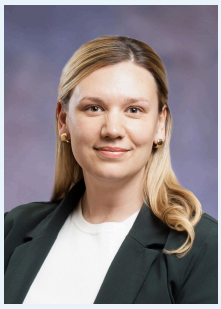
MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2026–27

Parent/Student Handbook on Rights, Responsibilities, and Discipline

mpsmke.com/rights

Milwaukee Board of School Directors



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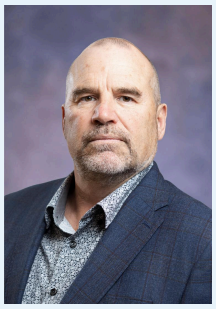
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Board Directors may be contacted at the MPS Office of Board Governance,
(414) 475-8284. Tina Owen-Moore, EdLD, Director/Board Clerk

Senior Leadership Team

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Mary Urbina-McCarthy, Deputy Chief of Staff

From the Superintendent

Dear MPS Students and Families,

In MPS, we have a core belief: *Wherever students are learning is the most important place in the district.* For students to be successful, they need to be in spaces where they feel safe, respected, welcome, and included.

We accomplish this by having rules, guidelines, policies, and procedures so everyone knows what to expect and what to do if something doesn't quite go the way it should. This handbook—the Parent/Student Handbook on Rights, Responsibilities, and Discipline—gives you detailed information about the rules that are in place to help all students learn. This handbook also contains important information about the rights of students and families as well as resources about health, safety, transportation, special needs, athletics, and more.

Whenever you have questions or concerns, please reach out to your child's teacher or principal for guidance. We are all working together as a district where we can expect great things of our students—and our students and families can expect great things of us!

Wishing your students and family a successful school year!

Sincerely,

Brenda Cassellius, EdD
Superintendent

Five Priorities for Success



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District Vision, Mission, and Core Beliefs

Vision Statement

Milwaukee Public Schools will be among the highest student growth school systems in the country. All district staff will be committed to providing an equitable educational environment that is child-centered, supports achievement, and respects and embraces diversity. Schools will be safe, welcoming, well-maintained, and accessible community centers that meet the needs of all. Relevant, rigorous, and successful instructional programs will be recognized and replicated. The district and its schools will collaborate with students, families, and community for the benefit of all.



Mission Statement

Milwaukee Public Schools is a diverse district that welcomes all students and prepares them for success in higher education, post-educational opportunities, work, and citizenship.

Core Beliefs

1. Students come first.
2. Wherever students are learning is the most important place in the district.
3. Educators and school staff have high expectations for all students and provide the foundation for their academic success.
4. Leadership, educator development, and child-driven, data-informed decision making are keys to student achievement
5. Equity drives all district decision making.
6. Involved families are integral to increasing student achievement.
7. Student voice is encouraged and respected
8. Quality community partnerships add value.
9. Increased operational and financial efficiencies are consistently pursued to support learning opportunities for our students.

10. Central Services supports student achievement, efficient and effective operations, and student, family, and community engagement.
11. Public education provides the cornerstone of American democracy.

Parent/Guardian Rights and Responsibilities

Parents and guardians are our most important partners in a child's education. Your involvement is essential to your child's educational success. We urge you to understand and exercise your rights and responsibilities. For more information, contact your school principal or visit our online welcome center. The list of rights comes from the Rules, Policies and Procedures of the Milwaukee Public Schools. To examine these documents, visit https://mpsmke.com/policiesandprocedures.

As a parent or guardian, you are responsible for:

- Communicating to your child that you and the school district expect high academic achievement and that you believe in their ability to achieve academically.
- Ensuring that your child attends school daily and arrives on time. You must provide explanations for absences and tardiness in writing, via electronic form, or any other method of personal contact of which a record is kept by the school.
- Informing the school when you change address (verification required), telephone number, or emergency contact information.
- Ensuring that your child has all health immunizations as required by law.
- Attending parent conferences and participating in parent organizations at the school. All MPS parents should obtain an Infinite Campus Parent Portal account. The Parent Portal allows 24-hour online access to your child's school records (see Infinite Campus Parent Portal).
- Providing a home environment that allows your child to study and supports their academic performance and behavior in school.
- Knowing the discipline guidelines as stated in this handbook and the guidelines of your child's school. Discuss discipline with your child and encourage positive behavior.
- Conducting yourself in a respectful manner at school.

Support Your Children's Efforts

Research shows that the involvement of parents is the most important factor in a child's school success.

- Become involved in your children's school work. Ask about it daily.
- Provide a quiet place at home where your children can study.
- Find one person in the school you are comfortable with to talk to about your concerns.
- Teach your children to resolve conflicts peacefully. This will be reinforced in school.
- Ask the school to help if you have problems with your children.
- Be a good example for your children. They watch what you do.

Parent/Guardian Bill of Rights

Regarding communication with the school and the school district, you have the right to:

- Visit schools and classrooms to observe and attend school-related activities according to district guidelines (see Visitor Policy).
- Receive regular reports of academic progress and attendance, as well as reports if your child is removed from the classroom as a means of discipline.
- Request that a conference be held as soon as possible with teachers and administrators to have curriculum, grades, testing, homework, and discipline explained to you.
- Request information about teachers' professional qualifications and the qualifications of support staff (see Teacher Qualifications).
- Request a conference if you believe that a school staff member has violated laws or district policy.
- Advocate for your child and be shown respect by all district employees.
- Attend school meetings and meetings of the Board of School Directors.
- Request an interpreter at school meetings, conferences, and activities if you do not speak/understand English or need cued speech and sign language.
- Participate in the development of the district's policies, plans, and procedures through the school governance council, and exercise all rights as identified in district policies and state law.
- Review the school budget and school improvement plans.
- File a complaint if your child has been discriminated against or harassed in any way.

Regarding what your child is taught in school, you have the right to:

- Request an Individualized Education Program (IEP) evaluation for your child if you suspect they have special needs.
- Request a modified program or curriculum for your child.
- Request from the principal the Human Growth & Development curriculum material used at your child's grade level.
- Read surveys and questionnaires that may be used with your child.
- Receive notification if your child has been placed in a program for English Learners. Information should include an assessment of your child's English speaking skills and how the program will meet their needs.

Regarding your child's school records, you have the right to:

- Expect that information about your child will be protected and treated as confidential.
- Receive and examine copies of all your child's school records within district student record guidelines (see Rights Regarding Student Records).
- Ask that inaccurate or misleading school records about your child be considered for correction or removal.

Regarding your child's attendance at school, you have the right to:

- Receive a copy of the district's student attendance policies.
- Get notification within two hours of your child's absence without a prior excuse.
- Meet with the principal within five days if you believe any truancies were excusable absences.
- Receive notification if your child leaves school or is removed from school.

Regarding a choice of schools within MPS, you have the right to:

- Enroll your child in any school in the district provided a seat is available and the child meets entrance

requirements. Transportation policies apply.

- Request to transfer your child to another school if the school they attend has been identified as persistently dangerous or if the child has been a victim of violence in school or on school grounds.
- Request to transfer your child to another school by appealing your child's school assignment.
- Appeal decisions made by the district about your child's transportation.

Regarding discipline of your child, you have the right to:

- Appeal disciplinary actions such as expulsion, suspension, assignment to another school, or bus suspension.
- Request a conference with the principal to seek to reduce the number of days of a suspension.

Rights of Parents – Noncustodial, Foster, Special Education, English Learner Students

If you are a noncustodial parent, you have the same rights to student records, progress reports, school mailings, school visits, and parent-teacher conferences as a custodial parent unless a court order restricts such rights. If a court order is in place, the custodial parent must provide a copy to the school principal. It is the responsibility of a noncustodial parent, if desired, to give the school their address and contact information, request to be consulted regarding their child, and be placed on school mailing lists. Only the custodial parent/legal guardian can remove a child from school or give permission for the child to be removed from school by another adult.

As a foster parent, you have many of the same rights as biological parents or legal guardians for the duration of the child's placement in your home. In some cases, however, these rights are restricted by law. One such case is the authorization of an Individualized Education Program (IEP) evaluation for the child. A foster parent cannot authorize an IEP evaluation unless all attempts to contact the biological parent or legal guardian have failed or the biological parents' rights have been terminated. In addition, foster parents generally cannot change a student's school placement and are encouraged to work with the child's case manager to discuss the enrollment/transportation process. For more information, please refer to dpi.wi.gov/foster-care. Contact the Department of Student Services for details.

If you believe your child may have special education needs, you have the right to have your child evaluated. Request an evaluation by contacting the teacher or principal of your child's school. If your child does not attend an MPS school, you can contact the principal of a nearby MPS school or call Child Find at (414) 874-8493.

If your child is identified as an English Learner, you have the right to ask for a school that provides language assistance services. MPS offers the English as a Second Language program to all English Learners as well as a bilingual dual language program. For enrollment procedures and program placement, contact Multilingual Compliance and Enrollment Services staff at (414) 475-8525.

