protection and are required by law. During these drills it is imperative that students remain silent, follow instructions given by the staff, and carry out all directions in an orderly fashion.

#### **Classroom:**

Students must:

- Be seated and ready to begin their assignment when the bell rings.
- Be courteous to all teachers and students.
- Follow all school and classroom rules.
- Bring all necessary materials/supplies ready to work daily.

#### **Classroom Procedures and Consequences:**

Please check the teacher's syllabus for specific consequences which may include:

1. **In Class Warning**
2. **Student-Teacher Conference**
3. **Reflection / Parental Notification**
4. **Parent Conference**
5. **Office Referral & Administrative Disciplinary Procedures**

#### **B. SIS BEHAVIOR POINTS**

*[For Middle & High School Only]* Student behavior will be recorded on SIS and students will receive the following rewards or consequences based on their behavior points.

**Note: The following tables are for sample purposes only. Each individual MPS school may**

**include amendments into the SIS behavior points, rewards, and consequences addressing local needs.**

<b>Positive Rewards:</b>	
+5	Contact parent/guardian
+10	Lunch speed pass
+15	Treat
+20	One day free dress (pass will be given)
+25	Extended lunch period
+30	Two-day free dress (pass will be given)
+35	VIP breakfast
+40	Entered in a raffle
+45	Free dress – every Friday for one month (pass will be given)
+50	VIP lunch and “Race to the Top”
<b>Negative Consequences:</b>	
5 entries	Contact parent/guardian
10 entries	Loss of privileges
15 entries	Parent/guardian conference / Red slip*
20 entries	Behavior plan and lunch reflection
25 entries	Shadowed by parent/guardian for a day and one hour after school reflection
30 entries	Student improvement team
35-49 entries	Pending Reflection Committee outcome
50 entries	Reflective hearing with Reflection Committee, parent/guardian and student

*\*Students may earn a positive SIS point for receiving all acceptable marks and a signature on their red slip.*

When a student receives negative twenty or more SIS entries, the MPS administration will arrange a meeting with that student and the parent to develop a behavioral plan. If the student fails to abide by the discipline tracker rules or an agreement between the administration, parents, and student, cannot be reached, the student will be referred to the School Reflection Committee.

**C. UNACCEPTABLE TYPES OF BEHAVIOR AND CONSEQUENCES**

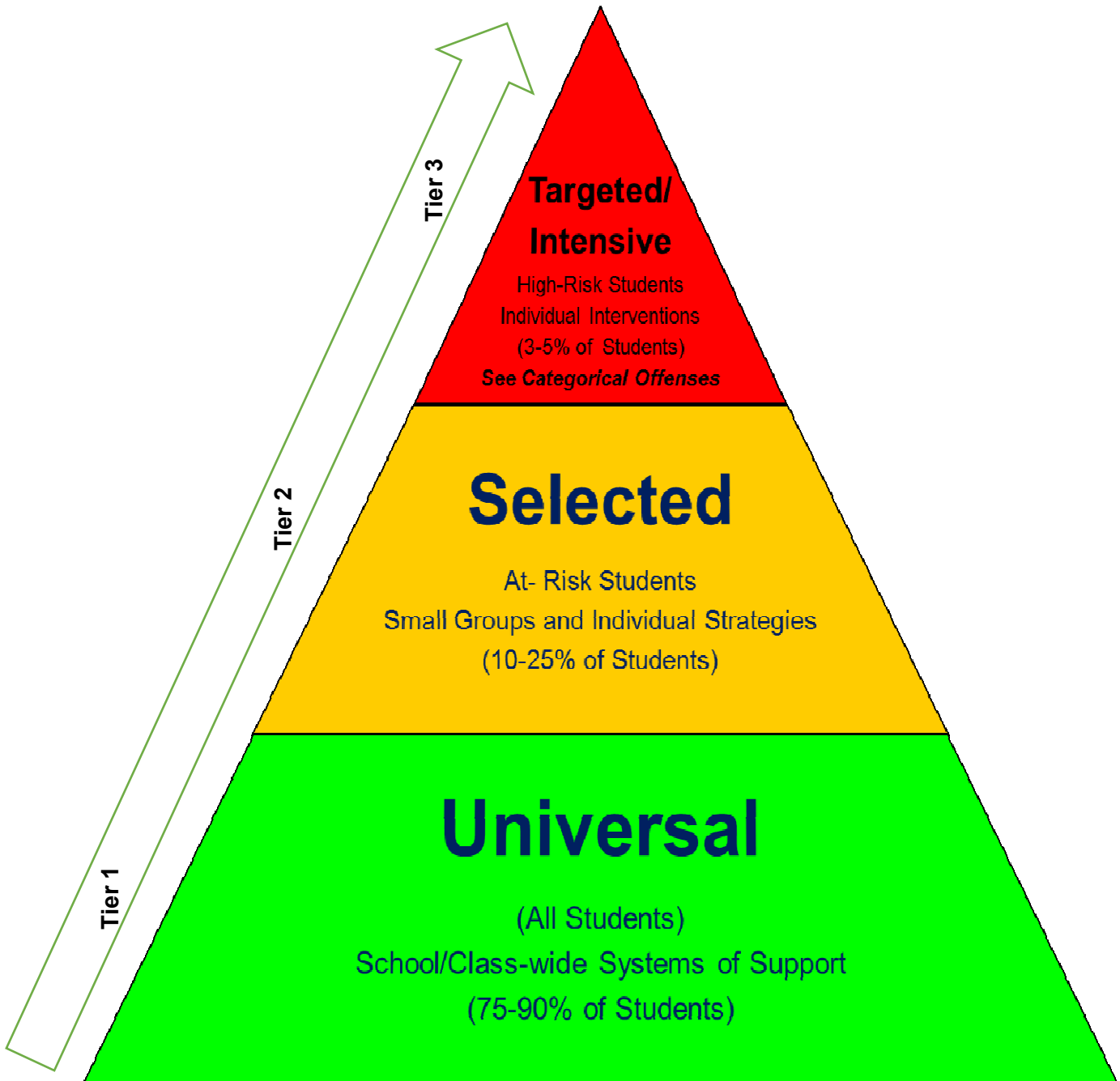
All students at MPS are entitled to the rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution, Bill of Rights, and applicable case law, and their rights will not be knowingly denied by the required code of conduct or by any disciplinary actions taken by the school. Accordingly, after an analysis of each case, any student who exhibits any of the unacceptable student behaviors listed in this handbook may incur consequences. These consequences range from notification of parents, reflection, to emergency removal from a school activity, suspension, expulsion, and referral to appropriate law enforcement agencies.

MPS reserves the right to notify the authorities and the Department of Education as required by law relating to disciplinary actions taken. It is to be noted

that MPS reserves the right to discipline any act that has a nexus with MPS or the school community and causes a substantial disruption to the normal operation of the School. In other words, MPS may discipline behavior at school or at a school-related or school-sponsored function or any activity or any act that causes a substantial disruption on the school environment or that is performed with/on/by/via school equipment or school property. MPS respects and observes the rights of student to lawful student expression, as outlined in the MPS Student Expression Policy available in the office of each MPS school.

The following tables delineate unacceptable types of behavior and possible consequences.

**Multi-Tiered System of Response to Behavior**



# Universal

## Examples of Classroom, Support and Teacher-Led Responses

These interventions are designed to teach appropriate behavior so that students may contribute to the learning community within the classroom environment. Teachers are encouraged to try a variety of instructional and classroom management strategies to support all learners.

Level 1 Infractions	Interventions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Invading personal space</li> <li>▪ Antagonizing others</li> <li>▪ Violation of school/class rules</li> <li>▪ Horseplaying</li> <li>▪ Violating off-limits/restricted area</li> <li>▪ Habitually tardy and/or not being in assigned location</li> <li>▪ Disrupting the learning environment/Off task</li> <li>▪ Littering</li> <li>▪ Not having proper materials, supplies, and/or equipment for class participation</li> <li>▪ Inappropriate use of electronic devices</li> <li>▪ Dress code violation</li> <li>▪ Inappropriate language/actions (hurtful, vulgar, gossip, etc.)</li> <li>▪ Passive participation in hurtful acts/words against others</li> <li>▪ Public display of affection (holding hands, kissing, hugging, etc.)</li> <li>▪ Refusing to cooperate and comply with school rules/personnel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ School-wide PBIS</li> <li>✓ Social-emotional learning program</li> <li>✓ Proactive classroom management</li> <li>✓ Regular, preemptive communication with families</li> <li>✓ Classroom incentives</li> <li>✓ Seating, assignment, behavioral accommodations</li> <li>✓ Conferencing with student(s) and parents</li> <li>✓ Verbal correction and redirection</li> <li>✓ Reminders, role-play, daily progress sheet</li> <li>✓ Loss of classroom privileges</li> <li>✓ Written and/or verbal reflection</li> </ul>

# Selected

## Examples of Support, Removal and Administrative Responses

These responses engage the students's support system to ensure successful learning and to alter conditions that are inappropriate or disruptive.

Level 2 Infractions	Interventions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Using/possessing tobacco and/or lighter</li> <li>▪ Violating traffic or safety regulations</li> <li>▪ Encouraging other students to violate school rules</li> <li>▪ Leaving school and/or school bus without permission</li> <li>▪ Fighting and/or arranging altercations</li> <li>▪ Using objects inappropriately (i.e., the use of an object to harm others or damage property)</li> <li>▪ Physical assault without serious bodily injury (i.e., pushing with intent, kicking, hitting, pinching, spitting)</li> <li>▪ Defacing and/or vandalism of school property</li> <li>▪ Plagiarism/academic dishonesty</li> <li>▪ Leaving school or classroom without permission (truancy)</li> <li>▪ Improper use of computer (e.g., viewing unauthorized websites, cheating, overriding district filter, etc.)</li> <li>▪ Stealing and/or possessing stolen property</li> <li>▪ Failure to attend to/complete assigned restorative action</li> <li>▪ Gambling or Extortion</li> <li>▪ Habitual violations of school/class rules</li> <li>▪ Forgery of signatures</li> <li>▪ Sexually explicit behavior</li> <li>▪ Planning and/or arranging actions with malicious intent</li> <li>▪ Writing or drawing obscene /profane language/pictures</li> <li>▪ Harassment (i.e., physical, verbal, and sexual)</li> <li>▪ Bullying/cyberbullying</li> <li>▪ Violation of personal boundaries</li> <li>▪ Refusing to cooperate and comply with school rules/personnel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Behavioral contract</li> <li>✓ Self-monitoring</li> <li>✓ School-home communication</li> <li>✓ Adult or peer mentorship</li> <li>✓ Utilize check-in and check-out system</li> <li>✓ Intensive academic and/or social support</li> <li>✓ Reflection (lunch, after school, Saturday, etc.)</li> <li>✓ Refer student to SSPT</li> <li>✓ Loss of privileges</li> <li>✓ Counseling</li> <li>✓ Temporary removal from class</li> <li>✓ Extended school day</li> </ul>

## Targeted/Intensive

### Examples of support, removal and School Site Administrators and Home Office Responses.

These responses address serious behavior and potential implications for future harm. They promote safety of the school community and should be used in a progressive fashion.

*See **Categorical Offenses***

Level 3 Infractions	Interventions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Physically assaulting with serious bodily injury</li> <li>▪ Conduct or habits injurious to others (peers/authority)</li> <li>▪ Using/possessing controlled and/or dangerous substances and/or paraphernalia</li> <li>▪ Bullying (harassing, intimidating, cyberbullying)</li> <li>▪ Fighting and/or arranging altercations</li> <li>▪ Using/possessing weapons and/or weapon paraphernalia including but not limited to those prohibited under federal law</li> <li>▪ Harassment (i.e., physical, verbal, and sexual)</li> <li>▪ Arson, attempting to commit arson and/or possession of explosives/fireworks (i.e., smoke bombs, sink bombs, etc.)</li> <li>▪ Causing a false fire alarm</li> <li>▪ Making a bomb/explosive threat</li> <li>▪ Encouraging other students to violate school rules</li> <li>▪ Student hazing</li> <li>▪ Using gang and/or secret society symbols/acts</li> <li>▪ Inappropriate use of electronic devices</li> <li>▪ Public displays of sexually explicit behavior</li> <li>▪ Defacing and/or vandalism of school property</li> <li>▪ Gambling</li> <li>▪ Habitual violations of school/class rules</li> <li>▪ Forgery of signatures</li> <li>▪ Stealing and/or possessing stolen property</li> <li>▪ Improper use of computer (e.g., viewing unauthorized websites, cheating, overriding school filter, etc.)</li> <li>▪ Sexual explicit behavior, Lewd Conduct, Writing or drawing obscene /profane language/pictures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ All Tier 1 and Tier 2 interventions</li> <li>✓ FBA-based behavior intervention plans</li> <li>✓ Teaching replacement behavior</li> <li>✓ Home and community supports</li> <li>✓ Self-management program</li> <li>✓ Restricted access</li> <li>✓ In-school reflection and/or suspension</li> <li>✓ Short-term out-of-school suspension</li> <li>✓ Extended out-of-school suspension</li> <li>✓ Request for alternate educational setting</li> <li>✓ Recommendation for expulsion</li> </ul>

**Infractions Explained:**

*(See also the Enumerated Offenses and applicable procedures listed in Section D: Suspension and Expulsion Procedures, below)*

<b>Assaulting, Fighting and/or Arranging Fights</b>
School is not a place to arrange fights, whether those fights take place on or off school grounds. Any fight and/or attempting to fight will involve disciplining all students involved.
<b>Bringing / Using Electronic Devices</b>
CD players, IPOD, MP3 players, phones, PDA, PSP, laptops, smart watches, electronic games, and/or similar devices are not allowed to be used at school. They disrupt classes and distract others from learning. If you choose to bring them for use outside of school, it is at your own discretion. MPS assumes no liability for any damaged, destroyed, lost, stolen, misplaced or otherwise compromised electronic device brought onto MPS property.
<b>Scholastic Dishonesty</b>
Scholastic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to) plagiarism, cheating on tests, and/or any other types of deception to obtain credit without effort. Scholastic dishonesty is unacceptable conduct. As a consequence, student will receive a failing grade on the assignment/test, and all other possible corrective strategies listed under the RTI table above will apply as well.
<b>Texting/Sexting</b>
Sexting can be defined as the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photographs electronically, primarily between mobile phones and/or any other communication devices.
<b>Disrupting Learning</b>
Disrupting learning includes any behavior that prevents other students from learning. It may include but is not limited to inappropriate language, eating or drinking during class against teachers' classroom rules, chewing gum, insubordination and/or selling or trading personal possessions to other students.
<b>Horseplay</b>
Rough or boisterous play including but not limited to shoving, play fighting, kicking, name calling, teasing, pushing/pulling on a student and shoulder bumps.

<b>Violating Uniform Policy</b>
A student's dress and appearance shall conform to the specific uniform and appearance limitations described in this handbook.
<b>Possession or Use of Drugs and/or Alcohol and the Sale or Intention to Sell Drugs and/or Alcohol</b>
Use of drugs or alcohol means a student knowingly possesses, consumes, uses, handles, gives, stores, conceals, offers to sell, sells, transmits, acquires, buys, represents, makes, applies, or is under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogen, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, tranquilizer, non-prescription or prescription drug (except when under the direction of a physician/parent and within school procedure), alcohol, intoxicant, solvent, gas, or any mood-altering chemical, drug of abuse or any counterfeit-controlled substance of any kind including butane lighters.
The sale, distribution, possession, or use of drugs, alcohol, fake drugs, steroids, inhalants, and look-alike drugs is prohibited everywhere on school grounds, at all school activities, and on all school transportation (drug free zone 1000 feet radius). Backpacks, gym bags, coats, and/or any other containers might be searched by Administration and/or Law Enforcement if they suspect the presence of such items.
<b>False Fire Alarms</b>
Issuing a false fire alarm is a violation of State law. Making false 911 calls is also violation of the State Law.
<b>Forgery of Signatures</b>
Any attempt by a student to sign a teacher's, administrator's, parent/guardian's, and/or another student's name to any school document will be considered forgery.
<b>Vulgarity, Profanity and Obscenity</b>
Any gesture or material of this nature is not permitted at school or school functions.
<b>Bullying &amp; Cyber Bullying</b>
Bullying is not permitted at MPS. In addition, MPS will not tolerate unlawful intimidation and bullying due to actual or perceived characteristics such as age, ancestry, color, ethnic group identification, gender expression, gender identity, gender, disability, nationalist, race or ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or a person's association with a person, or

group, with or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. Each student deserves an equal opportunity to obtain an education without dealing with the negative pressures of peers. Bullying consists of any of the following: pushing, shoving, hitting, and spitting, name calling, picking on, making fun of, laughing at, and excluding someone physically or via social media or electronic communications.

**Bullying causes pain and stress to those who are victims and is never justified or excusable as “kids being kids”, “just teasing”, “joking”, “playing around” or any other rationalization. This includes the use of social media for wrongful purposes.**

**Each MPS student agrees to:**

- Value student differences and treat others with respect.
- Not become involved in bullying incidents or be a bully.

**Harassment of Students, Teachers, Administrators, or Staff**

Harassment means making unwelcome advances or any form of improper physical contact or sexual remark and any speech or action that creates a hostile, intimidating or offensive learning environment. See also the MPS Policy Against Unlawful Harassment.

*Harassment can be verbal, physical and visual. (Education Code, § 212.5)*

Harassment is a violation of Federal Law and is contrary to the School Board’s commitment to provide a physically and psychologically safe environment in which to learn.

**Behaving Disrespectfully towards Teachers or Staff**

Disrespect (i.e. arguing, talking back, etc.) and insubordination (failure to comply with directives) toward any member of the faculty or staff will not be tolerated. Profanity, either spoken or written is considered a form of disrespect.

**Student Hazing**

Hazing is defined as doing any act or coercing another person for initiation into any organization that causes or creates a substantial risk or causes mental or physical harm. Permission, consent or assumption of the risk by an individual subjected to hazing does not lessen the prohibition contained in this policy. Hazing may carry heavy legal consequences.

**Smoking or Use of Other Tobacco Products**

Possession of tobacco products in any part of the school (drug free zone 1000 feet radius) or on the student is prohibited under this policy. This includes cigarettes, e-cigarettes, vaporizers, cigars, herbs, and smokeless tobacco. Backpacks, gym bags, coats, and/or any other containers might be searched if the presence of such items is suspected.

**Stealing and/or Vandalizing School/Private Property & Graffiti**

This means to cause or attempt to cause damage to private property, stealing or attempting to steal private property either on school grounds or during school activities, functions or events. Students and their parents or guardians will be held responsible for any theft/vandalism/graffiti (including graffiti tools such as permanent markers) that the student commits. Theft or vandalism of school property carries heavy legal penalties.

**No Permanent markers or aerosol cans are allowed at school.**

**Displaying Threatening Behavior**

Threatening behavior includes: verbal threats, both face to face and over electronic media (phone and/or computers), non-verbal threats (“hard” stares, gestures), willfully causing or attempting to cause physical injury to another person, causing or attempt to cause any student, teacher, administrator, or staff member to feel frightened or intimidated.

**Bringing Weapon in School**

A weapon includes, but is not limited to, conventional objects like guns, pellet guns, knives, smoke bombs, fireworks, club of any type, mace, tear gas, or other chemicals. This may also include any toy that is presented as a real weapon. It also includes objects converted from their original use to threaten or injure another. The Administration reserves the right to all final decisions regarding the definition of a weapon. Backpacks, gym bags, coats, and/or any other containers might be searched by administration or law enforcement if they suspect the presence of such items.

**If you are aware of a weapon /drugs/alcohol on campus and do not inform school staff, you will be subject to disciplinary actions and serve consequences.**

**Possession or Use of Fireworks**

Using or possessing any amusement device, smoke bomb, stink bomb, etc.

