



Mesquite Learning Academy

Student Code of Conduct

2025-2026

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Authority over Students

Mesquite Learning Academy (MLA), has disciplinary authority over a student:

- During the regular school day, when the student is within 300 feet of the school's real property boundary line, and while the student is going to and from school on school transportation.
- During lunch periods in which a student is allowed to leave campus.
- While the student is in attendance at any school-related activity, including Field Trips or On-the-Job-Training sites, regardless of time.
- For any school-related misconduct, regardless of time or location.
- When criminal mischief is committed on or off school property or at a school-related event.
- When retaliation against a school employee or volunteer occurs or is threatened, regardless of time or location.
- When the student commits a felony offense in the community, as provided by Texas Education Code 37.006 or 37.0081.
- Pursuant to any code of conduct adopted at the campus level relating to participation in a student club, organization, or extracurricular activity.
- For any mandatory expulsion offense committed while on school property or while attending a school sponsored or school-related activity of another district in Texas.

General Principles and Guidelines

The rules of conduct and discipline for Mesquite Learning Academy are established to maintain order in the school. All school staff has the responsibility to enforce the standards and policies of the school's Student Code of Conduct and create a safe environment that is conducive to learning. Full cooperation of the students and parents/guardians is expected.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at all times. Any behavior that is detrimental to the learning environment of the student or other students and/or staff members will not be tolerated. A student whose behavior shows disrespect toward others, including interference with another's access to a public education and a safe environment, will be subject to disciplinary action.

In general, discipline will be designed to correct misconduct, to encourage all students to adhere to their responsibilities as citizens of the school community, to protect students, school employees or property, and to maintain essential order and discipline.

Disciplinary action will draw upon the professional judgment of teachers and administrators and a range of discipline management techniques. In deciding a disciplinary action the school may consider the seriousness of the offense, the student's age and grade

level, the frequency of misconduct, the student's attitude, the effect of the misconduct on the school environment and others, any statutory or regulatory requirements, and other appropriate factors.

Principal/ Campus Administrator

The Principal/Campus Administrator or designee has the authority to implement the Student Code of Conduct, including the suspension of a student from campus, and the authority to expel a student. Suspensions and expulsions shall be handled according to the procedures described in this document.

Campus and Classroom Rules

In addition to rules in this Student Code of Conduct, the Campus Administrator, Superintendent, Principal, or designee may impose and communicate campus rules, and teachers and extracurricular sponsors may impose and communicate campus rules, classroom rules and rules of an extracurricular activity, and impose consequences for violation of such rules where such is not inconsistent with this Code.

Assemblies

A student's conduct in assemblies and other out-of-classroom activities must comply with standards applicable to those of the classroom. A student who does not abide by school rules of conduct during an assembly or other out-of-classroom activity shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Extracurricular Standards

Sponsors and coaches may develop and communicate written extracurricular expected standards of behavior for induction in and continued participation in that activity. Such standards may be higher than those of the Student Code of Conduct. These standards must be communicated to the students involved in that activity and shall be approved by the Principal/Campus Administrator. Students who violate communicated extracurricular standards of behavior may be subject to disciplinary action under the Student Code of Conduct, in addition to those imposed by the extracurricular activity.

Students with Disabilities

The discipline of students who are eligible for services under federal law, including Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and § 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, will be administered as enumerated by the Student Code of Conduct. To the extent any conflict exists, state and/or federal law will prevail over the Student Code of Conduct. School staff will determine whether a student to be disciplined is eligible for such services

and shall, upon making such determination, utilize and apply the appropriate disciplinary process.

Expected Standards of Student Conduct

Each student is expected to behave in a responsible manner by:

1. Demonstrating courtesy and respect for others to include keeping hands to themselves;
2. Attending all classes, regularly and on time;
3. Preparing for each class by taking the appropriate materials and assignments to class;
4. Being well-groomed and dressing appropriately as defined by the school's Uniform Policy and grooming standards as outlined in the Student Handbook;
5. Obeying all campus, classroom and extracurricular rules;
6. Respecting the rights and privileges of other students, school staff, and other adults on campus or at school-related activities on or off campus;
7. Respecting the property of others, including school property and facilities;
8. Cooperating or assisting the school staff in maintaining safety, order, and discipline;
9. Adhering to the Student Code of Conduct and the Student/Parent Compact, a copy of which is made on Exhibit to the Student Code of Conduct.