Rights Regarding Information on Teacher Qualifications

Parents of students in MPS schools will receive notification if their child is being taught by a teacher who has not met the qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade level and/or subject being taught for four or more consecutive weeks. Parents also have the right to contact the principal and/or instructional leader and request information about teacher qualifications. The law requires that this information be given in a timely manner. As a parent, you have the right to ask:

- Whether the teacher met state professional qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade level and subject(s) they teach;
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which the state qualifications were waived; and
- Whether the teacher is teaching in the field of discipline of their certification.

You may also ask whether your child receives help from a paraprofessional. If your child receives this assistance, we can provide you with information about the paraprofessional's qualifications.

Rights of Families – Safe Haven

The Milwaukee Board of School Directors adopted Resolution 1617R–007 designating all Milwaukee Public Schools as “safe havens” for all students, regardless of immigration status.

> **'er Resolution 1617R-007:** District employees, contractors, volunteers, and representatives shall not, nless compelled by a valid court order, or subsequent to receiving a signed release, disclose to mmigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers or to any other person or entity any information about ny district student that is protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) or Visconsin State Statute § 118.125, Pupil Records, and applicable MPS policy or procedure.
>
> 'hat no Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers or other immigration law enforcement ersonnel shall be granted immediate access to any district school for the purpose of enforcing immigration aws and shall be referred immediately to the superintendent or designee.

For further information regarding the MPS safe haven resolution, visit mpsmke.com/safehaven

For further information regarding nondiscrimination, please review Board Policy 2260–Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity and Board Policy 2260.01–Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Discrimination Based on Disability by visiting milwaukeepublicschools.org/about/board/policies.

This policy applies to all MPS students without exception, regardless of the immigration status of a student or family. For questions regarding policies and procedures, contact the Department of Student Services at (414) 475-8159.

Right to Request Opt-Out from State Assessments

MPS uses federal, state, and local assessments to understand student progress and tailor instruction to meet individual student needs. These assessments provide valuable data for families, educators, and school leaders to ensure every student is growing and succeeding. Information about specific assessments can be found at mpsmke.com/assessment on the MPS website.

Requesting an Assessment Opt-Out

Parents/guardians have the right to request that their child be excused from state pupil assessments. In Wisconsin, parents/guardians may opt their child out of required state assessments under the Wisconsin State Assessment System in grades 4, 8, and 9–11, per Wis. Stats. 118.30(2)(b)3. Requests for other grades or local school or classroom assessments may be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

If a parent/guardian would like to request an opt-out:

- Contact your child's principal. The principal or school leader is the designated person who handles and approves all opt-out requests.
- Submit your request in writing. A written note or email is required.
- Wait for confirmation. The school will review the request and provide information once it is approved.

Requests for an opt-out must be submitted and approved annually.

Please note: Teachers and staff cannot submit opt-out requests for families or encourage families to opt out. All requests must come directly from the parent or guardian to the principal.



Reporting Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect

MPS takes child safety issues seriously. MPS staff are required by state law to report suspected child abuse and neglect. Required reporting leads to protection for all our children and helps identify supports for families who may need it. If you have specific questions regarding child abuse and neglect policies and procedures in MPS, please contact the School Social Work office at (414) 438-3559.

Suicide Prevention

MPS takes child safety issues seriously. We address youth suicide prevention through our health curriculum. Pursuant to Wisconsin Statute § 115.365, MPS trains school staff to intervene when there is reason to believe that a student has suicidal tendencies or is thinking about suicide. MPS staff are required to follow the district suicide risk assessment protocol, which includes contacting the family, providing resources, and follow up. If you have questions regarding suicide prevention policies and procedures in MPS, please contact Travis Pinter, senior director of specialized services, at pinterte@milwaukeepublicschools.org.

Student Rights

Student Rights and Responsibilities

MPS wants all students to reach their full potential. To help students succeed, schools must be free of disruption. As a student, you are asked to respect the rights of all members of the school family – teachers, administrators, parents, support staff, and other students. Discipline procedures are in place to ensure a safe, respectful environment in and around all schools.

Student Bill of Rights

As a student, you have the right to:

- Freedom of expression as guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.
- Assemble and associate with other students subject to reasonable rules set by the school regarding time and place.
- Publish materials provided that they are within the laws of libel and obscenity. The principal or a designee must approve publications that are distributed within the building.
- Petition the principal, provided the petition is free of obscenities, libelous statements, and personal attacks. The school may limit the time in which signatures on a petition are gathered so classes and the orderly operation of the school are not affected. No student will be penalized for signing a petition.
- Refrain from participation in patriotic ceremonies according to state law that reads: “No student shall be compelled against his objections or those of his parents or guardian to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.” You do not need permission from your parents to refrain from reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Students must, however, respect the rights of other students to participate by remaining silent during the pledge or other patriotic ceremonies. Students have the right to remain seated during the playing or singing of the *Star Spangled Banner* or national anthems of other countries.
- Post bulletins on school bulletin boards, provided the principal or their designee has approved them. The student’s name must be on the posting. Postings cannot be obscene, libelous, or likely to cause disruption.
- Organize clubs, provided the principal approves and a teacher agrees to be faculty advisor. All students are free to join any club. Clubs must follow rules regarding the time they meet and the use of facilities and must not cause disruption within the school.
- Request religious accommodation to study and practice a faith. State law reads: “Any school board . . . shall permit students with written permission from parents to be absent from school for up to 180 minutes per week to obtain religious instruction outside the school during the required school period.” Absence for religious observation is excusable and students are allowed to make up missed class work. Transportation between the school and religious instruction is the responsibility of the parent or religious organization. The school district is not liable for students who are absent from school for religious instruction. See the Student Nondiscrimination Policy for information about filing a complaint due to religious discrimination.
- Vote in local, state, and national elections, provided you are 18 years of age or older

English Learners

Students identified as English Learners (ELs) have the right to an equal education opportunity and to meaningfully participate in the district's educational programs. EL students must have access to a quality education that enables them to have access to grade level rigor and acquire English proficiency (reclassification via the WIDA ACCESS test). MPS offers a variety of program models.

- English as a Second Language (ESL) stand-alone programs for ELs whose first language is not English
- One-way Dual Language (Developmental Bilingual): ELs with a Spanish-speaking background are taught literacy and academic content in English and Spanish.
- Two-way Dual Language: ELs with a Spanish-speaking background and native English speakers are taught literacy and academic content in English and Spanish.

Parents of EL students are entitled to meaningful communication in a language they can understand, such as having access to translated materials or a language interpreter. They are entitled to adequate notice of information about any program, service, or activity that is called to the attention of parents of non-EL students. For more information on language assistance programs, please contact Multilingual Compliance and Enrollment Services staff at (414) 475-8525. For more information on translation and interpretation services, please contact the Department of Communications and Marketing at (414) 475-8274.

English Learners Exit Criteria

Students will continue as English Learners until they reach a score of 5.0 on the ACCESS English language assessment. This results in Former English Learner status. English Learners in a bilingual program are given the option to participate in other mainstream programs once they reach a score of 5.0 on the ACCESS English language assessment.

Students with Special Education Needs

Students with suspected special education needs have the right to be evaluated to determine if they qualify for special education services. Parents, guardians, and other interested persons should contact the principal of the child's school or the MPS Child Find Office at (414) 874-8493 to request an evaluation. All students who currently have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and those who are currently being evaluated have additional rights and protections. For more information, please contact your child's school or the Department of Specialized Services at (414) 438-3648.

Students with Section 504 Accommodation Needs

Students with suspected disabilities under Section 504 have a right to be evaluated to determine if they qualify for special education services. Parents, guardians, and other interested persons should contact the principal of the child's school to request a Section 504 evaluation. All students who have a Section 504 plan or are currently being evaluated have additional rights and protections. For more information, contact the school psychologist at your child's school or the Department of Specialized Services at (414) 438-3648.

Students with Hearing Impairments

Students with hearing impairments who need cued speech and/or sign language for instruction may be provided the services of an interpreter as required in their Individualized Education Program (IEP) or §504 plan. Students with hearing impairments have the right to have an interpreter at all school-related meetings, conferences, and activities. For more information, please contact your child's school or the Department of Specialized Services at (414) 438-3648.

Students 18 Years of Age and Older

A student aged 18 to 20 (to age 21 if designated as a special education student) who moves to Milwaukee independently of their parents and has not graduated from high school may attend an MPS school.

Regular enrollment policies apply. The student may choose to participate in or withdraw from programs, submit their own written excuses for absences, negotiate readmission if suspended, and permanently leave school without parent consent. Students 18 and older are responsible for damage to school property, including textbooks, and for school debts. Parents are not obligated to reimburse the school for property damages done by their adult child unless they have themselves contributed to the damage.

Students Who Are Experiencing Homelessness

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act defines homeless as "individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence." This includes children and youth whose family is sharing the housing of others; who are living in motels, hotels, transitional housing, or emergency shelters; or whose nighttime residence is a place not normally used for housing.

Unaccompanied youth (students not in the company of a parent or guardian) and migratory children, who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above, are included in this definition. MPS offers assistance to MPS families and students experiencing homelessness.