**Gang and Secret Society Symbols**



<p>Disruption and/or intimidation caused by the wearing of any type of clothing, accessories, hair style, or by writing of any signs identified as or associated with gangs. No gang activity or gang association will be permitted at school or school sponsored activities. Gang symbols on notebooks, lockers, book bags, etc. are not permitted and will be documented. Students may not promise to become or be members of a gang, secret society, illegal club, sorority or fraternity.</p>
<p><b>Arson</b></p>
<p>Intentionally starting any fire or combustion on school property</p>
<p><b>Public Display of Affection</b></p>
<p>Public displays of affection are not allowed.</p>
<p><b>Provoking/Intimidating Behavior Encouraging or Urging Other Students to Violate School Rules</b></p>
<p>Any student who, by means of provocation, intimidation, encouragement, request, or other means of promotion, induces or attempts to induce another student to violate a MPS school rule shall be subject to discipline.</p>

**Students with an IEP:**

If a student has an IEP, that IEP and any applicable behavior plan shall be followed, accordingly to state and federal law. If the behavior(s) worsens or the frequency increases, the student’s IEP team may meet to review the plan and its implementation, and modify it, as necessary, to address the behavior(s). Special Education staff, general education staff, parents, and related service providers specified in the IEP must be informed and involved.

MPS follows state and federal laws regarding discipline, including suspension and expulsion, of students with disabilities. See also Section D: Suspension and Expulsion Procedures, below, for more information.

**D. SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION PROCEDURES**

The following Student Suspension and Expulsion Policy has been established in order to promote learning and protect the safety and well-being of all students at MPS. Staff shall enforce disciplinary rules and procedures fairly and consistently among all students. In creating this policy, the Charter School has reviewed Education Code Section 48900 et seq. which describes the non-charter schools’ list of

offenses and procedures to establish its list of offenses and procedures for suspensions and expulsions. The language that follows closely mirrors the language of Education Code Section 48900 et seq. The Charter School is committed to annual review of policies and procedures surrounding suspensions and expulsions and, as necessary, modification of the lists of offenses for which students are subject to suspension or expulsion.

When the policy is violated, it may be necessary to suspend or expel a student from regular classroom instruction. This policy shall serve as MPS’ policy and procedures for student suspension and expulsion. Suspended or expelled students shall be excluded from all school and school-related activities unless otherwise agreed during the period of suspension or expulsion.

This Policy and its Procedures will clearly describe discipline expectations, and it will be printed and distributed as part of the Student Handbook which is sent to each student at the beginning of the school year. The MPS administration shall ensure that students and their parents/guardians are notified in writing upon enrollment of all discipline policies and procedures.

Corporal punishment shall not be used as a disciplinary measure against any student. Corporal punishment includes the willful infliction of or willfully causing the infliction of physical pain on a student. For purposes of the Policy, corporal punishment does not include an employee’s use of force that is reasonable and necessary to protect the employee, students, staff or other persons or to prevent damage to school property.

Discipline includes but is not limited to advising and counseling students, conferring with parents/guardians, reflection during and after school hours, use of alternative educational environments, suspension and expulsion.

**PROGRESSIVE POSITIVE DISCIPLINE**

**Positive Consequences**

MPS school staff has committed itself to encouraging and supporting the attainment of academic skills as well as social skills, such as listening, friendship-making, problem solving, and alternatives to aggression. To inspire and encourage students to develop their potential in all of these areas, the following reinforcements will be used for positive behavior:

- Individual awards/recognition
- Classroom awards/recognition
- Certificates
- Displays
- Positive contact with parent/guardian
- Special activities (field trips, movie nights, picnics, etc.)
- Publications
- Assemblies
- Positive SIS points

Positive student behavior and improvements will be acknowledged and encouraged by the MPS staff. Teachers will not only report discipline issues on the school information system, but also positive behaviors and accomplishments. Parents will also be informed of positive behavior and improvements via phone, email, and home visits. Students will receive certificates and/or rewards for outstanding performance and behaviors.

### Alternatives to Suspension

To intervene in student behavior, MPS has a progressive discipline plan in place at each of its schools. This plan is published at the beginning of each school year in the Parent/Student handbook. The handbook also includes a school-parent-student compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will develop a partnership to help children achieve high academic and behavior standards. The discipline plan includes information about student expectations and progression of disciplinary procedures from day-to-day discipline to suspension and expulsion.

MPS believes that alternatives to suspension align with our schoolwide positive behavior support plan. Following are list of alternatives to be considered before suspending a student: warning, phone call home, parent conference, teacher/administrative reflection, written assignment/research/presentation, loss of privileges, behavior contract, parent shadowing, mentorship (peer/teacher), referral (counseling, SSPT, Dean of Students/Principal), assigning volunteer work/community service, Saturday school, and in-school suspension.

#### Reflection:

Reflection will be held on assigned day either during the lunch period or after school for up to 60 minutes. Students will have at least one (1) day notice that they must serve a reflection that is longer than twenty (20) minutes in order to make arrangements to be picked up from school. Parents may request in person a delay of the reflection; no phone calls or notes will be accepted for this request.

#### In School Suspension (ISS):

Notice of In School Suspension (ISS) and the reasons for the ISS will be given to the student and the parent in writing. The student will remain on campus during school hours in a designated area not in their regular class setting. The student will have no or limited contact with students and teachers while serving an ISS. Student is expected to complete their classroom assignments and school community service during ISS.

## GROUNDS FOR SUSPENSION

### Jurisdiction

A student may be suspended for prohibited misconduct if the act is (1) related to school activity; (2) school attendance occurring at MPS or at any other school; or (3) a MPS sponsored event. A student may be suspended for acts that are enumerated below and related to school activity or attendance that occur at any time, including, but not limited to, and of the following:

- a) while on school grounds;
- b) while going to or coming from school;
- c) during the lunch period, whether on or off the school campus; or
- d) during, going to, or coming from a school-sponsored activity.

### Enumerated Offenses

#### Discretionary Suspension Offenses

Students may be suspended for any of the following acts when it is determined the student:

1. Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person resulting in minor harm.
2. Willfully used force of violence upon the person of another, except self-defense resulting in minor injury.
3. Unlawfully possessed, used, sold or otherwise furnished nominal amounts of any controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind as defined in Health and Safety Code Sections 11053-11058.
4. Unlawfully under the influence of any controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind as defined in Health and Safety Code Sections 11053-11058.
5. Unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any controlled substance as defined in Health and Safety Code Sections 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant of any kind, and then sold, delivered or otherwise furnished to any person another liquid substance or material and represented same as controlled substance, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant.
6. Committed or attempted to commit robbery or extortion.
7. Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property resulting in negligible loss.
8. Stole or attempted to steal school property or private property.
9. Possessed or used tobacco or products containing tobacco or nicotine products, including but not limited to cigars, cigarettes, miniature

- cigars, clove cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chew packets and betel. This section does not prohibit the use of his or her own prescription products by a pupil.
10. Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity.
  11. Unlawfully possessed or unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any drug paraphernalia, as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 11014.5.
  12. Disrupted school activities or otherwise willfully defied the valid authority of supervisors, teachers, administrators, school officials, or other school personnel engaged in the performance of their duties.
  13. Knowingly received stolen school property or private property.
  14. Possessed an imitation firearm, i.e.: a replica of a firearm that is so substantially similar in physical properties to an existing firearm as to lead a reasonable person to conclude that the replica is a firearm.
  15. Committed or attempted to commit a sexual assault as defined in Penal Code Sections 261, 266c, 286, 288, 288a or 289, or committed a sexual battery as defined in Penal Code Section 243.4.
  16. Harassed, threatened, or intimidated a student who is a complaining witness or witness in a school disciplinary proceeding for the purpose of preventing that student from being a witness and/or retaliating against that student for being a witness.
  17. Unlawfully offered, arranged to sell, negotiated to sell, or sold the prescription drug Soma.
  18. Engaged in, or attempted to engage in hazing. For the purposes of this subdivision, "hazing" means a method of initiation or pre-initiation into a student organization or body, whether or not the organization or body is officially recognized by an educational institution, which is likely to cause serious bodily injury or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to a former, current, or prospective student. For purposes of this section, "hazing" does not include athletic events or school-sanctioned events.
  19. Made terrorist threats against school officials and/or school property. For purposes of this section, "terroristic threat" shall include any statement, whether written or oral, by a person who willfully threatens to commit a crime which will result in death, great bodily injury to another person, or property damage in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), with the specific intent that the statement is to be taken as a threat, even if there is no intent of actually carrying it out, which, on its face and under the circumstances in which it is made, is so unequivocal, unconditional, immediate, and specific as to convey to the person threatened, a gravity of purpose and an immediate prospect of execution of the threat, and thereby causes that person reasonably to be in sustained fear for his or her own safety or for his or her immediate family's safety, or for the protection of school property, or the personal property of the person threatened or his or her immediate family.
  20. Committed sexual harassment, as defined in Education Code Section 212.5. For the purposes of this section, the conduct described in Section 212.5 must be considered by a reasonable person of the same gender as the victim to be sufficiently severe or pervasive to have a negative impact upon the individual's academic performance or to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment. This section shall apply to students in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.
  21. Caused, attempted to cause, threaten to cause or participated in an act of hate violence, as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 233 of the Education Code. This section shall apply to students in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.
  22. Intentionally harassed, threatened or intimidated a student or group of students to the extent of having the actual and reasonably expected effect of materially disrupting class work, creating substantial disorder and invading student rights by creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment. This section shall apply to students in any of grades 4 to 12 inclusive.
  23. Engaged in an act of bullying, including, but not limited to, bullying committed by means of an electronic act.
    - 1) "Bullying" means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act, and including one or more acts committed by a student or group of students which would be deemed hate violence or harassment, threats, or intimidation, which are directed toward one or more students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:
      - i. Placing a reasonable student (defined as a student, including, but is not limited to, a student with exceptional needs, who exercises average care, skill, and judgment in conduct for a person of his or her age, or for a person of his or her age with exceptional needs) or students in fear of harm to that student's or those students' person or property.

- ii. Causing a reasonable student to experience a detrimental effect on his or her physical or mental health.
  - iii. Causing a reasonable student to experience interference with his or her academic performance.
  - iv. Causing a reasonable student to experience interference with his or her ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by the Charter School.
- 2) "Electronic Act" means the creation or transmission originated on or off the schoolsite, by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone, or other wireless communication device, computer, or pager, of a communication, including, but not limited to, any of the following:
- i. A message, text, sound, video, or image.
  - ii. A post on a social network Internet Web site including, but not limited to:
    - (a) Posting to or creating a burn page. A "burn page" means an Internet Web site created for the purpose of having one or more of the effects as listed in subparagraph (1) above.
    - (b) Creating a credible impersonation of another actual pupil for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in subparagraph (1) above. "Credible impersonation" means to knowingly and without consent impersonate a pupil for the purpose of bullying the pupil and such that another pupil would reasonably believe, or has reasonably believed, that the pupil was or is the pupil who was impersonated.
    - (c) Creating a false profile for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in subparagraph (1) above. "False profile" means a profile of a fictitious pupil or a profile using the likeness or attributes of an actual pupil other than the pupil who created the false profile.
  - iii. An act of cyber sexual bullying.
    - (a) For purposes of this clause, "cyber sexual bullying" means the dissemination of, or the solicitation or incitement to disseminate, a photograph or other visual recording by a pupil to another pupil or to school personnel by means of an electronic act that has or can be reasonably predicted to have one or more of the effects described in subparagraphs (i) to (iv), inclusive, of paragraph (1). A photograph or other visual recording, as described above, shall include the depiction of a nude, semi-nude, or sexually explicit photograph or other visual recording of a minor where the minor is identifiable from the photograph, visual recording, or other electronic act.
    - (b) For purposes of this clause, "cyber sexual bullying" does not include a depiction, portrayal, or image that has any serious literary, artistic, educational, political, or scientific value or that involves athletic events or school-sanctioned activities.
- 3) Notwithstanding subparagraphs (1) and (2) above, an electronic act shall not constitute pervasive conduct solely on the basis that it has been transmitted on the Internet or is currently posted on the Internet.
24. A pupil who aids or abets, as defined in Section 31 of the Penal Code, the infliction or attempted infliction of physical injury to another person may be subject to suspension, but not expulsion, except that a pupil who has been adjudged by a juvenile court to have committed, as an aider and abettor, a crime of physical violence in which the victim suffered great bodily injury or serious bodily injury shall be subject to discipline pursuant to subdivision (1)(a)-(b).
25. Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any knife unless, in the case of possession of any object of this type, the student had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, with the Executive Director or designee's concurrence.

#### **Mandatory Suspension Offenses**

Students shall be suspended when the following occur on school campus or at a school activity off campus, for any of the following reasons:

- 1. Possessing, selling, or furnishing a firearm, as defined below. E.C. 48915(c)(1)

2. Brandishing a knife at another person. E.C. 48915(c)(2)
3. Unlawfully selling a controlled substance. E.C. 48915(c)(3)
4. Committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault or committing a sexual battery, as defined in the enumerated offenses, above. E.C. 48915(c)(4)
5. Possession of an explosive, as defined below. E.C. 48915(c)(5)

## SUSPENSION PROCEDURES

Suspensions shall be initiated according to the following procedures:

### Conference

Suspension shall be preceded, if possible, by a conference conducted by the Principal or the Principal's designee with the student and his or her parent and, whenever practical, the teacher, supervisor or school employee who referred the student to the Principal. The conference may be omitted if the Principal or designee determines that an emergency situation exists. An "emergency situation" involves a clear and present danger to the lives, safety or health of students or school personnel. If a student is suspended without this conference, both the parent/guardian and student shall be notified of the student's right to return to school for the purpose of a conference.

At the conference, the student shall be informed of the reason for the disciplinary action and the evidence against him or her and shall be given the opportunity to present his or her version and evidence in his or her defense.

This conference shall be held within two school days, unless the student waives this right or is physically unable to attend for any reason including, but not limited to, incarceration or hospitalization.

No penalties may be imposed on a student for failure of the student's parent or guardian to attend a conference with school officials. Reinstatement of the suspended student shall not be contingent upon attendance by the student's parent or guardian at the conference.

### Notice to Parents/Guardians

At the time of suspension, the Principal or designee shall make a reasonable effort to contact the parent/guardian by telephone or in person. Whenever a student is suspended, the parent/guardian shall be notified in writing of the suspension and the date of return following suspension. This notice shall state the specific offense committed by the student. In addition, the notice will also state the date and time when the student may return to school. If school officials wish to ask the parent/guardian to confer regarding matters pertinent to the suspension, the notice will request

that the parent/guardian respond to such requests without delay.

### Suspension Time Limits

Suspensions, when not including a recommendation for expulsion, shall not exceed five (5) consecutive school days per suspension. A student may be suspended from school for not more than 20 school days in any school year unless, for purposes of adjustment, the student enrolls in or is transferred another regular school, an opportunity school, or continuation school or class, in which case suspension shall not exceed 30 days in any school year. However, this restriction on the number of days of suspension does not apply when the suspension is extended pending an expulsion. (Education Code 48903, 48911, 48912)

### Suspension Appeals

Students and parent/guardian may appeal a suspension within five (5) school days of the suspension. This appeal will be made to the Principal and heard by a Reflection Committee. The Reflection Committee is an advisory committee to the Principal, trained quarterly in restorative practices and PBIS, and will be comprised of at least one school administrator, and at least two teachers, and may also include a non-certificated employee. All Reflection Committee hearings on suspensions will be held within two (2) school days of the appeal being made. The decision of the Reflection Committee is final. Based on the information submitted or requested, the Reflection Committee may make one of the following decisions regarding the suspension:

- Uphold the suspension
- Determine that the suspension was not within school guidelines, overturn the suspension, and order that all records and documents regarding the disciplinary proceeding be destroyed. No information regarding the suspension will be placed in the student's permanent record or shared with anyone not directly involved in the proceedings. Charter School shall make arrangements to provide the student with classroom materials and assignments for the duration of student's absence. Student will be provided the opportunity to make academic progress, make up assignments, and earn credit missed.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Charter School will maintain student records in accordance with Education Code Section 49602 and 5 CCR 16024.

### Recommendation for Placement/Expulsion

Upon a recommendation of Placement/ Expulsion by the Principal, the student and the student's parent/guardian or representative will be invited to a conference to determine if the suspension for the student should be extended pending an expulsion hearing. This determination will be made by the

Principal upon either of the following determinations: (1) the student's presence will be disruptive to the education process; or (2) the student poses a threat or danger to others. Upon either determination, the student's suspension will be extended pending the results of an expulsion hearing.

### Access to Education

For suspensions that are not pending an expulsion hearing, Charter School shall make arrangements to provide the student with classroom material and current assignments to be completed at home during the length of the suspension. For suspensions pending an expulsion hearing, Charter School shall be responsible for the appropriate interim placement of students. Please see "Interim Placement" below for details.

## GROUNDS FOR EXPULSION

### Jurisdiction

A student may be expelled for prohibited misconduct if the offense is (1) related to school activity; (2) school attendance occurring at MPS or at any other school; or (3) a MPS sponsored event. A student may be expelled for offenses that are described below and related to school activity or attendance that occur at any time, including, but not limited to, and of the following:

- a) while on school grounds;
- b) while going to or coming from school;
- c) during the lunch period, whether on or off the school campus; or
- d) during, going to, or coming from a school-sponsored activity.

The length of an expulsion is addressed above, under "Rehabilitation Plans."

### Expulsion (Discretionary Offenses)

1. Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person resulting in serious bodily harm.
2. Willfully used force of violence upon the person of another, except self-defense resulting in serious bodily injury.
3. Unlawfully possessed, used, sold or otherwise furnished significant amounts of any controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind as defined in Health and Safety Code Sections 11053-11058.
4. Unlawfully under the influence of any controlled substance, as defined in Health and Safety Code Sections 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind.

5. Unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any controlled substance as defined in Health and Safety Code Sections 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant of any kind, and then sold, delivered or otherwise furnished to any person another liquid substance or material and represented same as controlled substance, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant.
6. Committed or attempted to commit robbery or extortion in excess of \$1,000.
7. Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property in excess of \$1,000.
8. Stole or attempted to steal school property or private property in excess of \$1,000.
9. Habitually disrupted school activities or otherwise willfully defied the valid authority of supervisors, teachers, administrators, school officials, or other school personnel engaged in the performance of their duties.
10. Possessed an imitation firearm, i.e.: a replica of a firearm that is so substantially similar in physical properties to an existing firearm as to lead a reasonable person to conclude that the replica is a firearm.
11. Committed or attempted to commit a sexual assault as defined in Penal Code Sections 261, 266c, 286, 288, 288a or 289, or committed a sexual battery as defined in Penal Code Section 243.4.
12. Harassed, threatened, or intimidated a student who is a complaining witness or witness in a school disciplinary proceeding for the purpose of preventing that student from being a witness and/or retaliating against that student for being a witness.
13. Unlawfully offered, arranged to sell, negotiated to sell, or sold the prescription drug Soma.
14. Engaged in, or attempted to engage in hazing. For the purposes of this subdivision, "hazing" means a method of initiation or pre-initiation into a student organization or body, whether or not the organization or body is officially recognized by an educational institution, which is likely to cause serious bodily injury or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to a former, current, or prospective student. For purposes of this section, "hazing" does not include athletic events or school-sanctioned events.
15. Made terrorist threats against school officials and/or school property. For purposes of this section, "terroristic threat" shall include any statement, whether written or oral, by a person who willfully threatens to commit a crime which will result in death, great bodily injury to another person, or property damage in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), with the specific intent that the statement is to be taken as a threat, even

- if there is no intent of actually carrying it out, which, on its face and under the circumstances in which it is made, is so unequivocal, unconditional, immediate, and specific as to convey to the person threatened, a gravity of purpose and an immediate prospect of execution of the threat, and thereby causes that person reasonably to be in sustained fear for his or her own safety or for his or her immediate family's safety, or for the protection of school property, or the personal property of the person threatened or his or her immediate family.
16. Committed sexual harassment, as defined in Education Code Section 212.5. For the purposes of this section, the conduct described in Section 212.5 must be considered by a reasonable person of the same gender as the victim to be sufficiently severe or pervasive to have a negative impact upon the individual's academic performance or to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment. This section shall apply to students in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.
  17. Caused, attempted to cause, threaten to cause or participated in an act of hate violence, as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 233 of the Education Code. This section shall apply to students in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.
  18. Intentionally harassed, threatened or intimidated a student or group of students to the extent of having the actual and reasonably expected effect of materially disrupting class work, creating substantial disorder and invading student rights by creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment. This section shall apply to students in any of grades 4 to 12 inclusive.
  19. Engaged in an act of bullying, including, but not limited to, bullying committed by means of an electronic act.
    - 1) "Bullying" means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act, and including one or more acts committed by a student or group of students which would be deemed hate violence or harassment, threats, or intimidation, which are directed toward one or more students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:
      - i. Placing a reasonable student (defined as a student, including, but is not limited to, a student with exceptional needs, who exercises average care, skill, and judgment in conduct for a person of his or her age, or for a person of his or her age with exceptional needs) or students in fear of harm to that student's or those students' person or property.
      - ii. Causing a reasonable student to experience a detrimental effect on his or her physical or mental health.
      - iii. Causing a reasonable student to experience interference with his or her academic performance.
      - iv. Causing a reasonable student to experience interference with his or her ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by the Charter School.
    - 2) "Electronic Act" means the creation or transmission originated on or off the school site, by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone, or other wireless communication device, computer, or pager, of a communication, including, but not limited to, any of the following:
      - i. A message, text, sound, video, or image.
      - ii. A post on a social network Internet Web site including, but not limited to:
        - (a) Posting to or creating a burn page. A "burn page" means an Internet Web site created for the purpose of having one or more of the effects as listed in subparagraph (1) above.
        - (b) Creating a credible impersonation of another actual pupil for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in subparagraph (1) above. "Credible impersonation" means to knowingly and without consent impersonate a pupil for the purpose of bullying the pupil and such that another pupil would reasonably believe, or has reasonably believed, that the pupil was or is the pupil who was impersonated.
        - (c) Creating a false profile for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in subparagraph (1) above. "False profile" means a profile of a fictitious pupil or a profile using the likeness or attributes of an actual pupil other than the pupil who created the false profile.
      - iii. An act of cyber sexual bullying.
        - (a) For purposes of this clause, "cyber sexual bullying" means

the dissemination of, or the solicitation or incitement to disseminate, a photograph or other visual recording by a pupil to another pupil or to school personnel by means of an electronic act that has or can be reasonably predicted to have one or more of the effects described in subparagraphs (i) to (iv), inclusive, of paragraph (1). A photograph or other visual recording, as described above, shall include the depiction of a nude, semi-nude, or sexually explicit photograph or other visual recording of a minor where the minor is identifiable from the photograph, visual recording, or other electronic act.