Code of Conduct Violations

Students are prohibited from engaging in conduct that violates expected standards of behavior. Examples of such violations follow. Items marked with an "*" are considered serious infractions subject to suspension and/or expulsion. Persistent misbehavior may lead to suspension and/or expulsion.

1. Leaving school grounds or school-sponsored events without permission of an appropriate school official;
2. *Insubordination (i.e., failing to comply with lawful directives given by school personnel);
3. *Engaging in inappropriate physical or sexual conduct, including public displays of affection;
4. *Engaging in conduct that constitutes sexual harassment, whether the conduct by word, gesture, or any other sexual conduct, including requests for sexual favors;
5. *Possessing or using matches or a lighter, except as part of an instructional program;
6. *Starting or building a fire on school grounds or at a school-sponsored event, except as part of an instructional program;
7. *Possessing, using, or smoking tobacco products;
8. *Possessing, selling, using, or distributing medications that are available without a prescription in a manner that is not consistent with the medicine's intended use as

indicated on the manufacturer's label, or with school rules concerning the handling of such medications;

9. *Possessing or selling items attempted to be passed off as drugs or contraband;
10. *Possessing drug paraphernalia;
11. *Possessing or distributing pornographic material;
12. *Possessing knives, bladed instruments, air guns, chemical dispensing devices, fireworks, replica firearms or bombs, electronic stunning devices, and other dangerous items;
13. *Possessing a firearm;
14. *Possessing ammunition or explosives;
15. *Discharging a fire extinguisher or fire alarm, except in an emergency;
16. *Violating campus uniform policy for dress or grooming standards;
17. Violating campus, classroom, extracurricular or other communicated standards of behavior;
18. *Being in facilities designated for the opposite sex, such as restrooms or locker rooms, or in facilities designated as faculty, janitorial only, or custodial only;
19. *Cheating or copying the work of another or allowing another to cheat or copy;
20. *Throwing objects that can cause bodily injury or property damage;
21. *Using profanity, vulgar language or obscene gestures;
22. *Fighting/provoking a fight;
23. *Bullying, which may include repeated teasing, taunting, threatening, hitting, stealing, intentional exclusion, and rumors that create an ongoing pattern of harassment and abuse;
24. *Stealing, theft, or robbery;
25. *Damaging or vandalizing property belonging to others;
26. *Name calling, ethnic or racial slurs, or derogatory statements that school officials reasonably anticipate will disrupt the school program or incite violence;
27. *Inappropriate or illegal use of the school's electronic communication systems, including the Internet or violation of school computer use policy;
28. Falsification of records, passes or other school-related documents;
29. *Violating local, state or federal laws;
30. *Continuous or repeated behavior that disrupts the school environment or educational process;
31. *Assaulting another person;
32. *Committing an assault which results in injury;
33. *Making a terrorist threat, false alarm, or report including but not limited to bomb threats;
34. *Selling, giving, or delivering an alcoholic beverage;
35. *Possessing, using, suspicion, or being under the influence of an alcoholic beverage;
36. *Possessing, using, being under the influence, distributing, attempting to distribute, buying, or attempting to buy illegal drugs;
37. *Using, in a manner inconsistent with the manufacturer's instructions, or being under the influence of glue or any inhalant;

38. *Behaving in a manner that contains the elements of indecent exposure as defined by the Texas Penal Code;
39. *Behaving in a manner that contains the elements of the offense of public lewdness as defined by the Texas Penal Code;
40. *Retaliating against a school employee;
41. *Behaving in such a manner that the continued presence of the student in the classroom threatens the safety, interests and rights of other students or teachers or will be detrimental to the educational process;
42. *Being involved in any gang activity, including participating as a pledge or member, soliciting another person to become a pledge or member of a gang, or using any type of gang sign, symbol or representation;
43. *Using or exhibiting an illegal knife, as defined by the Texas Penal Code;
44. *Engaging in arson;
45. *Verifiable evidence of crimes charged for conduct committed on-campus or off-campus determined to have one or more of the following effects; disrupting the learning environment; providing a negative example to the other students, or creating a dangerous and unsafe environment for students or school personnel.
46. *While on school property, or within 300 feet of school property, as measured from any point on the school's real property boundary line or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off of school property, commits certain offenses and misconduct described in Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code, specifically;
 - (A.) uses, exhibits, or possesses:
 - (1.) a firearm as defined by Section 46.01 (3), Penal Code;
 - (2.) an illegal knife as defined by Section 46.01(6), Penal Code, or by local policy;
 - (3.) a club as defined by Section 46.01(1), Penal Code; or
 - (4.) a weapon listed as a prohibited weapon under Section 46.05, Penal Code;
 - (B.) engages in conduct that contains the elements of the offense of;
 - (1.) aggravated assault under Section 22.02, Penal Code; sexual assault under Section 22.011, Penal Code; or aggravated sexual assault under Section 22.021, Penal Code;
 - (2.) arson under Section 28.02, Penal Code;
 - (3.) murder under Section 19.02, Penal Code: capital murder under Section 19.03, Penal Code; or criminal attempt under Section 15.01, Penal Code, to commit murder or capital murder;
 - (4.) Indecency with a child under Section 21.11, Penal Code;
 - (5.) Aggravated kidnapping under Section 20.04, Penal Code;
 - (6.) Aggravated robbery under Section 29.03, Penal Code;
 - (7.) Manslaughter under Section 19.04, Penal Code; or
 - (8.) Criminally negligent homicide under Section 19.05, Penal Code;
 or