Parents/guardians of children experiencing homelessness or unaccompanied youth can learn more by talking with their school's Homeless Contact/School Social Worker or by contacting the Homeless Education Program at MPS Central Services, 5225 W. Vliet Street, Milwaukee. Call (414) 475-8911 for more information.

Children experiencing homelessness have rights and are eligible for services, including:

- The right to stay in their school of origin (the school they were attending prior to becoming homeless or the last school attended);
- Students temporarily living outside the school's busing region may qualify for transportation to the school of origin;
- Free school meals and school supplies; and
- Waivers of school fees.

Students Who Are Transgender or Gender Nonconforming

Students who identify as transgender, gender nonconforming, or any other gender-expansive identity are ensured equitable treatment in Milwaukee Public Schools. Students have access to the following:

- Gender Support Plans and Gender Communication Plans
- Change to Preferred Name/Gender Request process (requires parent/guardian signature if student is under age 18)
- Protection from discrimination as stated in Board Policy 2260–Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity
- Privacy and confidentiality
- The use of the preferred name and gender identity by district staff
- Gender nonconforming enforcement of school dress code

- Access to gender-segregated areas and non-WIAA regulated activities based on the student's gender identity

For a copy of the MPS Gender Inclusion Guidelines, contact genderinfo@milwaukeepublicschools.org or (414) 777-7864.

Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)

The PPRA gives parents and students who are 18 or older or emancipated minors (“eligible students”) certain rights regarding the school district’s conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and conduct of certain physical examinations. Parents and eligible students who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with the Student Privacy Policy Office, U.S. Dept. of Education, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20202-8520. For more information on PPRA, contact the Department of Student Services at (414) 475-8448.



PPRA includes the right to:

- Consent to federally funded surveys concerning protected information
- Inspect certain materials
- Opt out of certain surveys, examinations, or use of personal information
- Report violations

Students with Disabilities/Special Education

Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA)

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

In MPS, no otherwise qualified individual with disabilities shall be excluded from participation in or denied the benefits of district programs and services solely because of their disability or be subjected to discrimination within MPS. MPS offers a free, appropriate, public education to each qualified child with a disability within the city of Milwaukee regardless of the nature or severity of the disability.

In its commitment to provide each child the opportunity to reach their fullest potential, MPS strives to meet the needs of all children, including those with disabilities. MPS implements practices to ensure that students with disabilities are identified, evaluated, and provided with appropriate education services.

Evaluation	Procedures used to evaluate and place students must be nondiscriminatory to guard against misclassification or inappropriate placement of students with disabilities. Students who are provided special education, Section 504/ADA accommodations, and related services will be periodically reevaluated to ensure that services remain appropriate.
Education Needs	Services or accommodations provided to meet the individual education needs of students with disabilities will be designed and provided to meet the same quality standard as the services provided to other students.
Equal in Quality	The quality of educational services, facilities, learning materials, and equipment for students with disabilities must be equal in quality to those provided for other students.
Least Restrictive Environment	Students with disabilities are to be educated in the least restrictive environment to the maximum extent appropriate to the needs of the individual student.
Parent Involvement	Procedures are set to ensure that parents/guardians can participate in the evaluation and placement decisions. The district also implements grievance procedures and impartial hearings in which the parent/guardian can participate and be represented by legal counsel. See Section 504: Notice of Rights for more information.

Direct questions to Dr. Travis Pinter, senior director of specialized services, (414) 438-3648, pinterte@milwaukeepublicschools.org

Direct questions to Jean Gatz, Section 504/ADA coordinator, (414) 438-3677, sprengjm@milwaukeepublicschools.org.

Student Placement and Nursing Services

MPS affords each student the right to a free and appropriate public education (FAPE). Every school's focus is on the best interest of the child, but every school in the district may not be an appropriate placement for a student who has specific medical needs and requires nursing services during the school day. Although most schools have a nurse for a period of time during the school day, some schools do not have nursing services. Therefore, there may be enrollment limitations based on available nursing services. If your child has a specific medical need that requires the services of a nurse, please inform staff when registering your child for school. Inform the school if your child's medical needs change during the school year. For further information on student health services, contact Tashanda Edelen, MPS Manager of Health Services, at (414) 438-3539.



Student Attendance, Absences, and Truancy

Board Policy 5200–Attendance: State law requires all children between the ages of six and eighteen to attend school full time. A child who has turned 18 must attend until the end of the term, quarter, or semester following their 18th birthday. The State of Wisconsin and the Milwaukee Board of School Directors have set policies for student absences. They are summarized below.

When to Keep a Child Home from School

School is important, but sick children need to stay home. Please refer to the list of symptoms on this page that may indicate a contagious disease and the need to keep a child home from school.

When a child's condition improves or health guidelines have been met, children can return to school. Provide the school with current telephone numbers to reach you or other authorized adults in case your child becomes ill or injured.

If your child has been diagnosed with a contagious disease or if any of the following conditions exist, please keep your child home from school.

- Fever (temperature 100.4˚ or higher)
- Blistery rash
- Chills
- Fatigue
- Frequent cough
- Headache
- Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
- Muscle or body aches
- Nasal congestion or runny nose
- Recent loss of taste and smell
- Sore throat
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- COVID-19 symptoms

Excused Absences

It is your responsibility as a parent/guardian to notify the school as soon as possible any time your child will be absent. As a parent/guardian, you have the right to excuse your child from school for any reason for up to 10 days per year. You must submit a written excuse before the child is absent. Students may complete class work and take examinations missed during excused and unexcused absences without being penalized for their absence.

Truancy

Board Policy 5200–Attendance: A child is considered habitually truant if he or she misses a total of five full or partial days without an acceptable excuse during a school semester. The school has the authority to reject excuses that do not appear to be substantiated. Your child is considered truant if:

- He/she is absent for all or part of the school day and you, as the parent/guardian, have not contacted the school with a legal excuse as noted under the section Excused Absences.
- He/she attends school irregularly but often enough that he/she is not in violation of the state laws that require children to attend school.

The following are considered excusable absences. Board Policy 5200–Attendance lists additional types of absences that may be excusable.

- Personal illness
- Medical/dental appointment
- Funeral
- Required legal appearance
- Driver examination
- Designated religious holidays
- Family emergencies in which the student is needed to ensure family well-being
- Educational or district-sponsored activities approved by the school principal
- All school suspensions, including any during the expulsion process, for up to 15 days

Parent Notification of Absence

It is your responsibility to contact the school if your child is going to be absent. If your child is not in school and you have not contacted the school, a phone call will be made to you. If the contact is unsuccessful, the school will attempt to reach you by other means before the end of the second day after receiving a report of an unexcused absence.

You will also be notified if your child has had five unexcused absences in a semester. The notification will be in writing and sent by certified mail or first class mail. Parents may be notified simultaneously by electronic communication. The notice will ask you to meet with a school official within five days. A five-day extension for the meeting date is allowed. If you fail to meet with school officials within 10 days of notification, the school may take steps to impose penalties on you for failing to correct the truancy problem. These penalties include enforcement of state statutes and municipal codes. If your child has a truancy problem, contact the school for assistance.

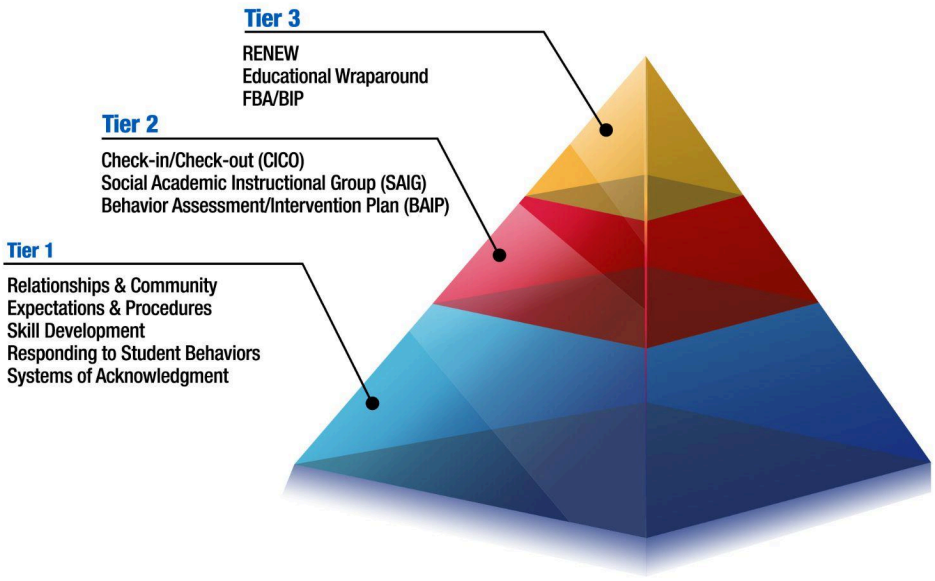
Truants may receive municipal citations. Persons who engage in or cause habitual truancy may be referred to the Milwaukee County District Attorney’s office for prosecution.