(b) For purposes of this clause, "cyber sexual bullying" does not include a depiction, portrayal, or image that has any serious literary, artistic, educational, political, or scientific value or that involves athletic events or school-sanctioned activities.

- 3) Notwithstanding subparagraphs (1) and (2) above, an electronic act shall not constitute pervasive conduct solely on the basis that it has been transmitted on the Internet or is currently posted on the Internet.
  20. A pupil who aids or abets, as defined in Section 31 of the Penal Code, the infliction or attempted infliction of physical injury to another person may be subject to suspension, but not expulsion, except that a pupil who has been adjudged by a juvenile court to have committed, as an aider and abettor, a crime of physical violence in which the victim suffered great bodily injury or serious bodily injury shall be subject to discipline pursuant to subdivision (3)(a)-(b).
  21. Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any knife unless, in the case of possession of any object of this type, the student had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, with the Executive Director or designee's concurrence.
3. Unlawfully selling a controlled substance. E.C. 48915(c)(3)
  4. Committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault or committing a sexual battery, as defined in the enumerated offenses, above. E.C. 48915(c)(4)
  5. Possession of an explosive, as defined below. E.C. 48915(c)(5)

### **Expulsion (Mandatory Offenses)**

1. Possessing, selling, or furnishing a firearm, as defined below. E.C. 48915(c)(1)
2. Brandishing a knife at another person. E.C. 48915(c)(2)



## EXPULSION PROCEDURES

### Authority to Expel

A student may be expelled by an Administrative Panel following a hearing before it. The Administrative Panel will include three or more certificated persons, none of whom have been members of the Board or on the staff of the school in which the student is enrolled. It is important for the Administrative Panel members to have experience in education law and student discipline. Typical Administrative Panel members include teachers, school administrators and Home Office Chiefs/Directors. The Home Office will coordinate all administrators and teachers who serve on the Reflection Committee at their school sites to be "on call" for a particular month should their presence be needed at an Administrative Panel hearing. The Administrative Panel may expel any student found to have committed an expellable offense.

### Expulsion Hearing

Students recommended for expulsion are entitled to a hearing to determine whether the student should be expelled. The hearing shall be held within thirty (30) school days after the Principal determines that the Student has committed an expellable offense.

After an Administrative Panel hears the case, it will make a determination whether to expel.

Written notice of the hearing shall be forwarded to the student and the student's parent/guardian at least ten (10) calendar days before the date of the hearing. Upon mailing the notice, it shall be deemed served upon the student. The notice shall include:

1. The date and place of the expulsion hearing;
2. A statement of specific facts, charges and offenses upon which the proposed expulsion is based;
3. A copy of MPS' disciplinary rules which relate to the alleged violation;
4. Notification of the student's or parent/guardian's obligation to provide information about the student's status at the school to any other school district or school to which the student seeks enrollment;
5. The opportunity for the student or the student's parent/guardian to appear in person or to employ and be represented by counsel or a non-attorney advisor;
6. The right to inspect and obtain copies of all documents to be used at the hearing;
7. The opportunity to confront and question all witnesses who testify at the hearing;
8. The opportunity to question all evidence presented and to present oral and documentary evidence on the student's behalf including witnesses.

### Special procedures for Expulsion Hearings Involving Sexual Assault or Battery Offenses

MPS may, upon finding a good cause, determine that the disclosure of either the identity of the witness or the testimony of that witness at the hearing, or both, would subject the witness to an unreasonable risk of psychological or physical harm. Upon this determination, the testimony of the witness may be presented at the hearing in the form of sworn declarations which shall be examined only by the Board, administrative panel, or the hearing officer. Copies of these sworn declarations, edited to delete the name and identity of the witness, shall be made available to the student.

1. The complaining witness in any sexual assault or battery case must be provided with a copy of the applicable disciplinary rules and advised of his/her right to (a) receive five days notice of his/her scheduled testimony, (b) have up to two (2) adult support persons of his/her choosing present in the hearing at the time he/she testifies, which may include a parent, guardian, or legal counsel, and (c) elect to have the hearing closed while testifying.
2. MPS must also provide the victim a room separate from the hearing room for the complaining witness' use prior to and during breaks in testimony.
3. At the discretion of the person or panel conducting the hearing, the complaining witness shall be allowed periods of relief from examination and cross-examination during which he or she may leave the hearing room.
4. The person conducting the expulsion hearing may also arrange the seating within the hearing room to facilitate a less intimidating environment for the complaining witness.
5. The person conducting the expulsion hearing may also limit time for taking the testimony of the complaining witness to the hours he/she is normally in school, if there is no good cause to take the testimony during other hours.
6. Prior to a complaining witness testifying, the support persons must be admonished that the hearing is confidential. Nothing in the law precludes the person presiding over the hearing from removing a support person whom the presiding person finds is disrupting the hearing. The person conducting the hearing may permit any one of the support persons for the complaining witness to accompany him or her to the witness stand.
7. If one or both of the support persons is also a witness, MPS must present evidence that the witness' presence is both desired by the witness and will be helpful to MPS. The person presiding over the hearing shall permit the witness to stay unless it is established that there is a substantial

risk that the testimony of the complaining witness would be influenced by the support person, in which case the presiding official shall admonish the support person or persons not to prompt, sway, or influence the witness in any way. Nothing shall preclude the presiding officer from exercising his or her discretion to remove a person from the hearing whom he or she believes is prompting, swaying, or influencing the witness.

8. The testimony of the support person shall be presented before the testimony of the complaining witness and the complaining witness shall be excluded from the courtroom during that testimony.
9. Especially for charges involving sexual assault or battery, if the hearing is to be conducted in the public at the request of the student being expelled, the complaining witness shall have the right to have his/her testimony heard in a closed session when testifying at a public meeting would threaten serious psychological harm to the complaining witness and there are not alternative procedures to avoid the threatened harm. The alternative procedures may include videotaped depositions or contemporaneous examination in another place communicated to the hearing by means of closed-circuit television.
10. Evidence of specific instances of a complaining witness' prior sexual conduct is presumed inadmissible and shall not be heard absent a determination by the person conducting the hearing that extraordinary circumstances exist requiring the evidence be heard. Before such a determination regarding extraordinary circumstances can be made, the witness shall be provided notice and an opportunity to present opposition to the introduction of the evidence. In the hearing on the admissibility of the evidence, the complaining witness shall be entitled to be represented by a parent, legal counsel, or other support person. Reputation or opinion evidence regarding the sexual behavior of the complaining witness is not admissible for any purpose.

### **Record of Expulsion Hearing**

A record of the hearing shall be made and may be maintained by any means, including electronic recording, as long as a reasonably accurate and complete written transcription of the proceedings can be made.

### **Presentation of Evidence**

While technical rules of evidence do not apply to expulsion hearings, evidence may be admitted and used as proof only if it is the kind of evidence on which reasonable persons can rely in the conduct of serious affairs. A recommendation by the Administrative Panel to expel must be supported by substantial evidence that the student committed an expellable offense.

Findings of fact shall be based solely on the evidence at the hearing. While hearsay evidence is admissible, no decision to expel shall be based solely on hearsay and sworn declarations may be admitted as testimony from witnesses of whom the Board, Panel or designee determines that disclosure of their identity or testimony at the hearing may subject them to an unreasonable risk of physical or psychological harm.

If, due to a written request by the accused student, the hearing is held at a public meeting, and the charge is committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault or committing a sexual battery as defined in Education Code Section 48900, a complaining witness shall have the right to have his or her testimony heard in a session closed to the public.

The decision of the Administrative Panel shall be in the form of written findings of fact.

If the Administrative Panel decides not to recommend expulsion, the student shall immediately be returned to his/her educational program.

### **Written Notice to Expel**

The Principal or designee following a decision of the Administrative Panel to expel shall send written notice of the decision to expel, including the Administrative Panel's adopted findings of fact, to the student or parent/guardian. This notice shall also include the following:

1. Notice of the specific offense committed by the student
2. Notice of the student's or parent/guardian's obligation to inform any new district in which the student seeks to enroll of the student's status with MPS
3. The reinstatement eligibility review date; a copy of the rehabilitation plan; the type of educational placement during the period of expulsion, and notice of appeal rights/procedures

The Principal or designee shall send a copy of the written notice of the decision to expel to the student's district of residence. This notice shall include the following:

1. The student's name
2. The specific expellable offense committed by the student

### **Disciplinary Records**

MPS shall maintain records of all student suspensions and expulsions at MPS. Such records shall be made available to the District upon request.

### **Expulsion Appeals**

In order to appeal an expulsion, the student/parent/guardian must submit a written appeal to the CEO of MPS outlining the reason for the

appeal, attaching any supporting documentation, within ten (10) calendar days of being informed of the expulsion.

In response to the written request for an appeal, the CEO of MPS shall call a meeting of the Board of Directors. The Board shall convene a hearing on the appeal within ten (10) calendar days of receipt of a timely written request for an appeal.

At the hearing on the appeal, the student shall have the right to present evidence. The Board will consider evidence and/or testimony as appropriate and will render a written decision that shall be in the best interest of the student and the Charter School. That decision shall be final.

### **Interim Placement**

Charter School shall be responsible for the appropriate interim placement of students during and pending the completion of the Charter School's student expulsion process and shall facilitate the post-expulsion placement of expelled students.

Charter School shall work with the District for an interim placement or other alternative program. Should Charter School determine after the referral that the student will remain at the charter school pending the expulsion hearing based on the best interest of the student, or if Charter School secures another alternative interim placement at another charter school or school within its CMO, if appropriate and aligned with applicable charter petitions, Charter School will notify the District of such determination.

## **ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS**

### **Bullying**

The Charter School shall comply with all applicable requirements of the Safe Place to Learn Act, Education Code section 234 *et seq.* MPS' policy on bullying prohibits discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying based on actual or perceived characteristics, as specified in the definition of hate crimes. MPS' process for receiving and investigating complaints includes complaints of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying based on actual or perceived characteristics, as specified, and a requirement that Charter School personnel who witness such acts take immediate steps to intervene when safe to do so, a timeline to investigate and resolve complaints, and an appeal process.

### **Special Procedures for the Consideration of Suspension and Expulsion of Students with Disabilities**

#### **1. Notification of SELPA**

The Charter School shall immediately notify the SELPA and coordinate the procedures in this policy with the SELPA of the discipline of any student with a disability or student who the Charter School or SELPA would be deemed to have knowledge that the student had a disability.

#### **2. Services During Suspension**

Students suspended for more than ten (10) school days in a school year shall continue to receive services so as to enable the student to continue to participate in the general education curriculum, although in another setting, and to progress toward meeting the goals set out in the child's IEP/504 Plan; and receive, as appropriate, a functional behavioral assessment and behavioral intervention services and modifications, that are designed to address the behavior violation so that it does not recur. These services may be provided in an interim alternative educational setting.

#### **3. Procedural Safeguards/ Manifestation Determination**

Within ten (10) school days of a recommendation for expulsion or any decision to change the placement of a child with a disability because of a violation of a code of student conduct, the Charter School, the parent, and relevant members of the IEP/504 Team shall review all relevant information in the student's file, including the child's IEP/504 Plan, any teacher observations, and any relevant information provided by the parents to determine:

- a. If the conduct in question was caused by, or had a direct and substantial relationship to, the child's disability; or
- b. If the conduct in question was the direct result of the local educational agency's failure to implement the IEP/504 Plan.

If the Charter School, the parent, and relevant members of the IEP/504 Team determine that either of the above is applicable for the child, the conduct shall be determined to be a manifestation of the child's disability.

If the Charter School, the parent, and relevant members of the IEP/504 Team make the determination that the conduct was a manifestation of the child's disability, the IEP/504 Team shall:

- a. Conduct a functional behavioral assessment and implement a behavioral intervention plan for such child, provided that the Charter School had not conducted such assessment prior to such determination before the behavior that resulted in a change in placement;
- b. If a behavioral intervention plan has been developed, review the behavioral intervention plan if the child already has such a behavioral intervention plan, and modify it, as necessary, to address the behavior; and
- c. Return the child to the placement from which the child was removed, unless the parent and the Charter School agree to a change of

placement as part of the modification of the behavioral intervention plan.

If the Charter School, the parent, and relevant members of the IEP/504 Team determine that the behavior was not a manifestation of the student's disability and that the conduct in question was not a result of the failure to implement the IEP/504 Plan, then the Charter School may apply the relevant disciplinary procedures to children with disabilities in the same manner and for the same duration as the procedures would be applied to students without disabilities.

#### **4. Due Process Appeals**

The parent of a child with a disability who disagrees with any decision regarding placement, or the manifestation determination, or the Charter School believes that maintaining the current placement of the child is substantially likely to result in injury to the child or to others, may request an expedited administrative hearing through the Special Education Unit of the Office of Administrative Hearings or by utilizing the dispute provisions of the 504 Policy and Procedures.

When an appeal relating to the placement of the student or the manifestation determination has been requested by either the parent or the Charter School, the student shall remain in the interim alternative educational setting pending the decision of the hearing officer or until the expiration of the forty-five (45) day time period provided for in an interim alternative educational setting, whichever occurs first, unless the parent and the Charter School agree otherwise.

#### **5. Special Circumstances**

Charter School personnel may consider any unique circumstances on a case-by-case basis when determining whether to order a change in placement for a child with a disability who violates a code of student conduct.

The Principal or designee may remove a student to an interim alternative educational setting for not more than forty-five (45) days without regard to whether the behavior is determined to be a manifestation of the student's disability in cases where a student:

- a. Carries or possesses a weapon, as defined in 18 USC 930, to or at school, on school premises, or to or at a school function;
- b. Knowingly possesses or uses illegal drugs, or sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance, while at school, on school premises, or at a school function; or
- c. Has inflicted serious bodily injury, as defined by 20 USC 1415(k)(7)(D), upon a person while at school, on school premises, or at a school function.

#### **6. Interim Alternative Educational Setting**

The student's interim alternative educational setting shall be determined by the student's IEP/504 Team.

#### **7. Procedures for Students Not Yet Eligible for Special Education Services**

A student who has not been identified as an individual with disabilities pursuant to IDEIA and who has violated the Charter School's disciplinary procedures may assert the procedural safeguards granted under this administrative regulation only if the Charter School had knowledge that the student was disabled before the behavior occurred.

The Charter School shall be deemed to have knowledge that the student had a disability if one of the following conditions exists:

- a. The parent/guardian has expressed concern in writing, or orally if the parent/guardian does not know how to write or has a disability that prevents a written statement, to Charter School supervisory or administrative personnel, or to one of the child's teachers, that the student is in need of special education or related services.
- b. The parent has requested an evaluation of the child.
- c. The child's teacher, or other Charter School personnel, has expressed specific concerns about a pattern of behavior demonstrated by the child, directly to the director of special education or to other Charter School supervisory personnel.

If the Charter School knew or should have known the student had a disability under any of the three (3) circumstances described above, the student may assert any of the protections available to IDEIA-eligible children with disabilities, including the right to stay-put.

If the Charter School had no basis for knowledge of the student's disability, it shall proceed with the proposed discipline. The Charter School shall conduct an expedited evaluation if requested by the parents; however the student shall remain in the education placement determined by the Charter School pending the results of the evaluation.

The Charter School shall not be deemed to have knowledge that the student had a disability if the parent has not allowed an evaluation, refused services, or if the student has been evaluated and determined to not be eligible.

#### **Required Notification**

If a pupil is expelled or leaves the Charter School without graduating or completing the school year for any reason, the Charter School shall notify the superintendent of the school district of the pupil's last known address within 30 days, and shall, upon request, provide that school district with a copy of the cumulative record of the pupil, including a transcript of grades or report card and health information.

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**GENERAL POLICIES**


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**A. SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

MPS will offer a range of activities that will enrich student development during and after school. Because the safety of students is very important to us, specific rules will apply to these activities.

**Athletic Activities:**

The Charter School complies with Education Code Section 49475 regarding student athletes who sustain concussions. A concussion is a brain injury that can be caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head, or by a blow to another part of the body with the force transmitted to the head. Even though most concussions are mild, all concussions are potentially serious and may result in complications, including prolonged brain damage and death if not recognized and managed properly. MPS offers an athletic program, and so we must immediately remove from the school-sponsored athletic activity for the remainder of the day an athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury during that activity. The athlete may not return to that activity until he or she is evaluated by, and receives written clearance from, a licensed health care provider. If the licensed health care provider determines the athlete has a concussion or head injury, the athlete shall also complete a graduated return-to-play protocol of no less than 7 days in duration under the supervision of a licensed health care provider.

Additionally, on a yearly basis, MPS must provide a concussion and head injury information sheet to athletes, which must be signed and returned by the athlete and the athlete's parent/guardian before the athlete initiates practice or competition. This requirement does not apply to an athlete engaging in an athletic activity during the regular school day or as part of a physical education course. MPS shall distribute this information sheet to athletes prior to the start of the athletic season. Copies are also available in the main office of each MPS school.

Additionally, those wishing to participate in athletics at MPS, must review the information sheet on sudden cardiac arrest and return the signed information sheet to the main office of each MPS school. The information sheet is located at: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/pd/ca/pe/documents/pescaform.pdf>.

**Field Trips:**

Field Trips offer exciting ways to learn. MPS students may have the opportunity to go on field trips at various times throughout the school year.

MPS plans many field trips, weekend getaways, summer camp, and the Europe Trip during spring break.

Students must bring to school a Field Trip Permission Slip signed by a parent or guardian by the specified date. Phone calls will not be accepted as permission for students to attend.

**Academic Tutoring Program:**

- Tutoring will be available as part of the MPS after-school program.
- Students can receive tutoring from faculty and volunteers from local universities.
- The program will benefit all students.
- The sessions will generally occur after school; some may be scheduled on the weekends.
- Upon availability, Saturday tutoring is available to all students who wish to improve their academic skills. We offer math and SAT/ACT prep. All students are welcome to join at specified times.