(C.) engages in conduct specified by Section 37.006(a)(2)(C) or (D), if the conduct is punishable as a felony;

(D.) Sells, gives, or delivers to another person or possesses, uses, or is under the influence of any amount of:

(1) marijuana or a controlled substance, as defined by Chapter 481, Health and Safety Code or by 21 U.S.C. Section 801 et seq;

(2.) a dangerous drug, as defined by Chapter 483, Health and Safety Code; or

(3.) an alcoholic beverage, as defined by Section 1.04, Alcoholic Beverage Code;

(E.) engages in conduct that contains the elements of an offense relating to abusable glue or aerosol paint under Sections 485.031 through 485.035, Health and Safety Code, or relating to volatile chemicals under Chapter 484, Health and Safety Code;

(1) engages in conduct that contains the elements of any offense listed in subsection (B)(1) or (3) above, or the offense of aggravated robbery under Section 29.03, Penal Code , against another student, without regard to whether the conduct occurs on or off of school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off of school property;

(2)engages in conduct involving a public school that contains the elements of the offense of false alarm or report under Section 42.06, Penal Code, or terroristic threat under Section 22.07, Penal Code without regard to whether the conduct occurs on or off of school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off of school property;

(3) engages in conduct that contains the elements of an offense under Section 22.01(a)(1), Penal Code, against a school employee or a volunteer, as defined by Section 22.053, Education Code, or in retaliation for, or as a result of the person's employment or association with the school, without regard to whether the conduct occurs on or off of school property, or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off of school property;

(4)engages in conduct that contains the elements of the offense of deadly conduct under Section 22.05, Penal Code; or possesses a firearm, as defined by 18 U.S.C. Section 921.

Federal Firearms Act.

MLA, shall expel a student who brings a firearm, as defined by 18 U.S.C. Section 921, to school. The student must be expelled from the student's regular campus for a period of at least one year, except that the Superintendent or other chief administrative officer of the school may modify the length of the expulsion in the case of an individual student.

Consequences

Teachers initially handle all discipline issues within their classrooms and administer consequences ranging from a simple warning to removal from the classroom. For those Code Infractions that can be handled by the teacher, the following discipline management techniques may be used alone or in combination. While the use of progressive discipline is generally applied, the following consequences may be utilized in any order.

1. Oral corrections
2. Cooling off or time-out
3. Phone calls to parents/guardians
4. Seating changes in the classroom or lunchroom
5. Counseling by teachers, counselors, or administrators
6. Parent-teacher conferences
7. Parent-administrator conferences
8. Temporary confiscation of items that disrupt the educational process
9. Grade reductions for academic violations such as cheating, copying, allowing others to copy work, or plagiarism
10. Behavioral contracts
11. Sending the student to the office or other assigned area, or in-school suspension
12. Detention, either during the school day or outside the school day
13. Assigned school duties, other than class tasks, such as cleaning desks
14. Withdrawal of privileges, such as participation in extracurricular activities and field trips/field lessons (including the end-of- year, week-long field lesson) and eligibility for seeking and holding honorary offices
15. School-assessed and administered probation
16. Referral to an outside agency or legal authority for criminal prosecution in addition to disciplinary measures imposed by the school
17. Other discipline management techniques deemed appropriate by administrators, such as a parent escort
18. Suspension
19. Expulsion

Suspension and Expulsion

As Consequences for Serious and/or Persistent Misbehaviors, a student may be suspended and/or expelled for serious infractions. Serious infractions include any infractions identified by an “*” in section 2A above. Misbehaviors in violation of the Student Code of Conduct not otherwise constituting an expellable offense may become a serious infraction subject to expulsion and/or suspension when the misbehavior is so persistent that, in cumulative effect, it is significantly disruptive of the educational process. The decision to expel shall be based on an assessment of the facts and circumstances of each case. Relevant factors, without prioritization, include, but are not limited to, the seriousness of the misconduct, the student’s age, grade level, history of prior misconduct,

health and safety issues, and disruptive effects upon the educational process.