Multi-Tiered System of Support—Behavioral Intervention Supports Framework

To address the need for appropriate discipline practices in all classrooms, including early childhood classrooms, Milwaukee Public Schools has implemented the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) framework. Research reveals that a PBIS framework reduces classroom disruptions and student suspensions through a school-wide, tiered intervention approach, which leads to increased student achievement. The framework uses a variety of student supports, effective practices, and evidence-based interventions across three tiers.

A multi-level system of support is a comprehensive approach that is designed to teach, nurture, and encourage positive social behaviors. All supports begin with relationship building between staff members and students, thus creating a community of learners in the classroom.

All schools create expectations for student behavior that are taught, acknowledged, and reinforced by all staff members. Students who continue to struggle to make positive choices with their behavior are provided tiered interventions through the school's PBIS framework. All supports and interventions are available to ALL students, regardless of special education status.



Student Conduct

Introduction to the Student Code of Conduct

All students in K3–grade 12 in the district must follow the Code of School/Classroom Conduct:

- In or on school district property
- At any school district activity, regardless of location
- Traveling to and from school, including on buses

Students are responsible for their own behavior and are expected to abide by the Code of Conduct, as well as by other school and classroom rules that help maintain a positive learning environment. Students will:

- Follow all district policies and the rules of their individual schools and classrooms
- Work toward academic achievement by attending school and classes regularly, bringing classroom materials including books, pencils, and paper, and completing all assigned class work
- Respectfully communicate with all staff members at all times
- Respectfully resolve conflicts and disputes with others
- Respect the rights and property of others while going to and from school, at all school-related activities, at bus stops, and on buses
- Act responsibly with school property and replace or reimburse the school for lost or damaged school property, including books and equipment
- Refrain from making threats of violence, joking about violence, or starting rumors of violence against the school, staff, or students; such actions will be quickly and thoroughly investigated.

Violations of the Code of School/Classroom Conduct that are dangerous, disruptive, or interfere with a teacher's ability to teach effectively will not be tolerated. Students in K3–grade 12 will be subject to discipline as outlined in this booklet. The district discipline plan, which contains the rules of the school and classrooms, will be posted on the district website. Families will be notified by mail when the new Code of Conduct is posted prior to the start of each school year.

Discipline

MPS is committed to providing a safe and effective learning environment by recognizing that:

1. Students have a right to learn, and teachers have a right to teach, in a safe and orderly environment.
2. No individual or group has the right to undermine the goal of providing a quality education for all students.

Teachers, counselors, administrators, and other school personnel may take disciplinary action against MPS students who break rules. Disciplinary actions are set according to federal and state laws and MPS administrative policies.

Levels of Disciplinary Action

The goal of school discipline is to assist all students in functioning successfully in their educational and social environments, as well as to protect the school community and public property. Discipline aims to promote positive behavioral change. With this in mind, school staff, before writing a referral or issuing a suspension, will use a wide array of behavioral interventions to support students who are having behavioral difficulties that are not a direct threat to the safety of staff and students. Please refer to your school for more information about the interventions available for your child. Violations of the Code of School/Classroom Conduct come with different consequences. Below are the four levels of disciplinary action. Each violation has a minimum and maximum level of disciplinary action. In the pages that follow, levels are outlined for each offense.

.EVEL 1 Conference/ ntervention	this level, the school staff conducts a conference with any combination of students, rents/guardians, teachers, administrators, and support staff. The conference may result in a havior contract with the student, a warning to the student and/or parent/guardian, or other action thorized by the school in compliance with school district policies and procedures. erventions will be documented using PLP Notes in Infinite Campus. Balanced and restorative actices and school-wide PBIS strategies may be used where appropriate and approved by the hool administration, provided that all participation is voluntary.
.EVEL 2 Suspensions	spension is defined as a temporary exclusion from the building and includes classes and all hool-related activities held during school, after school, and on weekends. Parents or guardians notified of the suspension and are expected to meet with a school administrator before the child urns to school. School-based suspensions are not more than three days, though suspensions olving a referral to Central Services and the Department of Student Services (see below) may be to five days. See Disciplinary Due Process Procedures below for details. *te:* Suspensions of students in grades K3–5 require approval of a manager of operations.
.EVEL 3 Referral to the Department of Student Services	rious breaches of discipline are referred to the Department of Student Services at MPS Central rvices. A conference with the student, parent/guardian, school administrator, and student rvices supervisor may be held. The student has the right to be represented by legal counsel or by other person identified by the parent/guardian. The resulting disciplinary action may range from ervention to a recommendation for expulsion. *te:* Suspensions of students in grades K3–5 require approval of a manager of operations.
.EVEL 4 Recommendation or Expulsion	is level of discipline is reserved for criminal acts or for the most serious violations of school rules. udents are given a written statement telling them of the expulsion process and their rights during procedures. The process must be completed within 15 days, during which the student is spended from school. The student may be represented by legal counsel or by any person of their oice throughout the process. The process is as follows: • A preliminary expulsion hearing is held with the student, parent/guardian, school administrator, and student services supervisor. The case can be scheduled for an expulsion hearing, dismissed, or directed toward another action. • If an expulsion hearing is scheduled, the student, parent/guardian, school administrator, and student services supervisor go before an independent hearing officer. The officer makes a decision on whether to expel the student as well as the length of the expulsion period. Within 30 days, the Milwaukee Board of School Directors reviews the independent hearing officer's decision to expel. *te:* This disciplinary level does not apply to students in grades K3–5 unless otherwise directed by te statutes.

de of School/Classroom Conduct and Discipline Chart for Grades K3–12		ACTION LEVELS	
nduct that Violates Expectations or Code Conduct Principles	inition	imum (Minor)	Maximum (Serious/ repeated)
endance/Punctuality			
pping class	ure to report to class without prior permission, knowledge, or excuse ool/parent/guardian	1	1
rning Environment			
ronic disruption or chronic lation of school rules	eatedly engaging in conduct that is disruptive to the school ironment AND/OR interrupts learning or school activities. Multiple erent interventions, documented in PLP classroom behavior AND municated to the parent/guardian, have been implemented over e and have not remediated the disruptive behavior.	1	3
ronic lack of supplies	eatedly reporting to class lacking necessary materials such as ks, physical education attire, etc.	1	1
ng activity	gang activities which include, but are not limited to, use of erial, jewelry, or clothing to disrupt or intimidate others; gang turing to provoke an altercation; engagement in gang initiation or uitment; or any act that furthers gang membership activity	1	4
ppropriate dress	ure to comply with the school-level dress code. Dressing in a ner that is unsafe and/or disrupts the learning environment. This udes but is not limited to clothing that promotes drugs, alcohol, or anity.	1	1
ppropriate personal property	session of personal property that interferes with the educational ironment or interrupts learning or school activities, including but limited to: toys, toy guns, food, beverages, laser pointers, cell nes, electronic or communication devices, or any item used to se disruption.	1	3
ppropriate use of electronic mmunication devices	aging in non-educational activities in the educational environment, uding but not limited to capturing, distributing, displaying, sharing, /or posting of inappropriate images, videos, movies, and/or music n personal or school technology sources. Engaging in social dia, texting, playing games, and/or streaming that disrupts the ning environment.	1	4
aving the classroom without permission	ving the classroom/learning environment without permission	1	1
bstantial environmental disruption	aging in conduct that causes a substantial disruption to the cational environment such that teaching, learning, and/or normal ool operation cannot continue.	1	1
TION LEVEL KEY	onference/Intervention 2: Suspension 3: Referral to Dept. of Student Services xpulsion Recommendation		

de of School/Classroom Conduct and Discipline Chart for Grades K3–12		ACTION LEVELS	
nduct that Violates Expectations or Code Conduct Principles	inition	Minimum (Minor)	Maximum (Serious/ repeated)
/sical Safety/Mental Well-Being			
empted Battery	hysical attempt to cause bodily harm to another person without king physical contact	2	3
tery	rovoked intentional physical contact without consent causing bodily m	4	4
nb threat	orting to school, police, or fire officials the presence of a bomb on or r school property without a reasonable belief that a bomb is present school property	3	4
lying	berate, often repetitive behavior, involving an imbalance of power harms or intimidates others	1	3
orderly conduct	aging in behavior that causes a disruption in the educational ironment and/or which causes property damage or minor injury hout regard to intention)	1	3
langerment of physical safety/mental well-being	aging in conduct (physical or verbal) that directly and substantially angers the physical safety or mental well-being of others. This udes but is not limited to making false reports of an active shooter, mmoning/bringing outsiders to the building to confront others, or nting out a student to be a victim.	3	4
ortion	cing other persons to act against their will under threat of, but not ted to, physical harm	2	4
se fire alarms	orting a fire to school or fire officials, or setting off a fire alarm out a reasonable belief that a fire exists	2	4
nting	sical confrontation including, but not limited to, pushing, shoving, /or exchange of physical blows	1	4
nbling	ying any game of skill or chance for anything of value	1	2
ing	ntional or reckless acts which endanger the physical health or safety thers for the purposes of initiation/admission/affiliation with an anization	2	4
tering	naining around or lingering about a school building without a lawful pose or particular purpose for being there	1	1
sonal threat	ct or indirect (through another party) verbal, written, or electronic luding social media) threat to do bodily harm directed toward others	1	3
TION LEVEL KEY	**onference/Intervention 2: Suspension 3: Referral to Dept. of Student Services Expulsion Recommendation**		