**After School Activities:**

MPS offers a variety of after school tutoring, clubs, sports, and activities for all students free of charge. There is no better way for students to enrich their education than by taking part in clubs, after-school activities or working with a teacher (Tutoring). These opportunities allow students to explore more deeply things they already enjoy and to try other areas that sound interesting. Students who stay for an after-school activity must follow these rules:

- Be with a teacher or other staff member at all times.
- Arrange to have their transportation pick them up at the end of the activity.
- Abide by the MPS code of student conduct and all school rules and policies as outlined in the handbook while participating in the activity.

Students who are disruptive, disrespectful, or who do not follow the rules will be prohibited from participating in the after-school program.

Students not participating in after school activities may not stay after school to wait for another student.

A full list and description of after school clubs and activities will be posted after school starts. We strongly encourage our students to explore and take advantage of these after school opportunities.

MPS is not responsible for students on campus who are not participating in after school activities or who remain on campus after the completion of the after-school activity. Those students must leave the campus within ten minutes of school or after dismissal time. Following is the MPS policy regarding students left on campus after school hours. Contact the office of each MPS school for more information.

**POLICY REGARDING STUDENTS LEFT ON CAMPUS AFTER SCHOOL HOURS**

MPS is committed to providing a safe campus for all students. When students are left on school property

after the close of business hours, MPS will follow certain steps to ensure students are safe until their parents/guardians come to pick them up. In the event students are left on campus after school hours, MPS staff will:

1. Notify the principal or designee immediately.
2. Attempt to reach parents/guardians through the phone number provided to the School by parents/guardians at the beginning of the year. This may include contacting any emergency contact(s) listed for the student.
3. If a staff person becomes aware a child is on campus more than ten minutes after dismissal of the regular school day or after school activity, the staff person or another employee will remain on site until an adult, including but not limited to an emergency contact, police officer, or social worker, retrieves the student.
4. Notify the principal or designee after the ten (10) minutes after dismissal has passed if there is a possibility that law enforcement may be called to assist the student.
5. As a last resort, contact law enforcement and/or child welfare services who may remove the student and may assume responsibility for the student until the parent/guardian retrieves the student.
6. In cases of repeated incidents where parents/guardians have been late in picking up their child, notify the parents/guardians in writing of parental responsibilities and consequences for their child. A consequence may include: refusal to allow the student to attend after school programs if the parent is repeatedly late in retrieving the child.

Students should not be dropped off more than thirty (30) minutes early for School. The School will open its doors at 7:30 a.m. and at this time students will be supervised by School staff. All students that arrive before 7:30 a.m. will be unsupervised and the School will not be responsible for the safety and well-being of these students. (Each individual MPS school may include site-specific amendments into the drop-off, pick-up, and supervision times addressing local issues.)

## **B. ILLNESS, INJURY, AND MEDICATION POLICIES**

MPS does not have a nurse on staff. Consistent with doctor's orders, properly trained office staff can assist students with basic first aid treatment; however, office staff is not registered nurse. Students sent to the office or visiting the office claiming that they are ill will be quickly evaluated by the office staff. If a student needs treatment beyond basic first aid, Parent/Guardian will be contacted to pick him/her up.

### **Illness or Injury during the school day:**

If a student becomes ill or injured during the school day, s/he must report to the Main Office. Do not leave the building without permission. Any absence or departure from class that is not first cleared through the office will be considered unexcused.

### **Illness at Home:**

If a student is not physically well prior to the beginning of the school day, the office should be informed and the student should be kept at home.

### **Medications:**

- Medication shall be administered during school hours only if determined by a physician to be necessary and with parental permission.
- All medications must be in the original container.
- The container must be clearly marked with the student's first and last name.
- A "Request for Medication to be Taken During School Hours" must accompany all medication, containing instructions for administration, including exact times and dosages. The "Request for Medication to be Taken During School Hours" will be filed in the student's folder. This form can be obtained from the Main Office. This form shall be provided at least annually and more frequently if the medication, dosage, frequency of administration, or reason for the administration changes.
- All medications are to be delivered to the Main Office in their original containers, with the name of the student, medication, dosage, and frequency of administration clearly marked. Extra medication should be picked up by the parent/guardian at the completion of the medication regimen or end of the school year, whichever is earlier. The school is not liable for any medication not picked up after the end of the school year.
- MPS staff shall keep records of medication administered at MPS.
- Medication will be kept in a secure and appropriate storage location at each MPS school and administered per physician's instructions by appropriately designated staff.
- Administration will consult with the parent/guardian and student's medical professionals to establish a written plan for Students with chronic health issues or conditions that require specific medication regimens or health plans, such as diabetes, asthma, etc.
- Any pupil requiring insulin shots must establish a plan for administration of insulin shots with the Principal in consultation with the parent or guardian and the pupil's medical professional.

### **Epinephrine Auto-Injectors:**

Trained MPS personnel who have volunteered may use epinephrine auto-injectors to provide emergency medical aid to persons suffering, or reasonably believed to be suffering from, an anaphylactic reaction. MPS will ensure it has the appropriate type of epinephrine auto-injector on site (i.e., regular or

junior) to meet the needs of its pupils. MPS will ensure staff properly store, maintain, and restock the epinephrine auto-injectors as needed.

MPS will ensure any school personnel who volunteer are appropriately trained regarding the storage and emergency use of epinephrine auto-injectors based on the standards developed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. MPS will distribute an annual notice to all staff describing the request for volunteers who will be trained to administer an epinephrine auto-injector to a person if that person is suffering, or reasonably believed to be suffering from, anaphylaxis. The annual notice shall also describe the training the volunteer will receive.

#### **Contagious Diseases:**

If, during the course of the year, a child develops any contagious disease or condition, please notify the school immediately so that precautions can be taken and appropriate notifications sent home.

The School reserves the right to notify the municipal bodies and Department of Health if necessary under federal and state laws.

#### **Diabetes Information Sheet:**

MPS will provide an information sheet regarding Type 2 Diabetes to the parent or guardian of incoming 7th grade students, pursuant to Education Code Section 49452.7. The information sheet shall include, but shall not be limited to, all of the following:

1. A description of Type 2 Diabetes.
2. A description of the risk factors and warning signs associated with Type 2 Diabetes.
3. A recommendation that students displaying or possibly suffering from risk factors or warning signs associated with Type 2 Diabetes should be screened for Type 2 Diabetes.
4. A description of treatments and prevention of methods of Type 2 Diabetes.
5. A description of the different types of diabetes screening tests available.

#### **Oral Health Assessment:**

Students enrolled in kindergarten in a public school or while enrolled in first grade if the pupil was not previously enrolled in kindergarten in a public school are required to have an oral health assessment completed by a dental professional. Please contact the office if you have questions about this requirement. MPS provides the appropriate forms to incoming students to be completed by the oral health professional to satisfy this requirement. Please see the main office at your MPS school if you need another copy of this form.

#### **Suicide Prevention:**

MPS is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all students. Please see a copy of the MPS suicide prevention policy on the MPS website. It is also available at the Main Office.

### **C. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND SUPPORT**

Since your child's education is a continuing process, parent cooperation, support, and assistance are needed if we are to be successful. Together, we can make a positive difference in your children's lives. The following are ways that we can work to fulfill our common goals:

#### **Parents/Guardians are asked to:**

- Be a good listener to both your child and the school staff when conflicts arise.
- Be a positive role model for your child.
- Contact the school as necessary.
- Participate as fully as possible in volunteer opportunities, student presentations, parenting programs, special projects, and assembly events.
- Be familiar with MPS student handbook and explain it as necessary.

### **D. PARENT/TEACHER COMMUNICATION**

- Parents are encouraged and are always welcomed to discuss the progress or problems of their children with the school faculty when an appointment is made prior.
- Parents may not disturb a teacher during school hours.
- An appointment is required for all conferences.
- To make an appointment with a teacher, call the main office or email them directly.
- Please do not attempt to have an impromptu conference with a teacher on campus as appointments are mandatory.
- If your question relates to the classroom, please ask the appropriate teacher.
- Any question involving a student's work or behavior must be discussed with the teacher before it is discussed with the administration.
- Parents are expected to make every reasonable effort to cooperate with the teachers and school staff to help their child have a successful educational experience.
- Parents who wish to observe their child's classes need to make arrangements with the teacher whom they like to visit and get approval from administration at least a day prior to their visit.
- Parent/teacher/student conferences are strongly encouraged when an appointment is made prior.

### **E. HOME VISITS**

- Research has shown that one of the keys to successful teaching and schooling is creating personal connections with students. MPS teachers visit students at their homes to enhance student learning and involvement. Family visits offer invaluable insights about students. They can provide new understanding about students' learning styles. Visits might also reveal the emotional and social needs and behaviors of students. It is helpful to know if they react to problems with tears, anger, or withdrawal, and how they socialize with peers. Through family

visits, teachers can identify students' latest interests or concerns, such as a new hobby, an upcoming trip, or a change in the family.

- For most students home and school are two different domains. Especially for minority students even the people, languages, foods, rules, duties, and concerns are different in these two worlds. They do not intersect considerably. Parents and the teachers are critical partners in educating the "whole child." However, parent conferences and other school-hosted meetings do not provide sufficient means for the parties to communicate enough and effectively and to show the student that they are on the same team. Home visits are the teachers' attempt to break the virtual border between the partners, which is most of the time successful.

#### F. CONTACTING YOUR CHILD DURING SCHOOL HOURS

- Parents/Guardians should only contact the main office if they must leave a message for their child in case of an emergency. Students will not be disrupted during school hours for non-emergency reasons. In case of an emergency, the message will be given to the student by office personnel.
- Parents/Guardians should not contact their child's cellular phone during school hours; students are required to turn off all electronic devices, including cellular phones, and put them away and out of sight.

#### G. VOLUNTEER, VISITATION, SHADOWING, AND REMOVAL POLICY

MPS encourages parents/guardians and interested members of the community to visit MPS and view the educational program, MPS also endeavors to create a safe environment for students and staff. Additionally, parents volunteering in the classroom can be extremely helpful to our teachers and valuable to our students. We thank all parents for their willingness to volunteer in this manner.

To ensure the safety of students and staff as well as to minimize interruption of the instructional program, MPS has established the following procedures to facilitate volunteering and visitations during regular school days:

##### Volunteering Categories and Application Process

###### A. Certified Volunteers ("C-Volunteers")

- a. Who are C-Volunteers: These are volunteers that would like to volunteer with MPS on an ongoing basis and may have unsupervised exposure or contact with students. Examples may include but are not limited to: classroom volunteers, tutors, field-trip volunteers, etc.

- b. Application Process: C-Volunteers must provide MPS with the following documents:

- Volunteer Application Form (signed)
- Volunteer Commitment Form (signed)
- Fingerprinting and Background Clearance (if volunteering outside of the direct supervision of a credentialed employee)
- Tuberculosis risk assessment or examination
- Valid photo I.D. (driver's license, passport, military ID, US or other government identification)

###### B. Single Event Volunteers ("SE-Volunteers")

- a. Who are SE-Volunteers: These are volunteers that would like to volunteer at MPS for a one (1) days special event or activity and have no unsupervised exposure or contact with students. Examples may include but are not limited to: guest story reader, guest speaker, senior exhibition panel member, etc.
- b. Application Process: SE-Volunteers are not required to submit a volunteer application but must comply with the Volunteering Guidelines below and provide MPS with a valid photo I.D.

##### Volunteering Guidelines

Parents or guardians who are interested in volunteering must adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Volunteers must arrange volunteering schedule with the classroom teacher and/or MPS Principal or designee, at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance. Volunteering in class may be limited to certain hours or specific assignments as determined by the classroom teacher(s) or MPS administration.
2. For all prospective volunteers (both C-Volunteers and SE-Volunteers), the MPS Principal or designee will review California Megan's Law online database at <http://www.meganslaw.ca.gov> to ensure that prospective volunteers are not registered sex offenders.



3. Prior to volunteering in the classroom or on campus, the volunteer should communicate with the teacher and/or MPS staff to discuss the expectations for volunteering needs. Classroom volunteers are there to benefit the entire class and are not in class solely for the benefit of their own child. Classroom volunteers must follow the instructions provided by the classroom teacher or aide. Classroom rules also apply to volunteers to ensure minimal distraction to the teacher. If a volunteer is uncomfortable following the direction of the teacher or aid the volunteer may leave their volunteer position for that day.
  4. Information gained, overheard, or inadvertently acquired by volunteers regarding students (e.g. academic performance or behavior) is to be maintained in strict confidentiality and may not be shared with any individual except with the MPS Principal.
  5. Volunteers shall follow and be governed by all other guidelines indicated elsewhere in this Policy. This includes, but is not limited to, the process of registering and signing out of the campus at the main office as indicated below.
  6. Volunteer hours are applied to the non-mandatory 10 hours of volunteering requested pursuant to the Charter Petition/Student-Parent Handbook. All parents are encouraged – but not required – to contribute a minimum of 10 hours per year to the school. No child will be excluded from the Charter School or school activities due to the failure of his or her parent or legal guardian to fulfill the encouraged volunteer hours.
  7. This Policy does not authorize MPS to permit a parent/guardian to volunteer or visit the campus if doing so conflicts with a valid restraining order, protective order, or order for custody or visitation issued by a court of competent jurisdiction.
- advance. If a conference is desired, an appointment should be set with the teacher during non-instructional time, at least three (3) school days in advance. Parents seeking to visit a classroom during school hours must first obtain the written approval of the classroom teacher and the MPS Principal or designee.
2. All visitors shall register in the main office immediately upon entering any school building or grounds when during regular school hours, including immigration enforcement officers. When registering, the visitor is required to provide his/her name, address, age (if under 21), his/her purpose for entering school grounds, and proof of identity. If the visitor is a government officer/official (including but not limited to local law enforcement officers, immigration enforcement officers, social workers, district attorneys, or U.S. attorneys), the officer will also be asked to produce any documentation that authorizes school access. MPS shall make reasonable efforts to notify parents or guardians prior to permitting a student to be interviewed or searched, consistent with the law and/or any court order, warrant or instructions from the officer/official. A copy of the documentation provided by the officer and notes from the encounter may be maintained by MPS. The MPS Governing Board and Bureau of Children's Justice in the California Department of Justice, at [BCJ@doj.ca.gov](mailto:BCJ@doj.ca.gov), will be timely informed regarding any attempt by a law-enforcement officer to access a school site or a student for immigration-enforcement purposes, as recommended by the Attorney General.
- For purposes of school safety and security, the MPS Principal or designee have designated that each visitor wear a visitor's pass/sticker as a visible means of identification for visitors while on school premises.
3. Except for unusual circumstances, approved in advance by the MPS Principal, MPS visits should not exceed approximately sixty (60) minutes in length and may not occur more than twice per semester.
  4. While on campus, visitors are to enter and leave classrooms as quietly as possible, not converse with any student, teacher, or other instructional assistant unless

### **Visitation Guidelines**

1. Visits during school hours should first be arranged with the teacher and MPS Principal or designee, at least three (3) school days in

- permitted, and not interfere with any school activity. No electronic listening or recording device may be used in a classroom without the teacher's and MPS Principal's advance written permission.
5. Before leaving campus, the visitor shall sign out of the Visitors Log Book in the main office.
  6. The MPS Principal, or designee, may refuse to register a visitor or volunteer if it is believed that the presence of the visitor or volunteer would cause a threat of disruption or physical injury to teachers, other employees, or students.
  7. The MPS Principal or designee may withdraw consent to be on campus even if the visitor has a right to be on campus whenever there is reason to believe that the person has willfully disrupted or is likely to disrupt MPS' orderly operation. If consent is withdrawn by someone other than the MPS Principal, the MPS Principal may reinstate consent for the visitor if the MPS Principal believes that the person's presence will not constitute a disruption or substantial and material threat to MPS' orderly operation. Consent can be withdrawn for up to fourteen (14) days.
  8. The MPS Principal or designee may request that a visitor who has failed to register, or whose registration privileges have been denied or withdrawn, promptly leave school grounds. When a visitor is directed to leave, the MPS Principal or designee shall inform the visitor that if he/she reenters the school without following the posted requirements he/she will be guilty of a misdemeanor.
  9. Any visitor who is denied registration or has his/her registration revoked may request a conference with the MPS Principal. The request shall be in writing, shall state why the denial or revocation was improper, shall give the address to which notice of conference is to be sent, and shall be delivered to the MPS Principal with fourteen (14) days of the denial or revocation of consent. The MPS Principal shall promptly mail a written notice of the date, time, and place of the conference to the person who requested the conference. A conference with the MPS Principal shall be held within seven (7) days after the MPS Principal receives the request. If no resolution can be agreed upon, the MPS Principal shall forward notice of the complaint to the MPS Board of Directors. The MPS Board of Directors shall address the Complaint at the next regular board meeting and make a final determination.
  10. At each entrance to the campus, signs shall be posted specifying the hours during which registration is required, stating where the office of the MPS Principal or designee is located, and what route to take to that office, and setting forth the penalties for violation of this policy.
  11. The MPS Principal or designee shall seek the assistance of the police in managing with or reporting any visitor in violation of this Policy.

#### **Shadowing Guidelines**

Shadowing gives parents and students an opportunity to observe instruction during an ordinary school day and can help open dialog between parents and students about school. Parents are welcome to shadow their children, that is, to follow them through their school day. In order to maximize the benefits of shadowing, we request that parents adhere to the following guidelines:

- Follow the above procedure for providing three (3) school days advance notice of your visit, signing in at the main office when arriving at MPS, and obtaining a visitor's pass/sticker. Notice of your visit and intent to shadow should be provided by completing the Shadow Request Form, below, and submitting it to MPS at least three (3) school days in advance of your visit.
- Shadowing is not a time for parent/teacher conferences. If you desire a conference, please make prior arrangements with your child's teachers.
- To preserve the academic environment, please do not take part in the lesson unless invited to do so by the teacher. Do not visit with your child or other students during class time. At no time may visiting parents address other students directly. Visitors are not allowed to record audio or video, or take photos. Should you have any concerns, report them to the MPS administrators.
- Meet with MPS administration to debrief your visit.

*MPS administration has the right to withdraw consent for a visitor to be on campus, as described above. All persons making the visit shall be deemed to have waived claims against the school for injury, accident, illness, or death occurring during or by reason of visit.*

### **Penalties**

1. Pursuant to the California Penal Code, if a visitor does not leave after being asked or if the visitor returns without following the posted requirements after being directed to leave, he/she will be guilty of a crime as specified which is punishable by a fine of up to \$500.00 (five hundred dollars) or imprisonment in the County jail for a period of up to six (6) months or both.
2. Under California Education Code section 44811, disruption by a parent, guardian or other person at a school or school sponsored activity is punishable, upon the first conviction by a fine or no less than \$500.00 (five hundred dollars) and no more than \$1,000.00 (one thousand dollars) or by imprisonment in a County jail for no more than one (1) year, or both the fine and imprisonment.
3. Disruptive conduct may lead to MPS' pursuit of a restraining order against a visitor, which would prohibit him/her from coming onto school grounds or attending school activities for any purpose for a period of up to three (3) years.

### **H. SCHOOL INFORMATION SYSTEM**

Parents, as well as students, will have access to their child's grades in each class, missing/incomplete/upcoming assignments, upcoming tests/projects, discipline, communication log, and teacher contact information. Each parent will be provided with a username and password to have access throughout the school year, 24 hours a day.

*All discipline entries will remain on SIS for the entire year.*

### **I. PHONE USE**

In case of emergency, students may go to the office with a hall pass from a teacher.  
Please note: The office phone is for emergency calls only.

### **J. NEWSLETTER**

- Communications regarding school activities from faculty to parents/guardians and students will be sent home periodically.
- Copies of the newsletter are available at the school office.

### **K. ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

MPS policy regarding possession of cellular phones, any personal electronic devices, iPods, MP3 players, cameras, video cameras, laptops, and recording devices is as follows:

- From the moment a student arrives on campus to the time that the student leaves the campus, the power of the electronic device must be turned off and all devices are to be out of sight, secure with the student's belongings in a backpack or purse. The duration of the non-permitted use includes before school on school grounds, instructional time, passing periods, lunch time, and tutoring. At no time, shall the educational program or school activity be interrupted.
- The school is not liable if such devices are damaged, lost or stolen. The use of these devices or their ringing/vibrating during school time will be considered a disruption of school activities and subject to disciplinary action which will include confiscation and discipline entry.
- All confiscated devices will be returned to the parent/guardian accompanied by the student at the end of the school day.