ANY STUDENT SUSPENDED FROM SCHOOL DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR MAY BE DENIED REGISTRATION TO MLA THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

If a student is suspended from school during the school year, re-enrollment of that student may be declined for the following year. If parents are interested in filing a petition and requesting their child to be re-enrolled, please submit the following to the campus administrator within two weeks after suspension is issued. A letter from the parent that includes:

1. Request for re-enrollment
2. Noted improvement in the student
3. Parental measures that will be taken to avoid future discipline problems
4. Parent signature and date

A letter from the student that includes:

1. Request for re-enrollment
2. An apology for the offense
3. A commitment to proper conduct
4. Student signature and date

School Administration will review the petition letters after they are submitted. During the decision making process, the student's up to date conduct will also be taken into consideration.

Suspension Process

In addition to the above list of Code of Conduct violations, the Principal/Campus Administrator or designee has the authority to suspend a student for a period of up to five (5) school days for any of the following additional reasons:

1. The need to further investigate an incident;
2. A recommendation to expel the student; or
3. An emergency constituting endangerment to health or safety.

Prerequisites to Suspension

Prior to suspending a student, The Principal/Campus Administrator or designee must hold an informal conference with the student to:

1. Notify the student of the accusations against him/her;
2. Allow the student to relate his/her version of the incident; and
3. Determine whether the student's conduct warrants suspension.

Notification to Parents/Guardians

If the Principal/Campus Administrator or designee determines the student's conduct warrants suspension during the school day, the Principal/Campus Administrator or designee will make reasonable effort to notify the student's parents/guardians that the student has been suspended before the student is sent home. The Principal/Campus Administrator or designee will notify a suspended student's parents/guardians of the period of suspension, the grounds for the suspension, and the time and place for an opportunity to confer with the Principal/Campus Administrator.

Credit During Suspension

A student shall receive credit for work missed during the period of suspension if the student makes up work missed during the period of suspension within the same number of school days the student was absent on suspension.

Expulsion Process

When the Principal/Campus Administrator determines that a student's conduct warrants expulsion, but prior to taking any expulsion action, the Principal/Campus Administrator will provide the student's parents/guardians with written notice of:

1. The reasons for the proposed expulsion; and
2. The date and location for a hearing before the Superintendent/Campus Administrator, within five (5) school days from the date of the suspension.

The notice shall further state that, at the hearing, the student:

1. may be present;
2. shall have an opportunity to present evidence;
3. shall be apprised and informed of the school's evidence;
4. may be accompanied by his/her parents/guardians; and
5. may be represented by an attorney.

Hearing Before Superintendent/Campus Administrator

The school shall make a good faith effort to inform the student and the student's parents/guardians of the time and place for the hearing, and the school shall hold the hearing regardless of whether the student, the student's parents/guardians, or another adult representing the student attends. The Superintendent/Campus Administrator shall audio record the hearing. Immediately following the hearing or expulsion, the Superintendent/Campus Administrator will notify the student and the student's parents/guardians in writing of his/her decision. The decision shall specify:

1. The length of the expulsion, if any;
2. When the expulsion is not permanent, the procedures for re-admittance at the end of the expulsion period; and

3. The right to appeal the Superintendent/Campus Administrator's decision to the school Board.

The notice shall also state that failure to timely request such a hearing constitutes a waiver of further rights in the matter.

Appeal to Board

The student or his/her parents/guardians may appeal the Superintendent/Campus Administrator's decision to the School Board by notifying the Superintendent/Campus Administrator in writing within seven (7) workdays of the date of receipt of the Superintendent/Campus Administrator's decision. The Board will review the audio or transcribed record from the hearing before the Superintendent/Campus Administrator at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting, or at the discretion of the Board, at a specially called meeting. The Board will notify the student and his/her parents/guardians of its decision, in writing, within seven (7) work days of the hearing. Discipline consequences will not be deferred pending the outcome of an appeal of an expulsion to the Board.

No Credit Earned

Except when required by law, students will not earn academic credit during a period of expulsion.