de of School/Classroom Conduct and Discipline Chart for Grades K3–12		ACTION LEVELS	
nduct that Violates Expectations or Code of nduct Principles	inition	Minimum (Minor)	Maximum (Serious/ repeated)
/sical Safety/Mental Well-Being (continued)			
session/use of a weapon other than a firearm	sessing, having under one's control, using, or threatening with a apon (such as a BB or pellet gun, starter pistol, taser, pepper spray, e, box cutter), explosive device, or any other object that, by the way used, is capable of inflicting bodily harm	4	4
session/use of a firearm	sessing, having under one's control, using, or threatening with a arm that fires a projectile using gunpowder (pistol, shotgun, rifle, dgun, or other firearm)	4	4
session or use of fireworks	ng or possessing any explosive fireworks	1	3
kless vehicle use	ng any motorized or self-propelled vehicle on or near school unds in a reckless manner (i.e., a manner that shows conscious egard for a substantial or unjustified risk to oneself and others) or in anner that disrupts the educational process	1	4
bery	ng property from a person by force or threat of aggression	2	4
aging in sexual activity	aging in sexual activity on school grounds or during school vities including, but not limited to, touching private body parts of ther person (buttocks, groin, and/or breasts); and/or removing 's clothing to engage in sex	3	4
ual assault	ntional bodily contact of a sexual nature that occurs without explicit sent	3	4
ual harassment	velcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, physical conta sexual nature, or other verbal conduct or communication of a sexua ure	1	3
spassing	ering any school property without proper authority or remaining on a ool property after being told to leave by authorized personnel; includ school entry during a period of suspension or expulsion	1	2
bal abuse, profanity, harassment	of language (written or spoken) or conduct or gestures which may bscene, profane, or vulgar	1	4
TION LEVEL KEY	**Conference/Intervention 2: Suspension 3: Referral to Dept. of Student Services Expulsion Recommendation**		

de of School/Classroom Conduct and Discipline Chart for Grades K3–12		ACTION LEVELS	
nduct that Violates Expectations or Code of Conduct nciples	inition	Minimum (Minor)	Maximum (Serious/ repeated)
perty			
on	ntionally starting any fire or combustion on school property	3	4
glary	uthorized entry into school district property for the purpose of mitting a crime, especially theft	2	4
ft/possession of stolen property	ng of property belonging to another individual, group, or entity witho mission with the specific intent to permanently deprive; or being in th session of property without permission of the owner	1	4
dalism	iciously and intentionally causing damage to school property or the perty of others; includes situations in which minor damage can be aired or replaced at no cost to the district	1	4
ntrolled Substances			
er substances/materials	sessing, using, or having under one's control any substances or erials that threaten the health or safety of oneself or others	2	4
session of drug paraphernalia	session of a tool used to prepare, store, or contain, or used to inges ct, or inhale a drug or controlled substance with or without drug resid	1	2
session/possession with intent to tribute/ownership/use of alcohol or illegal drugs	sessing, possessing with intent to distribute, selling, giving away, sferring, having under one's control, or using any alcoholic beverage trolled substances, THC in any form, or intoxicants. ase see the "Administration of Medications" section in the *ent/Student Handbook on Rights, Responsibilities & Discipline* arding the administration of prescribed medications.	3	4
of tobacco, including chewing	of any tobacco product by a student /possession of any tobacco and/or nicotine products or vape pen	1	2
TION LEVEL KEY	**Conference/Intervention 2: Suspension 3: Referral to Dept. of Student Services Expulsion Recommendation**		

Due Process Procedures for Suspension

The principal or assistant principal will hold a conference with any students in grades K3–12 suspected of committing a breach of discipline before a decision to suspend them is made. In an emergency in which the school leader feels that the student's presence in school is an immediate danger or may disrupt the school's orderly operation, suspension may occur without a conference. In case of an emergency suspension, the parent/guardian or emergency contact person must be notified before the child is sent home. Due process during a suspension will occur as follows.

1. The school administrator attempts to notify the student of the charge(s).
2. If the student admits to the charge(s), the administrator determines the appropriate disciplinary action.
3. If the student denies the charge(s), the school administrator will:
    - Explain the evidence resulting in the charge(s)
    - Decide whether the evidence will include the names of witnesses
    - Give the student a reasonable opportunity to state his/her version of the story
4. After reviewing the information, the school administrator will decide whether the student committed the offense. If it is decided that the student did not commit the offense, the case is closed. If the administrator decides that the student committed a violation of the Code of School/Classroom Conduct, the administrator determines the disciplinary action according to school district policies and administrative guidelines.
5. If the action is suspension, it becomes effective following notification of a parent/guardian or at the end of the school day. A suspension notice is sent home with the student and mailed to the parent/guardian and contains:
    - The time, date, length, and specific reason for the suspension
    - Information for the parent/guardian about having the student reinstated (returned to school) and a request that the parent call the school to arrange a conference before the student is reinstated
    - Notice that a suspended student cannot participate in school-related activities during/after school or on weekends
6. After the suspension has been issued, the administrator creates a note in Infinite Campus and scans the original suspension notice into Infinite Campus.
7. Suspended students are not to enter any MPS property during the time of suspension without prior authorization of the school administrator.
8. School-based suspensions are limited to three days unless other administrative action is recommended, such as referral to the Department of Student Services or expulsion. Schools will follow up on all suspended students who do not return after three days.
9. Suspended students will be given the opportunity to take any quarterly, semester, or grading period examinations, or to complete course work missed during the suspension period.

MPS Family Advocate Support

MPS has a Family Advocate you may contact for support and assistance during the disciplinary process. This service is optional, but you may meet with our advocate prior to your hearing to understand what to expect. Contact Kimberly Wood, MPS Family Advocacy Coordinator, at woodkj2@milwaukeepublicschools.org or (414) 475-8318.

Appealing a Suspension

A parent/guardian who is dissatisfied with a suspension decision may appeal to the principal. If still dissatisfied, an appeal may be made to the Department of Student Services within five days of the principal's final decision at (414) 475-8159.

Conference and Reinstatement Following Suspension

Following a suspension, the parent/guardian should call the school administrator to set a conference time. If you do not contact the administrator within three days of the suspension, the administrator will contact you. If you find it difficult to come to the school because of work or family responsibilities or distance from the school, the administrator will find an alternative means of conferring, such as holding the conference after school hours or by phone.

The student's achievements and difficulties in school will be discussed during the conference. Together, you will determine the additional steps to be taken by the school, the student, and you to guarantee the student's success upon reinstatement (return to school). The principal may permit a child to return to school in fewer than three days if:

- The parent/guardian has conferred with a school administrator;
- The student understands and acknowledges their violation of the rule or Administrative Policy; and
- The student has had a good discipline and attendance record in the past.

Administrative/Disciplinary Transfers

The Department of Student Services may recommend that the superintendent or designee transfer a student to another school at any time if there is sufficient reason to do so. This is known as an administrative transfer. Reasons include discipline problems or the return of an expelled student. Special education students may not be moved by administrative/disciplinary transfers. As a rule, students are not returned to a school from which they have been transferred by the administration or expelled.

Students Expelled from Other Districts

By law (Wisconsin State Statute §120.13(1)(f)), no school district is required to enroll a student who has been expelled from another district, state, or independent charter school (if the charter or contract of the independent charter school contains the grounds for expulsion and procedural requirements in state law) during the time the expulsion is in effect. MPS will review requests from the parents of students living in the MPS district who have been expelled from other districts and wish to enroll in an MPS school. For more information, call the Manager of Student Discipline, at (414) 475-8037.

Director of Equity, Belonging, & Community

In accordance with the Office of Civil Rights, MPS has designed a team of individuals responsible for ensuring that the implementation of the district's policies concerning discipline are fair and equitable. In addition, the Director of Equity, Belonging, & Community will address complaints from parents, guardians, students, and others regarding the implementation of the district's disciplinary policies and interventions. For concerns or information, contact Jon Jagemann at jagemag@milwaukeepublicschools.org or (414) 475-8645.

Police Interventions

Criminal acts by students will require police intervention. Parents will be notified if and when law enforcement officers remove their child from the building.

Seclusion and Physical Restraint

In situations as allowed by Wisconsin Statute §118.305, school officials may use seclusion and/or physical restraint only when a student's behavior presents a clear, present, and imminent risk to the physical safety of the student or others and it is the least restrictive intervention feasible.

Rights of Students with Disabilities Involved in the Disciplinary Process

Students with disabilities (i.e., special education eligible or §504/ADA-qualified students or students in the referral process) are subject to disciplinary procedures. Discipline of these students is governed by procedural due process requirements in order to guarantee access to a free and appropriate public education (FAPE). Schools are obligated to accurately record the number of days of removal for disciplinary reasons, including suspensions, bus suspensions (without alternate transportation), half-days, and early releases. Schools are not allowed to implement “informal” suspensions – with or without parental consent.