### **L. LOST AND FOUND**

There will be a lost and found box in the school. If you find books, clothing, or personal items on school grounds, please bring the items to the main office. Items not picked up will be donated monthly.

### **M. PE LOCKERS**

- When available, lockers are provided for physical education class during that period only.
- Lockers are not assigned to students.
- The lockers are school property; anything placed in them or brought to campus is subject to inspection at the discretion of the administration.
- Students are responsible for all items in their locker.
- Students may be provided with a lock or allowed to bring a lock for their gym lockers and use it for the period with the condition of removing them daily. Please check with the school administration for specifics.

*MPS does not accept any responsibility for stolen or lost money, clothing, valuables or other articles.*

### **N. TEXTBOOKS**

Textbooks and work books are issued at teacher's discretion. Students may be assigned a set of textbooks in addition to a classroom set. Students are responsible for the care of all textbooks and work books. Books are to be returned to the school in good

condition at the end of the school year or at the time a student transfers out to another school.

Students will be required to report any damages to the textbooks to their classroom teachers. Parents/Guardians will be held responsible for the loss or willful cutting, defacing, or otherwise damaging of MPS textbooks, up to an amount not to exceed \$10,000 (ten thousand dollars), adjusted annually for inflation.

#### **O. MEAL PROGRAM**

- MPS participates in the National School Lunch Program. Applications for free or reduced price meals are included in the enrollment packets to all families and can also be obtained on the MPS website and in the main office of each MPS school. All families are encouraged to complete the application form in order to include as many eligible students as possible.
- Students are responsible for adding funds to their meal account if they pay reduced or full price.

#### **P. EARTHQUAKE AND MAJOR DISASTER PROCEDURES**

- Parents may contribute to supply ten dollars (\$10) to cover the cost of a survival kit to be kept at school and used in case of emergency.
- In the event of a fire, major earthquake or major disaster, students are to be evacuated to the assigned area by MPS.
- If the local public schools announce that the students will be dismissed, MPS will do the same.
- Parents are to remain in assigned area and sign out their child with the appropriate staff member because MPS has to account for all students.
- MPS Emergency Dismissal/Evacuation Card information must be updated with any change in information by parents/guardians as soon as it occurs.

#### **Q. STUDENT TRANSFER**

- Any student transferring out of Magnolia Public Schools must complete the "Student Transfer Form" which can be obtained from the main office. The form must be completed prior to a student transferring. It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to complete the form. The school is not responsible for having it completed.
- It is the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) responsibility to contact the school that student will be transferring to. It is the parent's responsibility to make all necessary arrangements for a successful transfer.
- If a student will be transferring to another school for the following school year, the parent is still responsible to inform the main office before the last day of school, or last day of attendance.

- All textbooks must be turned in before the last day of attendance in order to complete a successful transfer. Parents/Guardians are responsible to pay for the loss, or willful cutting, defacing, or otherwise damaging of MPS textbooks, up to an amount not to exceed \$10,000 (ten thousand dollars), adjusted annually for inflation.
- The application of these obligations are enforced notwithstanding any contrary provisions of law applicable to homeless students or foster youth,

#### **R. HOMELESS STUDENTS**

It is the policy of MPS that homeless students are provided with a full and equal opportunity to succeed and receive an education. "The term "homeless children and youth" means individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence due to economic hardship. It includes children and youths who (42 USC 11434(a)):

1. Are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals;
2. Have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings;
3. Are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings;
4. Migratory children and unaccompanied youth (youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian) may be considered homeless if they meet the above definition of "homeless."

Homeless status is determined in cooperation with the parent or guardian. In the case of unaccompanied youth, status is determined by the Homeless Liaison.

**School Liaison:** The Principal of each MPS school site shall serve as the Homeless Liaison for homeless students ((42 USC 11432(g)(1)(J) & (e)(3)(C).):

Principal  
Contact address and phone number of your  
MPS school on Page 3

The Homeless Liaison shall ensure that (42 U.S.C. 11432(g)):

1. Homeless students are identified by school personnel and through coordination activities with other entities and agencies.
2. Homeless students enroll in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed at MPS.
3. Homeless students and families receive educational services for which they are eligible, including services through Head Start programs

(including Early Head Start programs) under the Head Start Act, early intervention services under part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, any other preschool programs administered by MPS, if any, and referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health services and substance abuse services, housing services, and other appropriate services.

4. Parents/guardians are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children.
5. Public notice of the educational rights of homeless children is disseminated at places frequented by parents or guardians of such youths, and unaccompanied youths, including schools, shelters, public libraries, and soup kitchens, and in a manner and form understandable to the parents and guardians of homeless youth and unaccompanied youth.
6. Enrollment/admissions disputes are mediated in accordance with law, the MPS charter, and Board policy.
7. Parents/guardians are fully informed of all transportation services, as applicable.
8. School personnel providing services receive professional development and other support;
9. The School Homeless Liaison collaborates with State coordinators and community and school personnel responsible for the provision of education and related services to homeless children and youths.
10. Unaccompanied youth are enrolled in school; have opportunities to meet the same challenging State academic standards as the State establishes for other children and youth; and are informed of their status as independent students under section 480 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and that the youths may obtain assistance from the School Liaison to receive verification of such status for the purposes of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid described in section 483 of the Act.

The complete copy of the MPS policy is available at the main office.

## S. DRESS CODE

MPS has a uniform policy to help create a safe, orderly environment, instill discipline, and eliminate the competition and distractions caused by varied dress styles. Students are expected to arrive in a clean and neat uniform every day. Students will not be allowed to enter the campus if they are not in proper uniform. This uniform policy will be enforced, without exception, from the very first day of school. Please cooperate, display modesty and neatness, and take pride in the MPS uniform. We rely on your understanding and your parents' and/or guardians' support in helping to maintain this uniform policy and follow it daily.

In addition to wearing the school uniform, MPS requires that you follow these additional guidelines in terms of uniform appearance and personal appearance. If you are still unsure about how you should look, or how the uniform should fit, check with administration. Religious head coverings shall be permitted. **If any aspect of the uniform, including clothes, shoes, jewelry, cosmetics, or any type of body adornment, is not explicitly listed as acceptable in this handbook, then that item is not permitted to be worn when the student is at school or representing the school.**

If a student is unable to wear the school uniform to school due to extenuating circumstances, you need to obtain written permission from the school's administration.

### Free Dress & Theme Dress Days Code:

Free Dress days are earned at the discretion of the administration. These days are granted at different times of the year for positive behavior and special occasions. Violation of this policy may result in loss of free dress privileges for the remainder of the school year.

- On free dress days, clothing must be in good taste and appropriate for school. Clothing should not be form fitting, revealing, or transparent.
- The school's dress code is strictly enforced during free dress days as well. All students must follow the same guidelines with the exception of not wearing their uniform.
- T-shirts are acceptable; however printing on clothing must be suitable for school, no inappropriate image(s) or language may be displayed. The administration has discretion in determining appropriateness of images or language on clothing.
- Mini-skirts, skirts, and short shorts are not allowed. Jeans may be worn during free dress days but cannot be tight fitting or baggy.
- Midriffs, backless or side less shirts or dresses, halter tops, or tank tops with less than a 1 inch strap are NOT allowed.
- Hats, gloves, bandanas, or sunglasses are not permitted to be worn in school, except for religious head coverings.
- Neatness and good grooming is required.
- Hairstyles must follow the schools dress code policy.

**MPS STUDENT UNIFORM POLICY**

<b>BOTTOM</b>	<p>Pants, shorts, skirts, skorts, or capris are acceptable.</p>	<p><b>Pants/Skirts/Skorts/Shorts:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May not be baggy or tight fitting. May not be rolled at waist. Waist size must be same as student’s waist size. Top of garment must be at or above hip bone.</li> <li>• Skorts/shorts should be no shorter than your longest finger when standing with your hands by your sides.</li> <li>• Skirts that are above the top of the kneecap should be worn with leggings/tights, and must be no shorter than the longest fingertip.</li> <li>• Pants may not be made from legging or jegging material.</li> <li>• Pants must touch the top of the shoes when the student is standing, but not be long enough to bunch up around the ankle.</li> <li>• The bottom of the skirt, skort, and/or shorts must be no higher than 1 inch above the middle of the kneecap when the student is standing.</li> <li>• Socks may not be worn over pants.</li> <li>• Rubber bands are not allowed on the bottom of pants or ankles.</li> <li>• No jean/denim style pants.</li> <li>• No Cargo pants/shorts.</li> <li>• Must have a built in pocket not a sewn on pocket.</li> </ul> <p><b>Undergarments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should not be noticeable through or outside of clothing, tops and bottoms.</li> </ul> <p><b>Uniform:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Woven Shirt or Polo Shirt must be tucked in neatly at the waist at all times on campus, inside and outside. These shirts may not fit tightly or be baggy.</li> <li>• Undershirts must be short-sleeved if worn.</li> <li>• The student may choose to button, or not button, the top button of the woven shirt. All other buttons of the woven shirt must be buttoned.</li> <li>• Under shirt may not hang out of sleeves.</li> </ul> <p><b>Shoes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acceptable athletic shoes must be low-profile with minimal design. They must be modest and not attract attention. Shoe laces must match shoes and be in solid color.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Skirts, pants, shorts, skorts, or capris must be either khaki color, black or navy blue.</b></p> <p><b>Belts (required for all variations of dress uniform):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smooth, straight edge, all black, all blue or all brown belts no wider than 1½ inches with a plain, unadorned buckle (no mesh, rope, or all metal).</li> <li>• The buckle may only have one catch.</li> <li>• Belt must be of correct waist size, so that there is minimal excess length (less than five inches).</li> <li>• Any excess length of belt must be tucked through a belt loop and may not hang down.</li> </ul>	
<b>TOP</b>	<p>White, gray, black or navy blue polo shirts must have the school logo. They may be either short or long sleeved. Hoods may not be worn at school.</p> <p>Top of garment must be no lower than the level of the navel when student is standing. Top of garment must be at or above hipbone when student is standing up.</p>	
<b>FOOTWEAR</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The majority of the shoe must be black, brown, white or gray. Small logos are acceptable. (Shoes must be closed toe.)</li> <li>• “Athletic” shoes for the dress code must be completely black, white or brown.</li> <li>• Plain, unadorned socks or tights (for girls) must always be worn. Color of socks or tights: Black, dark brown, navy blue, or white</li> </ul> <p>No sandals, boots, clogs, mules, slippers, flip flops, high heels, platform shoes or shoes with wheels.</p>	
<b>PE UNIFORM</b>	<p>TOP: Students will wear a solid gray t-shirt, preferably with the MPS logo. MPS sweatpants and MPS sweatshirts may also be worn during PE.</p> <p>BOTTOM: Properly fitting navy shorts of comfortable length for active participation. Waist size of shorts must be appropriate to student’s waist size. The same rules which apply to the level at which the tops of the dress pants are worn, also apply to PE shorts.</p> <p>FOOTWEAR: Any athletic shoes suitable for basketball, tennis, and field sports. PE shoes may be the same black athletic shoes discussed in the dress uniform section.</p>	

<p><b>OUTERWEAR</b></p>	<p>Hats, hoods, caps, and other headgear may not be worn in school buildings, except for religious head coverings. No gloves or finger lacing of any sort are allowed.</p> <p><b>For colder weather:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MPS Navy Crew-Neck and zip V-Neck Sweatshirt, and Jackets are recommended and preferred to be worn on campus, inside and outside.</li> <li>• Sweatshirts and jackets must be solid navy blue or gray.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">* * *</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>If a student is unable to wear the school uniform to school due to extenuating circumstances, you need to check with your school's administration.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">* * *</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Each individual MPS school may include site-specific amendments into the uniform policy addressing local issues.</b></p>	<p><b>Jewelry and Accessories/Cosmetics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should be modest, appropriate for school, and not attract undue attention.</li> <li>• Necklaces: If worn must be underneath uniform. If visible through an open collar, it must be tasteful and formal (no leather or string). Pendants must not be large or attract attention. Must be tucked in collar of shirt.</li> <li>• No "glitter", decorations, or drawing of any kind should be visible on the skin, hair, body, or uniform.</li> <li>• Facial, tongue, and body piercing are not allowed.</li> <li>• Bracelets: Must be tasteful and not attract undue attention.</li> <li>• Visible tattoos are not acceptable. Permanent visible tattoos must be covered by a flesh-tone bandage while at school or representing the school.</li> <li>• Cosmetics must be appropriate for school and not attract undue attention.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No brightly colored or glitter eye shadow, or blush.</li> <li>• Mascara and eyeliner should be minimal.</li> <li>• Lipstick should be a natural color.</li> <li>• Earrings must be studs or one (1) inch hoops and worn on earlobe.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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## **STUDENT TECHNOLOGY USE POLICY AND AGREEMENT**

New technologies are modifying the way in which information may be accessed, communicated and transferred. Those changes also alter instruction and student learning. Magnolia Public Schools ("Charter School") offers students access to technologies that may include Internet access, electronic mail, and equipment, such as computers, tablets, or other multimedia hardware. The Charter School Governing Board intends that technological resources provided by the school be used in a safe, responsible, and proper manner in support of the instructional program and for the advancement of student learning.

### **Educational Purpose**

Use of Charter School equipment and access to the Internet via Charter School equipment and resource networks is intended to serve and pursue educational goals and purposes. Student use of the Internet is therefore limited to only those activities that further or enhance the delivery of education. Students and staff have a duty to use Charter School resources only in a manner specified in the Policy.

**"Educational purpose"** means classroom activities, research in academic subjects, career or professional development activities, Charter School approved personal research activities, or other purposes as defined by the Charter School from time to time.

**"Inappropriate use"** means a use that is inconsistent with an educational purpose or that is in clear violation of this policy and the Acceptable Use Agreement.

### **Notice and Use**

The Charter School shall notify students and parents/guardians about authorized uses of school computers, user obligations and responsibilities, and consequences for unauthorized use and/or unlawful activities.

Before a student is authorized to use the Charter School's technological resources, the student and his/her parent/guardian shall sign and return the Acceptable Use Agreement specifying user obligations and responsibilities. In that agreement, the student and his/her parent/guardian shall agree not to hold the Charter School or any Charter School staff responsible for the failure of any technology protection measures, violations of copyright restrictions, or user mistakes or negligence. They shall also agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Charter School and Charter School personnel for any damages or costs incurred.

### **Safety**

The Charter School shall ensure that all Charter School computers with Internet access have a technology protection measure that blocks or filters Internet access to websites that have no educational purpose and/or contain visual depictions that are obscene, constitute child pornography, or that are

harmful to minors. While the Charter School is able to exercise reasonable control over content created and purchased by the Charter School, it has limited control over content accessed via the internet and no filtering system is 100% effective. Neither the Charter School nor its staff shall be responsible for the failure of any technology protection measures, violations of copyright restrictions, or user mistakes or negligence.

To reinforce these measures, the Principal or designee shall implement rules and procedures designed to restrict students' access to harmful or inappropriate matter on the Internet and to ensure that students do not engage in unauthorized or unlawful online activities. Staff shall supervise students while they are using online services on campus and may have teacher aides, student aides, and volunteers assist in this supervision.

The Principal or designee also shall establish regulations to address the safety and security of students and student information when using email, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communication.

The Principal or designees shall provide age-appropriate instruction regarding safe and appropriate behavior on social networking sites, chat rooms, and other Internet services. Such instruction shall include, but not be limited to, maintaining the student's online reputation and ensuring their personal safety by keeping their personal information private, the dangers of posting personal information online, misrepresentation by online predators, how to report inappropriate or offensive content or threats, behaviors that constitute cyberbullying, and how to respond when subjected to cyberbullying. Students are expected to follow safe practices when using Charter School technology.

Students shall not use the Internet to perform any illegal act or to help others perform illegal acts. Illegal acts include, but are not limited to, any activities in violation of local, state, and federal law and/or accessing information designed to further criminal or dangerous activities. Such information includes, but is not limited to, information that if acted upon could cause damage, present a danger, or cause disruption to the Charter School, other students, or the community. Damaging, debilitating or disabling computers, computer networks or systems through the intentional or overuse of electronic distribution or the spreading of computer viruses or other harmful programs shall be prohibited. Any unauthorized online access to other computers by means of hacking into other computers, downloading hacker tools such as port scanners and password crackers designed to evade restrictions shall also be strictly prohibited.

Student use of Charter School computers to access social networking sites is not prohibited, but access is limited to educational purposes only. To the extent possible, the Principal or designee shall block access to such sites on Charter School computers with Internet access. The Principal or designee shall



oversee the maintenance of the Charter School's technological resources and may establish guidelines and limits on their use.

All employees shall receive a copy of this policy and the accompanying Acceptable Use Agreement describing expectations for appropriate use of the system and shall also be provided with information about the role of staff in supervising student use of technological resources. All employees shall comply with this policy and the Acceptable Use Agreement, in addition to any separate policies governing employee use of technology.

Student use of school computers, networks, and Internet services is a privilege, not a right. Compliance with the Charter School's policies and rules concerning computer use is mandatory. Students who violate these policies and rules may have their computer privileges limited and may be subject to discipline, including but not limited to suspension or expulsion per school policy.

#### ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT

The Charter School believes that providing access to technology enhances the educational experience for students. However, student use of school computers, networks, and Internet services is a privilege, not a right. To make that experience successful for everyone, students must abide by the following terms and conditions:

1. **Security.** Students shall not impair the security of Charter School technology resources. Students are expected to:
  - a. Safeguard all personal passwords. Students should not share passwords with others and should change passwords frequently. Students are expected to notify an administrator immediately if they believe their student account has been compromised.
  - b. Access technology only with their account or with a shared account as directed by their teacher and not to allow others to use their account or to use the accounts of others, with or without the account owner's authorization.
2. **Authorized Use.** Students may use Charter School technology resources when directed by a teacher, when technology has been designated for open student use (e.g., computers in the library), and for other educational purposes.
3. **Protection Measures.** While the Charter School is able exercise reasonable control over content created and purchased by the Charter School, it has limited control over content accessed via the internet and no filtering system is 100% effective. Neither the Charter School nor its staff shall be responsible for the failure of any technology protection measures, violations of copyright restrictions, or user mistakes or negligence. The student and parent agree not to hold the Charter School or any Charter School staff responsible for the failure of any technology protection measures, violations of copyright restrictions, or user mistakes or negligence. They also agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Charter School and Charter School personnel for any damages or costs incurred.
4. **Inappropriate Use.** Charter School technology, hardware, software and bandwidth are shared and limited resources and all users have an obligation to use those resources responsibly. Students are provided access to the Charter School technology primarily for educational purposes. Students shall not use Charter School technology or equipment for personal activities or for activities that violate school policy or local law. These include but are not limited to:
  - a. Playing games or online gaming.
  - b. Downloading software, music, movies or other content in violation of licensing requirements, copyright or other intellectual property rights.
  - c. Installing software on Charter School equipment without the permission of a teacher or other authorized Charter School staff person.
  - d. Downloading, viewing or sharing inappropriate content, including pornographic, defamatory or otherwise offensive material.
  - e. Conducting any activity that is in violation of school policy, the student code of conduct or local, state or federal law.
  - f. Engaging in any activity that is harmful to other student(s), including the use of technology to harass, intimidate, bully or otherwise disrupt the educational process.
  - g. Participating in political activities.
  - h. Conducting for-profit business.
  - i. Using hacking tools on the network or intentionally introducing malicious code or viruses into the Charter School's network.
  - j. Using any software or proxy service to obscure either the student's IP address or the sites that the student visits.
  - k. Disabling, bypassing, or attempting to disable or bypass any system monitoring, filtering or other security measures.
  - l. Accessing or attempting to access material or systems on the network that the student is not authorized to access.
5. **No Expectation of Privacy.** Student acknowledges that computer equipment, Internet access networks, email accounts, and any other technology resources are owned by Charter School and provided to students for educational purposes. The Charter School may require staff

to monitor and supervise all access to computer equipment, Internet access networks, and email accounts. To facilitate monitoring of activities, computer screens may be positioned so that they are visible to the staff member supervising the students. The Charter School reserves the right to access stored computer records and communications, files, and other data stored on Charter School equipment or sent over Charter School networks. Such communications, files, and data are not private and may be accessed during routine system maintenance; during inspection of Charter School equipment at the end of the school year/term or agree to use period; and review of individual files or monitoring of individual activity when there is a reasonable suspicion that the student is engaging in an inappropriate use.