Functional Behavioral Assessment and Behavior Intervention Plan

When a child with a disability exhibits severe behavior difficulties, schools have a responsibility to focus on positive and proactive approaches (e.g., functional behavioral assessment and behavioral intervention plan) rather than relying solely on exclusionary practices (e.g., suspensions or removals). A functional behavioral assessment (FBA) refers to a school-based team that meets to examine the child’s problem behaviors to figure out when, where, and why they are occurring. A behavior intervention plan (BIP) provides the school with an action plan so that when the problem behavior occurs, teachers and others will know how to respond.

School Suspensions/Expulsions

When suspending a student with a disability for disciplinary reasons, school administrators should begin by using the same due process procedures that are established for all students; however, after the fifth day of suspension, the IEP team must conduct a functional behavioral assessment (FBA) and implement a behavioral intervention plan (BIP) for the student. After the seventh day of suspension, the IEP team must meet to review and revise the FBA and BIP and implementation of the IEP and BIP. After the tenth day of suspension, students with disabilities have specific additional rights.

Prior to proceeding with a suspension for a student with a disability past the tenth day of suspension, the school administrator and specialized services regional manager must review all the suspensions for the student during the school year to determine whether a pattern of suspensions exists.

- **If a pattern does not exist,** school personnel must develop a plan to provide educational services on each day the student is to be suspended, and may suspend the student. For §504/ ADA students, there is no obligation to provide services beyond the tenth day of suspension.
- **If a pattern does exist** and the proposed suspension would constitute a change of placement, prior to suspending the student, the IEP team must conduct a manifestation determination.
- **If the IEP team determines the behavior is not a manifestation of the student’s disability**, then school personnel must develop a plan to provide educational services on each day the student is to be suspended and may suspend the student.
- **If the IEP team determines the behavior is a manifestation of the student’s disability**, then the school administrator cannot suspend the student. The IEP team must also meet to review and revise the FBA and BIP and implementation of the IEP and BIP.

Because the manifestation determination is conducted in the context of an IEP or §504/ADA team meeting, parents have the right to request a due process hearing if they disagree with the outcome.

Directory Data

Some information about students is released to anyone requesting it. This is called directory data. As a parent/guardian or adult student, you may have any or all of the directory data information withheld by filling out the Release of Student Information form inside this booklet.

You may also have a high school student's name, address, and telephone number withheld from branches of the U.S. Armed Forces or colleges/universities by completing the Release of Student Information form inside this booklet. Return the forms to the school before November 1.

You also have the right to complain about any alleged failure by the school district to comply with the requirements. Write to: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20202-5920. The MPS Department of Student Services can provide you with a complete copy of the Pupil Records Policy.

Directory data includes:

- Student's name
- Photograph
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Height and/or weight, if a member of an athletic team
- Date of graduation
- Degrees and awards received



Release of Student Information

This form is OPTIONAL. Fill out this form for each child in your family ONLY if you wish to limit the use of personal information.

Each year, MPS receives requests for student information. The district will provide student information to valid agencies that request it UNLESS a parent/guardian submits a signed form denying the sharing of information. Agencies requesting this information typically are military recruiters/personnel and colleges, universities, and technical schools.

Student data is known as Directory Data. **Board Policy 8330–Student Records** states that this includes: a student's name; photograph; participation in officially recognized activities and sports; height and/or weight, if a member of an athletic team; date of graduation; and degrees and awards received.

Parents/guardians who do not want their child's information released should make their wishes known by checking all boxes that apply and signing below.

ALL STUDENTS	☐ Do not give my child's Directory Data to any agencies except those listed below (lines 2 and 3).
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS	☐ Do not give my child's information to the U.S. Armed Forces including Air Force, Navy, Army, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and National Guard. ☐ Do not give my child's information to colleges, universities, and technical schools.

NY MY CHILD'S ACCESS TO THE INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC MAIL

lass, students are introduced to electronic mail and other global information resources, including the internet. MPS has a policy to enhance your chil cation through use of the internet. Your child will participate in accessing the internet and online resources for learning activities UNLESS you choos eny your child all internet and email access. If you want to deny your child's internet or electronic mail access, check the box provided and sign and e the form below.

☐ **Do not allow my child to access electronic mail, the internet, or online resources.**

DIA RELEASE: USE OF STUDENT PHOTOS AND VIDEOS

S regularly takes photos and videos of students involved in district activities. These images are sometimes shared in district publications, on the MP sites, in social media, or with news media. ***The district assumes to have consent for this usage for all enrolled students.***

ents/guardians who do not want photos or videos of their child released should make their wishes known by checking all boxes that apply and signir ow.

☐ **Do not use photos or videos of my child on any public platforms.**

☐ **Do not use images of my child's artwork or schoolwork on any public platforms.**

☐ **Do not use photos of my child in the school yearbook.**

Return this form to your child's school by November 1, 2026. DISCLAIMER: MPS assumes permission to use student photos and videos unless the parent/guardian signs and submits this form. This form is valid for the 2026–27 school year.

d's Full Name (Please Print)	
ool Name	de Level
d's Date of Birth	ent/Guardian Phone
ent/Guardian Name (Please Print)	
ent/Guardian Signature	e
dent Signature (if 18 or older)	e

Students 18 and older do not need parent/guardian signature.

Student Use of Electronic and Computer Technology

Communication Devices

MPS regulates the use of personal communication devices (PCDs) including cell phones, smart watches, tablets, and other electronic devices to maintain a safe and focused learning environment. Students in grades K3–8 may not use PCDs during school hours. High school students may use PCDs before and after school and during other approved times; use at all other times is prohibited unless authorized by a teacher, administrator, or IEP team. Violation may result in confiscation of the device and/or disciplinary action in accordance with Board Policy 5136 – Personal Communication Devices. Students and families are responsible for personal devices brought to school.

Inappropriate Use of Electronic Devices

Any activation, use, or display of an electronic communication device (mobile phone, tablet, portable music player, or any device capable of accessing social media), including but not limited to capturing, distributing, and posting of inappropriate images that disrupt the learning environment, are prohibited. Certain inappropriate images or postings will be referred to law enforcement.

ecurity	letiquette
Under no circumstances should you give anyone your password. Do not reveal your personal address or telephone number. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with other computer systems may be denied access to the internet. Students have the right to appeal any restrictions or access privileges.	• Be polite. Do not be abusive in any message to others. • Use appropriate language. Do not use profanity, obscene comments, sexually explicit material, or expressions of bigotry, racism, or hatred. • Illegal activities are strictly forbidden. • Do not reveal personal addresses or telephone numbers of others. • Do not use the network in a way that would disrupt the use of the network or other users. • Do not use the internet to threaten or bully others (cyber bullying).

Computer/Internet Technology

MPS supports the use of computer technology to enhance the education of all students. It also recognizes that with this educational opportunity comes personal responsibility. Email accounts and file materials are not private and may be monitored by the district. Electronic messages must not contain profanity, obscene comments, sexually explicit material, or expressions of bigotry, racism, or hatred. Users are cautioned against transmitting personal information that they would not want made available to strangers. This includes name, address, and telephone, Social Security, and credit card numbers. Use of the internet is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate use may result in privileges being suspended or revoked and possible disciplinary action according to Board Policy 7540.03–Student Technology Acceptable Use and Safety.

Student Internet Use

The use of the internet in school facilities or on school equipment is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate use will result in cancellation of that privilege and possible school discipline in accordance with the **Code of School/Classroom Conduct** inside this document and on the MPS website.

Vandalism

- Vandalism is defined in the MPS Student Code of Conduct as maliciously and intentionally causing damage to school property or the property of others, and includes situations in which minor damage can be repaired or replaced at no cost to the district.
- Any malicious attempt to harm or destroy electronic information, including data or equipment, is a violation of Board Policy 7540.03–Student Technology Acceptable Use and Safety.
- Uploading or creation of computer viruses is considered vandalism.

Rules and Code of Ethics

- The student should act honorably and in a manner consistent with ordinary ethical obligations.
- The student will not use computer resources for nonacademic activities.
- The student will not make unauthorized copies of software in accordance with copyright laws.
- The student should respect the rights and privacy of other authorized users.
- The student represents their school and should do so in ways that are positive.
- To view the MPS Student Acceptable Use Policy (Board Policy 7540.03–Student Technology Acceptable Use and Safety), visit https://www.milwaukeepublicschools.org/about/board/policies.

Student Accounts

Pursuant to the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), MPS uses content filtering software to protect students from inappropriate websites. The district monitors and updates its web content filtering system on a daily basis.



MPS is not responsible for the accuracy or the quality of information obtained through the Internet.

Under the Wisconsin State Statute §947.0125, students may be subject to criminal sanctions if they engage in the use of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, or data to threaten, intimidate, abuse, or harass another person through electronic mail or other computerized communication system.

Students under age 13 need parent permission to have a commercial Google account; however, the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) allows Milwaukee Public Schools to act as the parents' agent and approve education accounts on their behalf. To be COPPA compliant, we must provide an opt-out process; see the form in this document: Deny My Child's Access to the Internet and Electronic Mail. All students will have Google Apps accounts (including content-filtered YouTube) built into the Milwaukee Public Schools private domain unless a parent or guardian returns the required form to opt out of their child using technology.

Email accounts, and file materials in general, are public and not private in nature and remain subject to monitoring by the school district. The school district network administrators, with due regard for the right of privacy of users and the confidentiality of their data, have the right to suspend or modify internet access privileges, and to examine files, passwords, account information, printouts, tapes, and any other material that may aid in maintaining the integrity and efficient operation of the system. Staff may search the file system for potential violations. When there is evidence of a possible violation, staff may view users' files, read mail, monitor keystrokes, and otherwise observe users' activities.

Nutrition Services—Free Breakfast and Lunch Programs

Milwaukee Public Schools will continue to participate in a free breakfast and lunch program for school year 2026–27. This program is referred to as the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP).

All enrolled students in MPS and MPS contracted schools are eligible to receive a healthy breakfast and lunch at school at no charge each day of the 2026–27 school year. Children can participate in these meal programs without fees and do not need to submit a meal application.

The district may still request Alternative Household Income Forms from households with a student participating in the CEP; however, free breakfast and lunch does not depend on returning this form. Completing the form is necessary to determine eligibility for other programs.

For further assistance, contact the Department of School Nutrition at 414-475-8370.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the agency (state or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA using one of these methods.

Mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

Fax: (202) 690-7442

Email: program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Transportation Safety

Student Code of Conduct

Good conduct is important to bus safety. The school will notify you if your child does not behave on the bus. All students must follow these rules.



- Remain orderly when getting on and off the bus.
- Obey the bus driver at all times.
- Go directly to your seat and remain seated.
- Always keep hands, head, and feet inside the bus.
- Be thoughtful of others on the bus.
- Never throw objects out of bus windows.
- Fighting or pushing on the bus is prohibited.
- Avoid talking loudly or making loud noises. Noise may distract the driver and cause an accident.
- Use of profanity is not allowed on the bus.
- Be quiet when the bus is coming to railroad crossings.
- Keep books, lunches, and coats out of the aisles.
- Use the emergency door only in emergency situations.
- Eating, drinking, and smoking are not allowed on the bus.
- Tampering with the bus or its equipment is not allowed.
- Animals, glass, or dangerous objects are not allowed on the bus.

Consequences

If a child's behavior jeopardizes the safety of students on the bus, the principal and/or the director of the Department of Business Services has the right to discipline the child by the following methods.

Grades K–3

Removing the child from the bus for a limited period of time.

Grades 4–12

Removing the child from the bus or supplying a Milwaukee County Transit System bus pass for a limited period of time.

If your child is removed from the bus, you have the option to take them to and from school. If the child continues to misbehave on the bus, the principal may take further action including permanently removing the child from the bus. The director of the MPS Department of Business Services may permanently remove your child from the bus if your child's behavior is a threat to the safety of other children.

Video Cameras on Buses

Video cameras are installed on some school buses serving MPS for the purposes of providing safe transportation of students and reducing disciplinary problems. In accordance with Board Policy 8600–Transportation, parents are notified when signing up for transportation services that video and audio surveillance devices are used on school buses. All videos shall be treated as a confidential pupil record in accordance with Board Policy 8330–Student Records. Videos shall not be available for viewing by the public, nondesignated employees of MPS, the bus companies, or other unauthorized individuals.

The director of the Department of Business Services or their designee shall determine who is authorized to view the video for the purpose of documenting an incident and determining which student(s) may be involved. Disciplinary action, in accordance with the district's discipline policies and procedures, may be taken against a student based on video documentation. In certain cases, the isolated segment of the video that documents the incident for which the student is being disciplined may be viewed by the identified student and their parent(s) or guardian(s).

Parent Guidelines for Bus Service

The following guidelines will help parents/guardians address any issues with bus service. A child may be suspended from riding the bus if the parent/guardian fails to follow the guidelines.

- Contact your child's school to request a bus stop or route change. Do not ask the bus driver to change stops or routes.
- Parents are not allowed to board the bus without permission from the school principal. If you want to travel to the school for a visit or conference, you may ride with the child only if the principal has given permission. Contact the school several days before the day of the visit so the school has enough time to contact the driver. Never board the bus to resolve conflicts.
- Contact your child's school if a problem arises, whether it is with the bus company, the driver, or the riders. Do not confront the driver or riders.

Conduct on Milwaukee County Transit System Buses

Students riding Milwaukee County Transit System buses are expected to behave according to bus ridership rules. Offenders may be arrested by the police and prosecuted. Misconduct on public buses may result in an investigation, disciplinary hearing, and confiscation of the MPS-issued WisGo Card.

School Safety

Maintaining a Safe School Environment

The safety of all students, teachers, and staff in all schools and at all school activities is of utmost importance to the district. The cooperation of parents/guardians and students is needed in knowing and following district and school policies and procedures. Although safety precautions may at times appear extensive, we would rather make an error on the side of caution than overlook a situation that may lead to the injury of a member of our school community. If you have information to report that is important to school safety, call the 24-hour message hotline: (414) 345-SAFE (7233).

Visitors

Visitors are welcome in MPS. Because the safety of all children is important to us, visitors are required to follow the Visitor Policy (Board Policy 9150–Visitors). Visitors will not be allowed if their presence interferes with or is expected to interfere with regular school activities. A building administrator or designee has the discretion to ask a visitor to leave the school premises, restrict the visiting time, or deny a visitor access if the individual's behavior disrupts the school environment or if they refuse to follow the reasonable visitor rules and procedures established by the school. No visitor shall enter any school without prior permission from the building administrator or designee. All visits should be scheduled prior to meeting with the building administrator or designee. Failure to follow district visitor policies and procedures will result in a notice of NO TRESPASSING, which prevents an individual from entering the grounds or premises of a school building.

Visitor Policy/Entrance Procedures

All individuals will walk through safety scanners and may also be subject to handheld security wanding. Visitors are required to clear the scanning process before entering the building. Lack of cooperation may constitute trespassing. All visitors must:

- Use the designated main entrance.
- Report to the office/security desk.
- Show a form of identification. Everyone age 14 and older must present a school ID or driver license.
- Sign in on the MPS Visitor Record.
- Wear/display the MPS Visitor Pass at all times while in the school.
- Be escorted to and from the requested location.
- Return the Visitor Pass to the office/security desk and sign out.
- Visitors are limited to TWO per student for meetings, conferences, and classroom visits unless approved by the building administrator or designee.

Search and Seizure

Milwaukee Public Schools is responsible for maintaining a safe and secure learning environment. Student lockers are school property and are assigned for student use. Students must use only their assigned locker and should not store prohibited items on school property, including in lockers or vehicles. The district is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged personal property.

To support school safety, school officials may search lockers, school property, a student's person, personal belongings, or vehicles on school grounds in accordance with law and district policy. Prohibited items may be confiscated and may result in disciplinary action and/or referral to law enforcement.

Electronic Scanning

Electronic scanning using handheld or walk-through safety scanners may be conducted at all schools when there is reasonable cause to believe that the safety of students or others may be in question (Administrative Procedure 8.37–Electronic Scanning). Students shall be scanned only by staff of the same gender when handheld metal detectors are used (Board Policy 5771–Search and Seizure). Students' possessions, such as jackets, book bags, backpacks, and purses, may also be searched and scanned as detailed below.

The student code of conduct identifies items that are prohibited and/or illegal. If discovered, these items will be confiscated and not returned, and the student code of conduct will be applied. Law enforcement will be contacted for all illegal items. If the student or an object in the student's possession triggers the metal detector, the object will be removed and the scan shall be repeated. If, after conducting the search with the metal detectors, it is determined that the object that triggered the detector is not a weapon, there shall be no further search of the student or their possessions. If a student refuses to remove an object that is triggering the metal detector, the staff may escort the student to a private area and conduct a pat-down search to determine what the object is. If the object is determined not to be a weapon, the search shall end; otherwise, the staff shall attempt to determine what is triggering the alarm and shall, if necessary, contact the police. When a pat-down search is conducted, it shall be conducted by a staff member of the same sex with a second staff person present. Designated school officials conduct all searches unless it is necessary to involve law enforcement officers.

Confiscation of Illegal, Unauthorized, or Inappropriate Items

Illegal, unauthorized, or inappropriate items may be confiscated. The items shall be inventoried by the school principal/designee and may be: returned to the student's parent/guardian; returned to the student if they are an adult; be held for disciplinary proceedings; or turned over to law enforcement officers. Any item that may endanger safety will not be returned. Appropriate disciplinary action, as outlined in the **Code of School/Classroom Conduct**, will be taken when necessary.