6. **Disruptive Activity.** Students should not intentionally interfere with the performance of the Charter School's network or intentionally damage any Charter School technology resources.
7. **Unauthorized Networks.** Students may not create unauthorized wireless networks to access the Charter School's network. This includes establishing wireless access points, wireless routers and open networks on personal devices.
8. **Consequences of Inappropriate Use.** Students who violate this Agreement will be subject to discipline which may include loss of access to Charter School technology resources and/or other appropriate disciplinary or legal action in accordance with the MPS student discipline policy and applicable laws.
9. **Technology Systems/Equipment Care.** Students are not permitted to have food or drink near computers/other technology and must keep equipment and assigned areas free of vandalism.

MPS promotes the use of networked computer technology in its instructional program in order to facilitate learning and teaching. Towards this end, students may be provided with a "device" (computer, laptop / iPad / Chromebook, etc.) for educational activities at school and home. MPS will make every effort to ensure that the MPS technology services are used responsibly by students. Students are expected to act in a responsible, ethical and legal manner in accordance with this Agreement, accepted rules of network etiquette, and Federal and State law. Following are some safekeeping instructions for MPS-provided devices. As applicable, students shall:

- Bring their MPS device to school every day, fully charged;
- Never leave the MPS device unattended;
- Never loan the MPS device to other individuals;
- Know where the MPS device is at all times;

- Store the MPS device in the bag/case if provided by MPS; otherwise students are encouraged to purchase protective covers/cases for their devices;
- Store and use the device in a safe location and environment to avoid loss or damage to the device;
- Not remove the Asset Tag or other school property identifiers;
- Charge the MPS device's battery daily;
- Keep food and beverages away from the MPS device;
- Only use a soft cloth or approved screen cleaning solution to clean the screen of the device;
- Not disassemble any part of the MPS device or attempt any repairs;
- Not place decorations (such as stickers, markers, etc.) on the MPS device;
- Understand that the MPS device is subject to inspection at any time without notice and remains the property of MPS;
- Notify MPS by the next school day in the event of loss or damage to the device;
- File a police report in case of theft, vandalism, and other acts covered by MPS' insurance;
- Return the device to MPS when requested by the Technology Department for maintenance and upgrades;
- Return the MPS device and accessories upon demand, upon termination of enrollment and/or at the expiration of the school year in good working condition;
- Be aware that they may be held accountable for damage to a laptop resulting from "user abuse." Examples of "user abuse" include, but are not limited to, the following: leaving cables plugged in when storing the device in the carrying case which can cause broken connectors or ports; using the carrying case/sleeve for carrying textbooks, etc.; eating or drinking while using the device, resulting in damage to the device; storing the device for prolonged periods while in "stand by" or "sleep" mode (overheating can occur).

#### WAIVER OF PRIVACY RIGHTS

Users of the MPS technology services expressly waive any right of privacy in anything they create, store, send, or receive on the MPS device or through the Internet or any other computer network. Users consent to allowing MPS to access and review all materials users create, store, send, or receive on the device or through the Internet or any other computer network. Users understand that MPS monitors the use of its computer resources.

#### DISCLAIMER

Electronic information available to students does not imply endorsement of the content by MPS, nor can

MPS guarantee the accuracy of information obtained on the Internet.

MPS makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, with respect to the information technology services it provides. MPS will not be responsible for damages resulting from the use of MPS device and MPS information technology services, including, but not limited to, loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, missed deliveries, service interruptions.

MPS shall not be responsible for any charges or fees resulting from access to the internet or internet resources which are not authorized in writing by MPS.

## SIGNATURES

**After reading the Student Technology Use Policy and this Acceptable Use Agreement, please note that your signature on the MPS Acknowledgement of Student Handbook page at the end of this Handbook indicates that you agree to the terms and conditions provided here. Please note, the signature of both the parent/guardian and student are mandatory before access may be granted to the technologies available at MPS. This document, which incorporates the Use Policy and procedure, reflects the entire agreement and understanding of all parties.**

## TITLE I INFORMATION:

MPS receives Title I funding and is therefore required to provide certain information to parents as well as develop, with parental input, a Parent Involvement Policy. Please see below for these required notices and Policy.

### Teacher Qualifications

Parents may request information regarding the professional qualifications of classroom teachers and/or paraprofessionals to parents upon request.

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

### I. Introduction

Research has shown that the attitudes, behavior and achievement of children are enhanced when parents or other caregivers are involved in their children's education. To that end, the **Magnolia Public Schools (MPS)** (the "LEA") has adopted this parent involvement policy in order to promote learning and provide a more positive learning experience for the students of its schools.<sup>1</sup> This policy has also been

<sup>1</sup> Within this policy, the word "parent" is employed. This word is intended to reach any caregiver of students enrolled in the LEA's school, including but not limited to, parents, guardians, grandparents, aunts, uncles, foster parents, stepparents, etc.

submitted to the California Department of Education with the LEA's Consolidated Application.

### II. Involvement in Drafting the LEA Plan

Parents will be involved in the development of the LEA/SSD plan, Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA), and the LEA's Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP). On an annual basis, the LEA will submit California Department of Education ("CDE") –required plans to the Parent Council for review and suggested changes before appropriate plans are submitted to the authorizers and the CDE with the Consolidated Application. In addition, all parents of participating children will annually be invited to review the LEA plan and submit comments.

If the LEA/SSD plan is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the LEA will submit any comments from parents of participating children with the LEA/SSD plan when it is submitted to the CDE.

### III. Involvement in School Review and Improvement

All parents will be involved, to the extent applicable, in the process of school review and improvement. This includes disseminating the results of the local annual review of each school served under Title I, Part A to parents.

In addition, the parents of participating children will be invited to annually review the effectiveness of the parental involvement policy and other Title I, Part A activities and provide comments to the LEA.

**Identification of a school for improvement:** Before the LEA identifies its school for improvement, for corrective action, or for restructuring, it shall provide the parents of all children enrolled in the school with notice of an opportunity to review the school-level data, including academic assessment data, on which the proposed identification is based. If the **Principal** of the school believes, or a majority of the parents of the students enrolled in such school believe, that the proposed identification is in error for statistical or other substantive reasons, the **Principal** may provide supporting evidence to the LEA, which shall consider that evidence before making a determination.

**School plan:** Parents of participating children will be involved in the development and/or revision of a school plan required of the school identified for improvement, corrective action or restructuring, which plan shall be approved by the LEA in accordance with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

**Notice required after school identification:** If the LEA's school is identified for improvement, corrective action or restructuring, the LEA will promptly provide to all parents of children enrolled in the school (in an understandable and uniform format, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand), a notice containing the following:

- An explanation of what the identification means, and how the school compares in terms of academic achievement to other

elementary or secondary schools served by the LEA and the CDE;

- The reasons for the identification;
- An explanation of what the LEA or the CDE is doing to address the problem of low achievement;
- An explanation of how the parents can become involved in addressing the academic issues that caused the school to be identified for school improvement; and
- As applicable, an explanation of the parents' option to transfer their child to another public school under the control of the LEA, return to their district of residence or to obtain supplemental educational services for the child.

**Information regarding corrective action taken:**

The LEA shall publish and disseminate information regarding any corrective action taken at a school to parents of each student enrolled in the school in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language that the parents can understand.

**Restructuring:** Whenever a school fails to make adequate yearly progress after 1 full school year of corrective action or when the LEA is required to implement alternative governance, the LEA shall provide prompt notice to parents and provide parents with an adequate opportunity to comment before taking any action and to participate in developing any plan required by ESSA.

**IV. Coordination, Technical Assistance, and Other Support**

The LEA will provide the coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist its participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance in the following ways:

- The LEA will reserve funds to the school for parent involvement activities as required by law;
- The LEA (board and school leaders) will collaborate to devise a timeline for parental involvement activities throughout the school year and create a follow up tool to ensure that the activities occur.
- The LEA will develop the necessary technical assistance for planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.

**V. Annual Meeting**

Within 60 days of the first day of school, the School shall convene an annual meeting to which all parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs are

invited and encouraged to attend. The School will hold additional meetings to ensure the maximum parental participation, providing the same information, to be offered at flexible times, such as in the morning or evening.

The information provided at the meetings will inform parents of the School's receipt of Title I, Part A funds and the specific requirements of Title I, Part A. Additionally, parents shall be informed of their rights to be involved in Title I, Part A programs.

**VI. Notice**

Within **60** days of the beginning of school, the School will send [e.g., **via mail, sent home with students, and/or placed in orientation packets and/or registration packets**] a notice to [if in a **targeted assistance school**] [parents of participating children] [or if in a **school with a school wide program**] [all parents] containing, but not limited to, the following information:

- Information about Title I, Part A programs;
- An explanation of the requirements of Title I, Part A programs;
- A description of the rights parents have for participation in Title I, Part A programs;
- A description (including timing of meetings, location, etc.) of how parents can participate in the planning, review and/or improvement of the parent involvement policy, and if applicable, the schoolwide program.
- A description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the School, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet;
- An invitation to attend the annual meeting and additional meetings, providing information about the purpose of the meetings and the dates and times.
- A copy of the most current Parent Involvement Policy and a feedback form for parents to comment on its content.

With this notice, the School will include a survey for parents to complete identifying whether they will require transportation, child care or home visits in order to participate in the parental involvement program of the School. If there is sufficient need for transportation or child care at any of the parental involvement activities identified in this policy, the School may provide such services and notify the parents of such provided services.

In addition to mailing this notice to parents of participating children, the School will post the information on its website.

**VII. Title I, Part A Program Involvement**

In order to involve parents in an organized, ongoing and timely way in the planning, review and improvement of Title I, Part A programs, the parent involvement policy, and if applicable, the schoolwide program plan, the School will involve parents of participating students as follows:

- The School will conduct at least one Family Learning Night each year where all parents of participating children will be invited to the School to learn about the different Title I, Part A programs, details of this policy, and if applicable, the schoolwide program plan. These meetings will be held at flexible times. Additionally, some may be located at community libraries or at parent volunteer homes for those who live far from the School.
- Parents not attending the Family Learning Nights will be contacted by a volunteer by telephone to encourage participation and inform them of future Family Learning Nights.
- The School will publish a regular Newsletter with notification of upcoming participation opportunities.
- The School will create a School Site Council (SSC) where it will plan, review and improve Title I, Part A programs, the parent involvement policy, and if applicable, the schoolwide program plan. The SSC will meet at the School and will consist of:

Category (a):

- The principal
- 4 teacher representatives selected by teachers at the school
- 1 other school personnel selected by peers at the school

Category (b):

- 3 parents of students attending the school selected by such parents
- 3 students selected by students attending the school

The SSC shall be constituted to ensure parity between the principal, classroom teachers and other school personnel; (b) equal numbers of parents or other community members selected by parents, and pupils. Classroom teachers shall comprise the majority of persons represented under category (a). (Education Code Section 52852)

Furthermore, Education Code Section 52852 states that parents or community members on the SSC may not be employed by the school district.

Additionally, the SSC will be involved in decisions regarding how funds reserved for parent involvement activities are allotted for those activities.

- Each year, the School will hold an End of School Night, at which parents of participating children will be invited to review Title I, Part A programs, the parent involvement policy, and if applicable, the schoolwide program plan and recommend any changes.
- **At least one** of parents of participating children will be invited to accompany School staff on retreats to participate in discussions and sessions dealing with Title I, Part A programs.
- If requested by parents of participating children, the School will schedule regular meetings where parents are able to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children. The School will respond to such suggestions within **48 hours**.
- If the schoolwide program plan is not satisfactory to parents of participating children, the School will submit any parent comments on the plan when it submits the plan to the LEA.

#### VIII. Building Capacity for Involvement

##### A. Standards, Assessments, Title I Requirements, Monitoring Progress and Improving Student Achievement

In order to ensure effective parental involvement and support a partnership among the LEA, parents and the community to improve student academic achievement, the LEA will provide the following programs to assist parents in understanding State academic content standards and State student academic achievement standards, State and local academic assessments, Title I requirements, and how to monitor their child's progress and work with educators to improve the academic achievement of their children (collectively referred to "Standards and Requirements"):

- The LEA will encourage parents to serve on its board of directors;
- The LEA will seek input from the Parent/Guardian Club and the SSC on ways to assist parents to understand the Standards and Requirements.
- The LEA will encourage parents to serve on its board committees.
- The LEA will regularly publish in its Newsletter, and/or on its website, descriptions and explanations of State academic content standards and State

student academic achievement standards, State and local academic assessments, Title I requirements, and how to monitor their child's progress and work with educators to improve the academic achievement of their children.

- Regular meetings will be held by the LEA at each school, at community libraries and/or parent volunteer homes to discuss how parents can work with educators to improve their child's academic achievement.
- The LEA will hold Back to School nights to introduce parents to the School's curriculum and its correlation to the State's academic content standards and academic achievement standards.
- Parents will be invited to attend regular classes to learn about State and local academic assessments and to take sample tests.

### **B. Helping Parents to Work with their Children**

In an effort to foster parental involvement, the LEA will provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement through the following programs:

- **Student-Teacher Status Portal:** MPS uses an online web portal to enable parents, students, and teachers to communicate more efficiently. Teachers have a webpage for every class in which they post course material, homework assignments, projects, course grade statistics and records of students' grades on quizzes, tests, class participation and homework assignments. Students and parents use confidential passwords to log on.  
Families without home computers will be encouraged to come to the school and use one of the available computer stations. Classes are held at the school on how to use the portal as well as how to access it via free Internet access at public libraries if that is more convenient than coming to the school.
- The LEA will provide parents with access to literacy programs that bond families around reading and using the public library.
- The LEA will provide annual seminars on parenting skills and parent-child communication.
- The school's psychologist will work with parents to better understand their children and the issues facing them.
- The LEA will train parents how to tutor their children in the school.

- Individualized student and parent advisory sessions: Each of LEA teachers and mentors will be assigned to a small group of students. They will arrange two to four meetings at school during the school year to discuss their students' academic achievements.
- One-on-one meetings with the parents of academically low-achieving students to support the parent in providing the student the study environment he/she needs.

### **C. Education on Parent Involvement**

The LEA will annually educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and the School. The training shall take place each year in staff orientations, annual staff development materials and other in-service trainings held throughout the school year.

In order to better understand what works best for the current parents of participating children attending the LEA's schools, the education will take place after the following research is done (which shall be accomplished within the first 90 days of the commencement of the School year):

- **Home Visits:** Research has shown that one of the keys to successful teaching and schooling is creating personal connections with students inside and outside of school.<sup>2</sup> Knowing the students' outside interests, families, and home routines, and then using this information to connect in meaningful, individualized ways can have huge rewards in helping to create happier, healthier, and smarter kids. Recognizing these facts, the LEA will use home visits as one of the important features of its education program to not only improve student and school performance, but also to identify and intervene early with low-achieving students.

The LEA teachers will visit students at their homes to enhance student learning and involvement. Family visits offer invaluable insights about students. They can provide new understanding about students' learning styles. Visits might also reveal the emotional and social needs and behaviors of students. It is helpful to know if they react to problems with tears, anger, or withdrawal, and how they socialize with peers. Through family visits, teachers can identify students' latest interests or concerns, such as a new hobby, an upcoming trip, or a change in the family.

<sup>2</sup> Source:  
[http://crede.berkeley.edu/products/print/pract\\_briefs/pb1.shtml](http://crede.berkeley.edu/products/print/pract_briefs/pb1.shtml)

- A phone tree will be established where volunteers call all parents of participating students to solicit feedback and ideas for building ties between parents and the LEA, how to best communicate with parents and how to work with parents as equal partners.
- A survey will be sent home to parents of participating students that solicits information on what skills each parent has to offer the LEA and what types of parental involvement programs in which parents would most likely participate.

#### **D. Other Optional Parent Participation**

The LEA will involve parents in the development of the training regarding the importance of parent involvement for teachers, principals and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training.

In order to maximize parental involvement and participation, the LEA will arrange school meetings at various times or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend such conferences at the LEA.

The LEA will adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement.

The LEA will develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities, such as sponsoring events, providing volunteers for school activities, and creating internships for students.

#### **IX. Coordination with Other Programs**

If applicable, the LEA shall, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with programs such as Head Start, Early Reading First, and public preschool and other programs and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.

The LEA will coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with these programs as follows: 1) requiring that the school conduct meetings involving parents, kindergarten or elementary school teachers, and Head Start teachers or, if appropriate, teachers from other early childhood development programs such as the Early Reading First program, to discuss the developmental and other needs of individual children; 2) developing and implementing a systematic procedure for receiving records regarding such children, transferred with parental consent from a Head Start program or, where applicable, another early childhood development program such as the Early Reading First program.

#### **X. Annual Evaluation**

The LEA, with the involvement of parents, shall conduct an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this family involvement policy in improving the academic quality of the schools served under Title I, Part A, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in activities under ESSA. The LEA will pay particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background. The LEA will use the findings of such evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement and to revise, if necessary, this family involvement policy.

#### **XI. School-Parent Compact**

At the beginning of each school year, the School will enter in to School-Parent Compacts with parents of participating children. The School-Parent Compact will outline how parents, the entire school staff and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the School and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards.

The Parent Council will annually evaluate the effectiveness of the School-Parent Compact and provide feedback and suggestions for revision.

#### **XII. Involvement of Parents of Limited English Proficient Students, Disabled Parents and Parents of Migratory Children**

The LEA shall implement an effective means of outreach to parents of limited English proficient students to inform them regarding how they can be involved in the education of their children and be active participants in assisting their children to attain English proficiency, achieve at high levels in core academic subjects and meet challenging State academic achievement standards and State academic content standards expected of all student. To accomplish this goal, the LEA will do the following:

- The LEA will hold regular meetings, and send notice of these meetings, for the purpose of formulating and responding to recommendations from parents of participating children.
- The LEA will provide language translators at parent meetings to the extent practicable.
- The LEA will schedule meetings to enable families to share information about culture, background, children's talents and particular needs for the schools.
- The LEA will provide parents of limited English proficiency with access to English as a Second Language (ESL) classes to increase their English language proficiency to assist their children with homework. The school's principal will visit the classes to interact with the parents.

- **English Learner Advisory Committee:** The English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) is mainly a committee of parents or other community members who want to advocate for English Learners. The committee provides parents of English Learners opportunities to learn more about the programs offered to their students and advises the principal and the School Site Council (SSC) on programs and services for English Learners.

State law mandates each school site with 21 or more students of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) in attendance, regardless of language, to form a functioning English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC). The ELAC will be formed at the LEA when the School has 21 or more students of LEP.

The LEA will provide full opportunities for participation of parents with disabilities and parents of migratory children. To accomplish this goal, the LEA will do the following:

- The LEA will schedule meetings to enable families to share information about culture, background, children's talents and particular needs for the schools.
- Teachers will be encouraged to make home visits to discuss student progress with the parents. Parents, students, and teachers meet throughout the year to monitor students' progress.
- Teachers will meet one-on-one with parents of such students on an as needed basis to ensure the proper supports are in place for the student.

### **XIII. Notices**

In accordance with law, the LEA will provide the following notices to parents of children attending Title I, Part A schools:

- Annual report card;
- A notice regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers;
- The notice regarding language instruction programs;
- Any other notices required by law.

### **XIV. Miscellaneous**

The LEA shall ensure that all information related to LEA and parent programs, meetings and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

The LEA will provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as requested by parents.

## **SCHOOL-PARENT-STUDENT COMPACT**

This School-Parent<sup>3</sup>-Student Compact is adopted by the Magnolia Public Schools (MPS) (hereinafter "School") and is intended to outline how parents, the entire School staff and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the School and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards. To this end, the School, the Parent, and the Student roles are outlined as follows:

### **I. School Responsibilities**

- The School will provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables all students to meet the State Core Curriculum Content Standards in all content areas through aligned curriculum and rigorous assessment.
- The School will provide a variety of support programs to enhance instruction at all grade levels.
- The School will send frequent reports to parents on their child's progress.
- The School will hold parent-teacher conferences during which this Compact will be discussed as it relates to the individual student's achievement. Conference dates will be listed on the school calendar and additional dates will be sent through notification by the School.
- The School will grant parents reasonable access to staff by appointment through the office.
- The School will provide parents with the ability to observe classroom activities by appointment through the office.

### **II. Parent Responsibilities**

I understand that my child's studies are very important and my participation in activities at MPS is a critical component of my child's educational success. Therefore, I agree to carry out the following responsibilities to the best of my ability:

- I will take a positive and active role in supporting my student's education.
- I will make certain my student attends school regularly and on time.
- I will notify school when child is absent and provide appropriate documentation.
- I will ensure that my student follows the school attendance policy and dress codes.

<sup>3</sup> Within this policy, the word "parent" is employed. This word is intended to reach any caregiver of students enrolled in the School, including but not limited to, parents, guardians, grandparents, aunts, uncles, foster parents, stepparents, etc.



- I will ensure that my child come to school rested, clean, well-fed, and appropriately dressed (in student uniform).
- I will notify office immediately if there is a change of home address or phone number.
- I will set aside a specific time and place for my student to do homework.
- I will support my student in completing homework, including, if necessary, limiting time watching television, computer gaming, and recreational internet use.
- I will allow my student to attend remedial and other programs offered if requested by the school as is needed for individual improvement.
- I will set up a college bound environment at home and support my student through the college admission and scholarship finding process.
- I will emphasize my child adhere to the MPS Discipline Code at all times.
- I will enforce the School Code of Conduct with my child, including ensuring my child is wearing the uniform and promoting respect for teachers and all adults and students.
- I will follow through with any problem behaviors noted by the School.
- I will attend orientation meetings prior to the start of School.
- I will communicate regularly with my student's teachers to ensure his/her academic success (includes attending at least two conferences in a school year).
- I will review information and work sent home and/or posted on-line for parents and students via the school website and the online Student Information System and respond as necessary (computer access is available for parents at School if needed).
- I will review progress reports that are sent by the School and respond as necessary.
- I will encourage positive attitudes toward school.
- I will talk with my student about what he/she is learning.
- I will expect and encourage my student to be focused on learning.
- I will expect and support my student to strive consistently to give his/her best, and to make his/her best academic progress.
- I will assure that my child do not destroy materials (textbooks, equipment, etc.) and/or MPS property.
- I will pay for any damages to materials and/or property incurred by student.
- I will assure that students do not bring destructive materials to school (markers, paint, etc.)

- I will assure that all school materials loaned to students will be returned in the condition issued (textbooks, library books, etc.) I will pay for any lost or damaged books in CASH only.
- I understand that a student's bringing or possession of any weapon is grounds for expulsion from the Charter School.
- I will complete and return all necessary school forms and documents on time as requested by school officials.
- I will try to volunteer at School when requested.

### III. Student Responsibilities

I am aware of my responsibilities and will do my best to satisfy my parents'/teachers' expectations at MPS because this will help me do better in the future. I agree to really try and do the following:

- I will come to school dressed in uniform every day and on time.
- I will be prepared for all my classes with all required materials.
- I will complete class work and homework on time.
- I will do all the homework assigned to me the best way I can and ask for help when needed.
- I will strive consistently to give my best, and to make my best academic progress.
- I will act responsibly and respectfully at all times and towards all members of the school community.
- I will follow all school rules.
- I will obey the School's Code of Conduct.
- I will respect my property, that of others, and that of the School.
- I will take good care of my books, and other materials the School allows me to use.
- I will serve my community.

## INTERNAL COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

The purpose of the "Internal Complaint Review Policy" is to afford all employees of the School the opportunity to seek internal resolution of their work-related concerns. All employees have free access to the CEO or Board of Directors to express their work-related concerns. Please use the Internal Complaints Policy Form following this Policy to file complaints. A copy of this Policy and Complaint Form are also available in the main office of each MPS school.

Specific complaints of unlawful harassment are addressed under the School's "TITLE IX, HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, DISCRIMINATION, AND BULLYING POLICY."

### a) Internal Complaints:

*(Complaints by Employees Against Employees)*

This section of the policy is for use when an MPS employee raises a complaint or concern about a co-worker.

If reasonably possible, internal complaints should be resolved at the lowest possible level, including attempts to discuss/resolve concerns with your immediate supervisor. However, in the event an informal resolution may not be achieved or is not appropriate, the following steps will be followed by the Principal (or the CEO (or designee) for MPSCO employees):

- The complainant will bring the matter to the attention of the Principal (or the CEO (or designee) for MPSCO employees) as soon as possible after attempts to resolve the complaint with the immediate supervisor have failed or if not appropriate; and
- The complainant will reduce his or her complaint to writing, indicating all known and relevant facts. The Principal (or the CEO for MPSCO employees) (or designee) will then investigate the facts and provide a solution or explanation;
- If the complaint is about the Principal, the complainant may file his or her complaint in a signed writing to the CEO (or designee.) The CEO (or designee) will then investigate the facts and provide a solution or explanation;
- If the complaint is about the CEO, the complainant may file his or her complaint in a signed writing to the President of the Board of Directors of the School, who will then confer with the Board and may conduct a fact-finding or authorize a third party investigator on behalf of the Board. The Board President or investigator will report his or her findings to the Board for review and action, if necessary.

This policy cannot guarantee that every problem will be resolved to the employee's satisfaction. However, the School values each employee's ability to express concerns and the need for resolution without fear of adverse consequence to employment.

### b) Policy for Complaints Against Employees:

*(Complaints by Third Parties Against Employees)*

This section of the policy is for use when a non-employee raises a complaint or concern about a School employee.

If complaints cannot be resolved informally, complainants may file a written complaint with the office of the Principal or the CEO (if the complaint concerns the Principal) or the Board President (if the complaint concerns the CEO) as soon as possible after the events that give rise to the complainant's concerns. The written complaint should set forth in detail the factual basis for the complaint.

In processing the complaint, the Principal (or the CEO (or the Board President)) (or designee) shall abide by the following process:

- The Principal (or the CEO) (or designee) shall use his or her best efforts to ascertain the facts relating to the complaint. Where applicable, the Principal (or the CEO) (or designee) shall talk with the parties identified in the complaint or persons with knowledge of the particulars of the complaint to ascertain the facts relating to the complaint.
- In the event that the Principal (or the CEO) (or designee) finds that a complaint against an employee is valid, the Principal (or the CEO) (or designee) may take appropriate disciplinary action against the employee. As appropriate, the Principal (or the CEO) (or designee) may also simply counsel/reprimand employees as to their conduct without initiating formal disciplinary measures.
- The Principal's (or the CEO's) (or designee's) decision relating to the complaint shall be final unless it is appealed to the Board of Directors of the School. The decision of the Board of Directors shall be final.

### General Requirements:

- Confidentiality: All complainants will be notified that information obtained from the complainants and thereafter gathered will be maintained in a manner as confidential as possible, but in some circumstances absolute confidentiality cannot be assured.
- Non-Retaliation: All complainants will be advised that they will be protected against retaliation as a result of the filing of any complaints or participation in any complaint process. Resolution: The Board (if a complaint is about the CEO) or the CEO (if a complaint is about the Principal or MPSCO employees) or the Principal or designee will investigate complaints appropriately under the circumstances and pursuant to the applicable procedures, and if necessary, take appropriate remedial measures to ensure effective resolution of any complaint.

**INTERNAL COMPLAINT PROCEDURES FORM**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Alleged Incident(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person(s) you have a complaint against: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

List any witnesses that were present: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Where did the incident(s) occur?

\_\_\_\_\_

Please describe the circumstances, events, or conduct that are the basis of your complaint by providing as much factual detail as possible (i.e. specific statements; what, if any, physical contact was involved; any verbal statements; what did you do to avoid the situation, etc.) (Attach additional pages, if needed):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I hereby authorize MPS to disclose the information I have provided as it finds necessary in pursuing its investigation. I hereby certify that the information I have provided in this complaint is true and correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I further understand providing false information in this regard could result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Complainant

\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name

To be completed by MPS:

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **TITLE IX, HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, DISCRIMINATION, AND BULLYING POLICY**

MPS believes all students have the right to a safe and civil learning environment. Discrimination, sexual harassment, harassment, intimidation, and bullying are all disruptive behaviors which interfere with students' ability to learn, and negatively affect student engagement, diminish school safety, and contribute to a hostile school environment. As such, MPS prohibits any acts of discrimination, sexual harassment, harassment, intimidation, and bullying altogether. This policy is inclusive of instances that occur on any area of the school campus, at school-sponsored events and activities, regardless of location, through school-owned technology, and through other electronic means.

As used in this policy, discrimination, sexual harassment, harassment, intimidation, and bullying are described as the intentional conduct, including verbal, physical, written communication or cyber-bullying, including cyber sexual bullying, based on the actual or perceived characteristics of disability, pregnancy, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, ancestry, race or ethnicity, immigration status, religion, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, childbirth or related medical conditions, marital status, age, or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics or any other basis protected by federal, state, local law, ordinance or regulation. In addition, bullying encompasses any conduct described in the definitions set forth in this Policy. Hereafter, such actions are referred to as "misconduct prohibited by this Policy."

To the extent possible, MPS will make reasonable efforts to prevent students from being discriminated against, harassed, intimidated, and/or bullied, and will take action to investigate, respond, address and report on such behaviors in a timely manner. MPS school staff that witness acts of misconduct prohibited by this Policy will take immediate steps to intervene when safe to do so.

Moreover, MPS will not condone or tolerate misconduct prohibited by this Policy by any employee, independent contractor or other person with which MPS does business, or any other individual, student, or volunteer. This policy applies to all employee, student, or volunteer actions and relationships, regardless of position or gender. MPS will promptly and thoroughly investigate any complaint of such misconduct prohibited by this Policy and take appropriate corrective action, if warranted.

### **Title IX, Harassment, Intimidation, Discrimination and Bullying Coordinator ("Coordinator"):**

Chief Executive Officer  
Magnolia Public Schools  
250 E. 1st St., Ste. 1500  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Phone: (213) 628-3634

## **Definitions**

### **Prohibited Unlawful Harassment**

- Verbal conduct such as epithets, derogatory jokes or comments or slurs
- Physical conduct including assault, unwanted touching, intentionally blocking normal movement or interfering with work or school because of sex, race or any other protected basis
- Retaliation for reporting or threatening to report harassment
- Deferential or preferential treatment based on any of the protected classes above

### **Prohibited Unlawful Harassment under Title IX**

Title IX (20 U.S.C. § 1681 *et. seq.*; 34 C.F.R. § 106.1 *et. seq.*) and California state law prohibit harassment on the basis of sex. In accordance with these existing laws, discrimination on the basis of sex in education institutions is prohibited. All persons, regardless of sex, are afforded equal rights and opportunities and freedom from unlawful discrimination in education programs or activities conducted by MPS.

MPS is committed to provide a workplace and educational environment free of sexual harassment and considers such harassment to be a major offense, which may result in disciplinary action.

Sexual harassment consists of sexual advances, request for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when: (a) Submission to the conduct is explicitly or implicitly made a term or a condition of an individual's employment, academic status, or progress; (b) submission to, or rejection of, the conduct by the individual is used as the basis of employment or academic decisions affecting the individual; (c) the conduct has the purpose or effect of having a negative impact upon the individual's work or academic performance, or of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work or educational environment; and/or (d) submission to, or rejection of, the conduct by the individual is used as the basis for any decision affecting the individual regarding benefits and services, honors, programs, or activities available at or through the educational institution.

It is also unlawful to retaliate in any way against an individual who has articulated a good faith concern about sexual harassment against him/her or against another individual.

Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to:

- Physical assaults of a sexual nature, such as:
  - Rape, sexual battery, molestation or attempts to commit these assaults and

- Intentional physical conduct that is sexual in nature, such as touching, pinching, patting, grabbing, brushing against another's body, or poking another's body
- Unwanted sexual advances, propositions or other sexual comments, such as:
  - Sexually oriented gestures, notices, remarks, jokes, or comments about a person's sexuality or sexual experience
  - Preferential treatment or promises of preferential treatment to an individual for submitting to sexual conduct, including soliciting or attempting to solicit any individual to engage in sexual activity for compensation or reward or deferential treatment for rejecting sexual conduct
  - Subjecting or threats of subjecting an employee or student to unwelcome sexual attention or conduct or intentionally making the student's or employee's performance more difficult because of the employee's or the student's sex
- Sexual or discriminatory displays or publications anywhere in the workplace or educational environment, such as:
  - Displaying pictures, cartoons, posters, calendars, graffiti, objections, promotional materials, reading materials, or other materials that are sexually suggestive, sexually demeaning or pornographic or bringing or possessing any such material to read, display or view at work or the educational environment
  - Reading publicly or otherwise publicizing in the work or educational environment materials that are in any way sexually revealing, sexually suggestive, sexually demeaning or pornographic, and
  - Displaying signs or other materials purporting to segregate an individual by sex in an area of the workplace or educational environment (other

than restrooms or similar rooms)

The illustrations of harassment and sexual harassment above are not to be construed as an all-inclusive list of prohibited acts under this Policy.

### Prohibited Bullying

**Bullying** is defined as any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act. Bullying includes one or more acts committed by a student group or group of students that may constitute as sexual harassment, hate violence, or creates an intimidating and/or hostile educational environment, directed toward one or more students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

1. Placing a reasonable pupil\* or pupils in fear of harm to that pupil's or those pupils' person or property.
2. Causing a reasonable pupil to experience a substantially detrimental effect on his or her physical or mental health.
3. Causing a reasonable pupil to experience a substantial interference with his or her academic performance.
4. Causing a reasonable pupil to experience a substantial interference with his or her ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by MPS.

\* "Reasonable pupil" is defined as a pupil, including, but not limited to, an exceptional needs pupil, who exercises care, skill and judgment in conduct for a person of his or her age, or for a person of his or her age with his or her exceptional needs.

**Cyberbullying** is an electronic act that includes the transmission of harassing communication, direct threats, or other harmful texts, sounds, or images on the Internet, social media, or other technologies using a telephone, computer, or any wireless communication device. Cyberbullying also includes breaking into another person's electronic account and assuming that person's identity in order to damage that person's reputation.

**Electronic act** means the creation and transmission originated on or off the school site, by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone, or other wireless communication device, computer, or pager, of a communication, including, but not limited to, any of the following:

1. A message, text, sound, video, or image.
2. A post on a social network Internet Web site including, but not limited to:
  - a. Posting to or creating a burn page. A "burn page" means an Internet Web site created for the purpose of having one or

- more of the effects as listed in the definition of "bullying," above.
- b. Creating a credible impersonation of another actual pupil for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in the definition of "bullying," above. "Credible impersonation" means to knowingly and without consent impersonate a pupil for the purpose of bullying the pupil and such that another pupil would reasonably believe, or has reasonably believed, that the pupil was or is the pupil who was impersonated.
  - c. Creating a false profile for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in the definition of "bullying," above. "False profile" means a profile of a fictitious pupil or a profile using the likeness or attributes of an actual pupil other than the pupil who created the false profile.
3. An act of "Cyber sexual bullying" including, but not limited to:
    - a. The dissemination of, or the solicitation or incitement to disseminate, a photograph or other visual recording by a pupil to another pupil or to school personnel by means of an electronic act that has or can be reasonably predicted to have one or more of the effects described in definition of "bullying," above. A photograph or other visual recording, as described above, shall include the depiction of a nude, semi-nude, or sexually explicit photograph or other visual recording of a minor where the minor is identifiable from the photograph, visual recording, or other electronic act.
    - b. "Cyber sexual bullying" does not include a depiction, portrayal, or image that has any serious literary, artistic, educational, political, or scientific value or that involves athletic events or school-sanctioned activities.
  4. Notwithstanding the definitions of "bullying" and "electronic act" above, an electronic act shall not constitute pervasive conduct solely on the basis that it has been transmitted on the Internet or is currently posted on the Internet.

### **Reporting**

All staff are expected to provide appropriate supervision to enforce standards of conduct and, if they observe or become aware of misconduct prohibited by this Policy, to intervene as soon as it is

safe to do so, call for assistance, and report such incidents. The Board requires staff to follow the procedures in this policy for reporting alleged acts of misconduct prohibited by this Policy.

Any employee or student who believes they have been subject to misconduct prohibited by this Policy or has witnessed such prohibited misconduct is encouraged to immediately report such misconduct to the Coordinator:

Chief Executive Officer  
Magnolia Public Schools  
250 E. 1st St., Ste. 1500  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Phone: (213) 628-3634

Complaints regarding such misconduct may also be made to the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights.

While submission of a written report is not required, the reporting party is encouraged to submit a written report to the Coordinator. Oral reports shall also be considered official reports. Reports may be made anonymously, but formal disciplinary action cannot be based solely on an anonymous report.

Students are expected to report all incidents of misconduct prohibited by this Policy or other verbal, or physical abuses. Any student who feels she/he is a target of such behavior should immediately contact a teacher, counselor, the Principal, Coordinator, a staff person or a family member so that she/he can get assistance in resolving the issue in a manner that is consistent with this Policy.

MPS acknowledges and respects every individual's right to privacy. All reports shall be investigated in a manner that protects the confidentiality of the parties and the integrity of the process. This includes keeping the identity of the reporter confidential, as appropriate, except to the extent necessary to carry out the investigation and/or to resolve the issue, as determined by the Coordinator or administrative designee on a case-by-case basis.

MPS prohibits any form of retaliation against any reporter in the reporting process, including but not limited to a reporter's filing of a complaint or the reporting of instances of misconduct prohibited by this Policy. Such participation shall not in any way affect the status, grades, or work assignments of the reporter.

All supervisors of staff will receive sexual harassment training within six (6) months of their assumption of a supervisory position and will receive further training once every two (2) years thereafter. All staff will receive sexual harassment training and/or instruction concerning sexual harassment as required by law.

### **Investigation**

Upon receipt of a report of misconduct prohibited by this Policy from a student, staff member, parent, volunteer, visitor or affiliate of MPS, the Coordinator or administrative designee will promptly initiate an

investigation. In most cases, a thorough investigation will take no more than seven (7) school days. If the Coordinator, or administrative designee determines that an investigation will take longer than seven (7) school days, he or she will inform the complainant and any other relevant parties and provide an approximate date when the investigation will be complete.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the Coordinator or administrative designee will meet with the complainant and, to the extent possible with respect to confidentiality laws, provide the complainant with information about the investigation, including any actions necessary to resolve the incident/situation. However, in no case may the Coordinator or administrative designee reveal confidential information related to other students or employees, including the type and extent of discipline issued against such students or employees.

All records related to any investigation of complaints under this Policy are maintained in a secure location.

### **Consequences**

Students or employees who engage in misconduct prohibited by this Policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

### **Uniform Complaint Procedures**

When harassment or bullying is based upon one of the protected characteristics set forth in this Policy, a complainant may also fill out a Uniform Complaint Procedures (“UCP”) complaint form at any time during the process, consistent with the procedures laid out in this Handbook.

### **Right of Appeal**

Should the reporting individual find the Coordinator’s resolution unsatisfactory, he/she may follow the Dispute Resolution Process found in this Student/Family Handbook.

**TITLE IX, HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, DISCRIMINATION, AND BULLYING COMPLAINT FORM**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Alleged Incident(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person(s) you have a complaint against: \_\_\_\_\_

List any witnesses that were present: \_\_\_\_\_

Where did the incident(s) occur? \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe the events or conduct that are the basis of your complaint by providing as much factual detail as possible (i.e. specific statements; what, if any, physical contact was involved; any verbal statements; what did you do to avoid the situation, etc.) (Attach additional pages, if needed):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**I hereby authorize MPS to disclose the information I have provided as it finds necessary in pursuing its investigation. I hereby certify that the information I have provided in this complaint is true and correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I further understand providing false information in this regard could result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Complainant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

**To be completed by MPS:**

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Follow up Meeting with Complainant held on: \_\_\_\_\_



**UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES**

- a. MPS has the primary responsibility to insure compliance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations and has established procedures to address allegations of unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying, and complaints alleging violations of state or federal laws governing educational programs, the charging of unlawful pupil fees, non-compliance with the Local Control Funding Formula, and non-compliance with reasonable accommodations for lactating pupils.
- b. MPS shall investigate and seek to resolve complaints using policies and procedures known as the Uniform Complaint Procedure (“UCP”) adopted by our local board. Unlawful discrimination harassment, intimidation, or bullying complaints may be based on actual or perceived characteristics of age, ancestry, color, disability, ethnic group identification, gender expression, gender identity, gender, genetic information, nationality, national origin, immigration status, race or ethnicity, religion, sex, or sexual orientation, or on the basis of a person’s association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics, in any MPS program or activity.
- c. The UCP shall also be used when addressing complaints alleging failure to comply with state and/or federal laws in:
- Adult Education Programs; After School Education and Safety Programs; Agricultural Vocational Educational Programs; American Indian Education Centers and Early Child Education Program Assessments; Consolidated Categorical Aid Programs; Migrant Education; Career Technical and Technical Education and Training Programs; Child Care and Developmental Programs; Child Nutrition Programs; Foster and Homeless Youth Services; No Child Left Behind Act (2001) Programs (Titles I-VII), including improving academic achievement, compensatory education, limited English proficiency, and migrant education; Regional Occupational Centers and Programs; Special Education Programs; State Preschool; Tobacco-Use Prevention Education; Requirements governing the Local Control Funding Formula or Sections 47606.5 and 47607.3 of the Education Code, as applicable; and Reasonable Accommodations to a Lactating Pupil.
- d. A complaint of noncompliance with laws relating to pupil fees may be filed pursuant to the local UCP. A pupil enrolled in a public school shall not be required to pay a pupil fee for participation in an educational activity. A pupil fee includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:
1. A fee charged to a pupil as a condition for registering for school or classes, or as a condition for participation in a class or an extracurricular activity, regardless of whether the class or activity is elective or compulsory, or is for credit.
  2. A security deposit, or other payment, that a pupil is required to make to obtain a lock, locker, book, class apparatus, musical instrument, clothes, or other materials or equipment.
  3. A purchase that a pupil is required to make to obtain materials, supplies, equipment, or clothes associated with an educational activity.
  4. A pupil fee complaint shall not be filed later than one year from the date the alleged violation occurred.
- e. Complaints of noncompliance with the requirements governing the Local Control and Accountability Plan, Local Control Funding Formula or Sections 47606.5 and 47607.3 of the Education Code, as applicable, may also be filed under the local UCP.
- f. Complaints of noncompliance with the requirements of Education Code Section 222 regarding the rights of lactating pupils on a school campus may also be filed under the local UCP.
- g. Complaints of noncompliance with the requirements of Education Code Section 48645.7 regarding the rights of juvenile court school pupils when they become entitled to a diploma. If the Charter School finds merit in a complaint, or if the Superintendent finds merit in an appeal, the Charter School shall provide a remedy to the affected pupil.
- h. All complaints that fall within the UCP, including complaint of noncompliance with laws relating to pupil fees, must be filed in writing with the complaint officer listed below. A complaint regarding pupil fees may be filed anonymously if the complaint provides evidence or information to support an allegation of noncompliance with laws relating to pupil fees. The compliance officer is:
- Chief Executive Officer  
Magnolia Public Schools  
250 E. 1st St., Ste. 1500  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Phone: (213) 628-3634

- i. Complaints alleging unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, must be filed within six (6) months from the date the alleged unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, occurred or the date the complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, unless the time for filing is extended by the Compliance Officer or his or her designee.
- j. Complaints will be investigated and a written Decision or report will be sent to the complainant within sixty (60) days from the receipt of the complaint. This sixty (60) day time period may be extended by written agreement of the complainant. The School person responsible for investigating the complaint shall conduct and complete the investigation in accordance with California regulations and in accordance with the School's procedures.
- k. The complainant has a right to appeal the School's Decision to the California Department of Education (CDE) by filing a written appeal within 15 days of receiving the Decision. The appeal must include a copy of the complaint filed with the School and a copy of the School's Decision. The appeal should be sent to:
- California Department of Education  
1430 N Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814
- l. Civil law remedies may be available under state or federal discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying laws, if applicable. In appropriate cases, an appeal may be filed pursuant to Education Code Section 262.3. A complainant may pursue available civil law remedies outside of MPS' complaint procedures. Complainants may seek assistance from mediation centers or public/private interest attorneys. Civil law remedies that may be imposed by a court include, but are not limited to, injunctions and restraining orders.
- m. A complete copy of the UCP policy and complaint procedures is posted in every classroom and shall be available free of charge in the main office of each MPS school and MPS website. A copy of the UCP complaint form is contained in this Handbook.

Magnolia Science Academy-1, 2, 3, and 5 are authorized by the Los Angeles County Board of Education.

Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE)  
Charter School Office (CSO) Contact:

- Los Angeles County Office of Education  
Charter School Office  
9300 Imperial Highway  
Downey, CA 90242  
Office Phone Line: (562) 922-8806  
Comments & Concerns Line: (562) 922-8807  
Office Fax: (562) 922-8805  
Website: [www.lacoe.edu](http://www.lacoe.edu)

Magnolia Science Academy-4, 6, 7, and Bell are authorized by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Board of Education.

LAUSD Charter Schools Division (CSD) Contact:

- Los Angeles Unified School District  
Charter Schools Division  
333 S. Beaudry Ave. 20<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
Main Office: (213) 241-0399  
Fax: (213) 241-2054  
Website: [www.lausd.net](http://www.lausd.net)

Magnolia Science Academy-San Diego is authorized by the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) Board of Education.

SDUSD Office of Charter Schools (OCS) Contact:

- San Diego Unified School District  
Office of Charter Schools  
4100 Normal Street, Annex 15  
San Diego, CA 92103  
Main Office: (619) 725-7107  
Website: [www.sandiegounified.org](http://www.sandiegounified.org)

Magnolia Science Academy-Santa Ana is authorized by the State Board of Education (SBE).

California Department of Education (CDE) Charter Schools Division (CSD) Contact:

- California Department of Education  
Charter Schools Division  
1430 N Street, Suite 5401  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5901  
Phone: (916) 322-6029  
Fax: (916) 322-1465  
Email: [charters@cde.ca.gov](mailto:charters@cde.ca.gov)  
Website: [www.cde.ca.gov](http://www.cde.ca.gov)

**UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES FORM**

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name/MI: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address/Apt. #: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

School/Office of Alleged Violation: \_\_\_\_\_

**For allegation(s) of noncompliance, please check the program or activity referred to in your complaint, if applicable:**

- Adult Education
- American Indian Education
- Child Development Programs
- Migrant Education
- Special Education
- Pupil Fees
- Bilingual Education
- Every Student Succeeds Act
- After School Education and Safety
- Consolidated Categorical Aid
- Child Nutrition
- No Child Left Behind Programs
- State Preschool
- Local Control Funding Formula / Local Control and Accountability Plan
- School Safety Plans
- Agricultural Vocational Education
- Career/Technical Education
- Foster/Homeless Youth
- Regional Occupational Programs
- Tobacco-Use Prevention Education
- Lactating Pupils
- Economic Impact Aid
- Juvenile Court School Pupils

**For allegation(s) of unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying, please check the basis of the unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying described in your complaint, if applicable:**

- Age
- Ancestry
- Color
- Disability (Mental or Physical)
- Ethnic Group Identification
- Medical Condition
- Immigration Status
- Gender / Gender Expression / Gender Identity
- Genetic Information
- National Origin
- Race or Ethnicity
- Religion
- Sex (Actual or Perceived)
- Sexual Orientation (Actual or Perceived)
- Based on association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics
- Marital Status

1. Please give facts about the complaint. Provide details such as the names of those involved, dates, whether witnesses were present, etc., that may be helpful to the complaint investigator.

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2. Have you discussed your complaint or brought your complaint to any MPS personnel? If you have, to whom did you take the complaint, and what was the result?

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3. Please provide copies of any written documents that may be relevant or supportive of your complaint.

I have attached supporting documents.  Yes  No

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail complaint and any relevant documents to:

Chief Executive Officer  
Magnolia Public Schools  
250 E. 1st St., Ste. 1500  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 628-3634

## INFORMAL COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

The ultimate purpose of this informal complaint procedure is to encourage the growth and development of MPS as a healthy community. Conflict is often a part of any development or growth process and may arise in any community. An effective process for resolving conflict is therefore both consistent with the vision and mission of MPS, and an essential component of the communication model that our School has adopted.

MPS recognizes that effective communication is paramount in effective conflict resolution and therefore strongly encourages communication strategies that include: Taking personal responsibility for one's own feelings and needs; communication that mutually acknowledges the needs and concerns of one another; and demonstrating honesty and integrity in every interaction.

### LEVEL 1: Direct Resolution

If reasonably possible, informal complaints should be resolved at the lowest possible level, including attempts to discuss/resolve concerns with the person directly using conflict resolution skills without the intervention of a supervisor or other School administrator. It is the hope of MPS that most disputes can be resolved informally by direct and healthy communication between individuals. Such attempts at informal resolution should be documented in writing to assist the Principal (or CEO) and/or Board of Directors to participate effectively in the conflict's resolution.

Examples:

- Pedagogical issues pertaining to anything that occurs in the classroom, i.e., teaching, curriculum, classroom management, or teacher-student relationships, should be addressed directly with the class teacher. Teachers can be contacted by email, written note or via appointment.
- Complaints/concerns about employees or supervisors that do not involve complaints of discrimination or harassment or violations of law should be first addressed with the employee or supervisor directly.

If the person(s) involved are unable to resolve the conflict or complaint, the complainant should contact the immediate/appropriate supervisor in an effort to resolve the issue.

### LEVEL 2: School Level Resolution

- At this step, the complainant should be prepared to give details about the complaint and steps taken to resolve it. The immediate/appropriate supervisor will acknowledge receipt of the complaint in three (3) working days, investigate the complaint, a process which normally involves a discussion with the complainant, gathering of

relevant facts and evidence, and respond to the complainant within ten (10) working days.

Examples:

- Pedagogical, academic or teacher related issues should be addressed with the Dean of Academics/Assistant Principal.
- Student behavior and discipline issues should be addressed with the Dean of Students/Assistant Principal.
- All other issues should be addressed with the Principal.

If the complainant is not satisfied with the response from the immediate/appropriate supervisor, e.g., Dean of Academics/Students or Assistant Principal or the complaint should be directly addressed with the Principal, the complainant should contact the Principal, who will respond within the same timeline. If the complainant is still dissatisfied, and wishes to take it further, the complainant, in writing, should bring the matter to the attention of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of MPS in an effort to resolve the issue.

### LEVEL 3: MPS Home Office ("Home Office") Level Resolution

At this step, the complainant should fill out the attached "Informal Complaint Procedures Form" giving details about the complaint and steps taken to resolve it, and contact the CEO of MPS at:

Chief Executive Officer  
Magnolia Public Schools  
250 E. 1st St., Ste. 1500  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 628-3634

The CEO (designee) will acknowledge receipt of the written complaint in five (5) working days, attempt to identify a resolution that is acceptable to both parties, within fifteen (15) working days of the receipt of the written complaint.

If the complainant is not satisfied with the response from the CEO (designee), and wishes to take it further, the complainant, in writing, should bring the matter to the attention of the MPS Board of Directors ("the Board.")

### LEVEL 4: Board Level Resolution \*

At this step, the complainant can file a written complaint with the Board through the Administrative Assistant at the MPS Home Office. (Same contact information as in Level 3) The complainant should update the Internal Complaint Procedures Form that was used in Level 3. The Administrative Assistant will acknowledge receipt of the written complaint in five (5) working days. The Board may consider the matter at its next regular Board meeting or at a special board meeting convened in order to meet the internal 60 day target within which MPS strives to answer the complaint. The Board may decide not to hear the

complaint, in which case the CEO's decision will be final. If the Board hears the complaint, the Administrative Assistant will send the Board's decision to the complainant within 60 days of the School's initial receipt of the complaint or within the time period that has been specified in a written agreement with the complainant. The decision of the Board shall be final.

\* For MSA-San Diego, MSA-San Diego Governance Committee will work with the Principal and the Home Office in following the Informal Complaint Procedures to resolve internal complaints and conflicts before they escalate to the MPS Board level.

The complainant has a right to appeal the Board's Decision to the California Department of Education (CDE). In that case, the complainant needs to fill out a "Uniform Complaint Procedure Form" - provided in this handbook – and file it within 15 days of receiving the Decision. The appeal must include a copy of the complaint filed with the School and a copy of the Board's Decision. The appeal should be sent to:

California Department of Education  
1430 N Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**INFORMAL COMPLAINT PROCEDURES FORM**

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name/MI: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address/Apt. #: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please give facts about the complaint. Provide details such as the names of those involved, dates, whether witnesses were present, etc., that may be helpful to the complaint investigator.

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Have you discussed your complaint or brought your complaint to any MPS personnel? If you have, to whom did you take the complaint, and what was the result?

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Please provide copies of any written documents that may be relevant or supportive of your complaint.

I have attached supporting documents.

Yes

No

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail complaint and any relevant documents to:

Chief Executive Officer  
Magnolia Public Schools  
250 E. 1st St., Ste. 1500  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 628-3634



The following is information regarding your rights and responsibilities regarding filing a Title IX Complaint.

### **Title IX Coordinator Contact Information**

All complaints should be sent to our Title IX Coordinator, who can be reached at:

Chief Executive Officer  
Magnolia Public Schools  
250 E. 1st St., Ste. 1500  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Phone: (213) 628-3634

### **Your Rights and Responsibilities Under Title IX**

(a) You have the right to fair and equitable treatment and you shall not be discriminated against based on your sex.

(b) You have the right to be provided with an equitable opportunity to participate in all academic extracurricular activities and athletics offered by the MPS.

(c) You have the right to apply for athletic scholarships.

(d) You have the right to receive equitable treatment and benefits in the provision of all of the following:

- Equipment and supplies.
- Scheduling of games and practices.
- Transportation and daily allowances.
- Access to tutoring.
- Coaching.
- Locker rooms.
- Practice and competitive facilities.
- Medical and training facilities and services.
- Publicity.

(e) You have the right to have access to our Title IX Coordinator regarding gender equity laws. Please see above for this Coordinator's contact information.

(f) You have the right to file a confidential discrimination complaint with the United States Office for Civil Rights or California Department of Education if you believe you have been discriminated against or if you believe you have received unequal treatment on the basis of your sex. See below for more information regarding how to file a complaint.

(g) You have the right to pursue civil remedies if you have been discriminated against.

(h) You have the right to be protected against retaliation if you file a discrimination complaint.

(i) You can find out more information regarding your rights, MPS' responsibilities, and access information on gender equity laws from the following resources:

- California Interscholastic Federation:  
<http://www.cifstate.org/governance/equity/indx>
- California Department of Education, Office for Equal Opportunity:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/di/eo/dutytoprotect.asp>

- United States Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights:  
<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/fro-ntpage/pro-students/sex-pr.html>

### **How to File a Complaint Under Title IX**

(a) You can find more information regarding how to file a complaint as follows:

- The United States Office for Civil Rights website:  
<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/howto.html?src=rt>.
- California Department of Education website:  
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/di/eo/complaint.asp>
- MPS Uniform Complaint Procedures ("UCP") or Harassment, Intimidation, Discrimination, Bullying Policy. Please check your School's website or main office for a complete copy of these policies.

(b) A complaint regarding discrimination or harassment based on sex must ordinarily be filed with the U.S. Office for Civil Rights within 180 days of the last act of discrimination. If your complaint involves matters that occurred longer than this and you are requesting a waiver, you will be asked to show good cause why you did not file your complaint within the 180-day period. If you have questions about your situation, you can contact the California branch of the Office for Civil Rights at the address listed below. A complaint filed with MPS under our UCP alleging unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying must be initiated no later than six (6) months from the date when the alleged unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying occurred, or six (6) months from the date when the complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying.

(c) The U.S. Office for Civil Rights has its own policies and procedures for investigating complaints. Please review the above link for more information about this process. A complaint filed with MPS under our UCP or Harassment/ Intimidation/ Discrimination/ Bullying policy will be investigated in compliance with those policies.

(d) There are a variety of ways to file your complaint. You can use the U.S. Office for Civil Rights electronic complaint form filed directly through their website; or mail, email, or send by facsimile your own letter or a completed copy of the Office for Civil Rights Discrimination Complaint Form.

- The electronic complaint form is available at <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/complaintintro.html>

- You can send a completed version of this form or your own letter via email, facsimile, or regular mail to the following addresses:

**San Francisco Office  
Office for Civil Rights  
U.S. Department of Education  
50 United Nations Plaza  
Mail Box 1200, Room 1545  
San Francisco, CA 94102**

**Telephone: 415-486-5555  
FAX: 415-486-5570; TDD: 800-877-8339  
Email: [ocr.sanfrancisco@ed.gov](mailto:ocr.sanfrancisco@ed.gov) or  
[ocr@ed.gov](mailto:ocr@ed.gov)**

To file a UCP or complaint under our Title IX/  
Harassment/ Intimidation/ Discrimination/ Bullying  
complaint directly with MPS, please follow procedures  
set forth in those policies.

**MAGNOLIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Receipt of and Agreement to the MPS Handbook, Student Technology Use Policy-Acceptable Use Agreement, and School-Parent-Student Compact**

I have received a copy of the Magnolia Public Schools Student/Parent Handbook including the Student Technology Use Policy-Acceptable Use Agreement, and School-Parent-Student Compact, or I can access it at the school website. I understand that it is a source of information and a set of guidelines for implementation of school policies and procedures. I have read, understood, and agreed to the Student/Parent Handbook including the Student Technology Use Policy-Acceptable Use Agreement and School-Parent-Student Compact. I, as a Magnolia Public School student, understand and agree that use of Magnolia Public Schools computer and technology is a privilege and not a right. I understand that if I violate the Student Technology Use Policy-Acceptable Use Agreement in any way, I will be subject to referral and possible suspension. I, as a Magnolia Public School parent or guardian, understand that I may be liable for the replacement cost for property Magnolia Public School loaned to my student that my student fails to return or that is willfully cut, defaced, or otherwise damaged, up to an amount not to exceed \$10,000 (ten thousand dollars), adjusted annually for inflation. When I am unable to pay for the damages, Magnolia Public School will provide a program of voluntary work for my student in lieu of the payment of monetary damages. If my child is over the age of majority, he/she shall be liable for the same. I understand that Magnolia Public Schools can unilaterally rescind, modify, or make exceptions to any of these policies, or adopt new policies, at any time. I also understand that the provisions of the Handbook will control over any contrary statements, representations or assurances made by any supervisory personnel except those made in writing by the Chief Executive Officer or his or her designee.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

*Dear Parents/Guardians,*

- *Please read and discuss the policies, procedures, and expectations with your child/children before signing and returning the receipt on this page.*
- *Each individual MPS school may include amendments into this handbook addressing local issues.*
- *Any changes or additions to this handbook will be given to the students and parents/guardians in writing.*

**Student's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Student's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **P/G's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

*(If known, circle grade and group.)* **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Grade:**

TK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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**Group:**

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Other:
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*Copy for Student File*



To: Magnolia Public Schools  
From: Patrick Ontiveros, MPS General Counsel  
Date: September 13, 2018

RE: Approval of changes to the MPS student/parent handbook and its policies to comply with AB699

Magnolia Public Schools General Counsel acknowledges that he has read and reviewed the proposed changes pertaining to the above matter.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patrick Ontiveros".

Patrick Ontiveros  
MPS General Counsel

A handwritten date in blue ink that reads "09/07/2018".

Date

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alfredo Rubalcava".

Alfredo Rubalcava  
MPS CEO & Superintendent

A handwritten date in black ink that reads "09/07/2018".

Date