Policy Against Weapons

Weapons, including pepper spray, are not permitted in MPS facilities or any facility under the control of MPS (Wisconsin Statute Chapter 948; Board Policy 5772–Weapons Prohibited by Students; 7217–Weapons Prohibited by Visitors and Volunteers; 3217–Weapons Prohibited by Staff). All persons entering MPS buildings may be required to submit to a metal detector scan and to a personal search. To ensure that weapons are not brought into the premises, bags and parcels also may be searched and scanned. Any person violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action and/or police will be called. Violators will be charged with criminal violations of the law.

Video Surveillance

Video cameras are used on district property and buses to ensure the well-being of the public and to protect district facilities and equipment. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken against any student who is observed violating district policies, building rules, or the law. Video recordings can be considered student records and may be subject to rules regarding education records as outlined in this handbook; see **Rights Regarding Student Records.**

Medication Procedures and Permissions

It is best to give your child any prescription medicine at home. However, there are times a child may need to be given a prescription medication during school hours. School personnel may not administer medication that should have been given to the child at home prior to starting the school day unless it has been determined to be essential to be given at school. School personnel will only administer medication at the designated time as directed by the medical provider and the parent.

MPS authorized personnel may administer prescription medications only if a parent/guardian has submitted a completed Medication/Procedure Permission and Instruction Form. This form includes clear instructions from the doctor, including but not limited to the type of medication to be given, the dosage, the doctor's signature, and your written consent. Students who need medical procedures at school also need a completed form. The school has the right to refuse the administration of prescribed medications for your child or to stop providing your child with prescription medication if the regulations and policies are not followed.

The Medication/Procedure Authorization Form is available in the school office or at mpsmke.com/nursing.

- If changes are made, such as dosage or time the dose is given, a new form must be completed and signed by the parent/guardian and child's medical provider.
- If the prescribed medication is discontinued, the parent/guardian must bring in a discontinuation order written by the child's medical provider or parent/guardian.
- The parent/guardian is responsible for the medication to be delivered to the school safely and that there is enough medication to follow the medical provider's orders. Medications must be delivered by an adult. Please contact your school before delivering medications.
- All prescription medications must be in an original pharmacy container identifying the pharmacy, date the prescription was filled, the child's name, medication name, dosage, time of day the medication is to be taken, and medical provider's name.
- If your child appears to have a severe allergic reaction, epinephrine can be administered by the school nurse or trained school personnel.

Nonprescription Medication

Your child can be given nonprescription medication such as cough syrup or pain relievers only if you give written permission. The exception to this practice is that the district may administer albuterol, Tylenol®/acetaminophen, and ibuprofen with parent permission based on the medical advisor's orders when the nurse is available. Other medications are to be turned in to the school office or may be kept in the classroom, provided the teacher designates a safe storage place.

Inhalers and Injectables Guidelines

If your child needs to carry an inhaler or injectable epinephrine, a Medication/Procedure Permission and Instruction Form must be provided to the school, and you must sign and submit a Release Form for the inhaler and epinephrine use. Children age 7 and older must show that they are properly trained and understand the importance of proper handling and use of the inhaler or epinephrine auto-injector. If a child does not properly manage their own inhaler or epinephrine auto-injector, regardless of age, the inhaler and epinephrine will be taken from the student and stored in the nurse's office or the main office. The child's parent will be notified of the change. If your child needs any non-oral medication during the school day, contact the school principal as soon as possible.

Immunizations

The law requires that students receive a minimum number of immunizations prior to entering school. The law is meant to prevent illnesses such as mumps, pertussis (whooping cough), and other vaccine-preventable diseases from spreading and harming our children. To obtain proper immunizations, call your doctor, health center, or the Milwaukee Health Department at (414) 286-3521. When your child is immunized, provide the records to your child's school.



Required Immunizations*	
Pre-Kindergarten (2–4 years)	4 doses of Tetanus, Diphtheria & Pertussis 3 doses of Polio 3 doses of Hepatitis B 1 dose of Measles, Mumps and Rubella 1 dose of Varicella
K5 – Grade 12	4 doses of Tetanus, Diphtheria & Pertussis 1 additional dose of Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis to enter grade 7 4 doses of Polio 3 doses of Hepatitis B 2 doses of Measles, Mumps and Rubella 2 doses of Varicella 1 dose MenACWY-containing vaccine for entry to grade 7 1 additional dose of MenACWY-containing vaccine for entry to grade 12

*A few limited exceptions to these requirements exist. For details about exceptions, for free immunizations, or to check your family's immunization records, contact your health care provider or the City of Milwaukee Health Department at (414) 286-3521.

Disease Prevention Program

Communicable Disease

The MPS Human Growth and Development curriculum instructs students that abstinence is the only 100% effective method of preventing sexually transmitted infections. MPS encourages parents to discuss reproductive health issues with their children and communicate effectively about abstinence, healthy relationships, and sexual responsibility. Parents have a strong influence on their child's decisions regarding sexual behavior. Waiting until marriage to have sex is a very healthy decision for teens.

Despite MPS instruction on the benefits of abstinence, many MPS high school students are not abstinent. According to the 2021 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 17% of students reported that they have had sex. Medical experts agree that a properly used condom is an effective method to provide protection against sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. (Note: 2021 is the most recent data available.) In December 2009, the Milwaukee Board of School Directors adopted a communicable disease prevention program focused on decreasing the health risks associated with unprotected sexual activity. This includes condom availability through the school nurse for high school students in grades 9–12. Beginning in December 2017, condom availability through the nurse was extended to include middle school students in grades 6–8 in conjunction with the Human Growth and Development curriculum. The communicable disease prevention program seeks to address the health risks of unprotected sexual activity by having condoms accessible for sexually active youth who request them.

Communicable Disease Prevention Program – Key Facts

- Provided by a school nurse, upon request, for students in 6th to 12th grade.
- Nurse visits provide the opportunity to address risk behaviors and provide education, resources, and referral to community agencies.
- Adherence to the MPS-approved Human Growth and Development curriculum is observed.
- Information on the MPS Human Growth and Development curriculum is available at mpsmke.com/healtheducation.
- Abstinence is encouraged; a highly visible abstinence message shall be on the exterior of condom packages.
- Confidentiality is maintained in accordance with Wisconsin law. Minors may obtain a condom without parent consent but students are always encouraged to talk to parents/guardians about any sexual health decision making.

Extracurriculars

High School Activities—Academic

Students have the opportunity to compete in the interscholastic academic activities of chess, debate, and forensics. To be eligible at the high school level:

- Students in grades 9–10 must have received no more than one failing grade in the previous marking period.
- Students in grades 11–12 must have received no more than one failing grade in the previous marking period and must maintain a 2.0 grade point average.

High School Activities—Athletic

Participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege afforded to all students meeting eligibility requirements.

Eligibility Requirements

- Students in grades 9–10 must have received no more than one failing grade in the previous marking period.
- Students in grades 11–12 must have received no more than one failing grade in the previous marking period and must maintain a 2.0 grade point average.
- Students must be enrolled full time as required by the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. In MPS, a high school student is considered full time when scheduled for four periods of class in an eight-period day or for two periods of class in a four-block day.
- Pay the required athletic fee.
- Comply with all MPS, WIAA, City Conference, and individual school rules.

Ineligibility

Under WIAA Guidelines, a student can be declared ineligible in certain situations.

- Student was admitted to a school because of their athletic ability or potential as a result of the undue influence of any person, whether or not that person is connected to the school.
- Student participates in all-star activities.
- Student competes in the same sport on a team unconnected to the school while participating in practice or competition with the high school team.
- Student accepts merchandise and/or cash in any way connected with their athletic ability or performance. Name, image, and likeness must comply with WIAA guidelines.

Transfer Rules

- Grade 9 students who transfer after the beginning of the school year, and with written consent from both schools directly involved, may be provided nonvarsity opportunities for the remainder of the school year. Restrictions are removed upon entering grade 10.
- Students in grades 10–11 who transfer after the beginning of the school year, and with written consent from both schools directly involved, may be provided nonvarsity opportunities for one calendar year (365 days beginning with the first day of attendance at the new school).
- Open-enrolled and/or tuition-paying students entering grade 12 as transfer students are ineligible to practice and/or compete for one calendar year.

Please see your athletic director for more information concerning transfer eligibility status.

Medical Clearance and Documents

Prior to participation, all students must complete the online registration process at MilwaukeeCityConference.org.

- Upload proof of valid health insurance coverage. See your school athletic director for more information.
- Upload the Physical Examination Form with physician and parent signature.
- Complete the Emergency Contact Form.
- Complete an Athletic Permit Information Form.
- Acknowledge all waivers and agreements of liability including MPS Code of Conduct, Student-Athlete Handbook, WIAA rules, and Concussion Agreement.

Talk to your school athletic director for more information. The coach may allow a student to participate in practice before the student achieves academic eligibility, but not before the student has paid fees, submitted the Physical Examination Form and Emergency Contact Form, and submitted proof of medical and health insurance.

Responsibilities of Athletes and Code of Sportsmanship

Sportsmanship can be defined in one word: respect. Showing respect for ourselves, our schools, and our guests helps present a positive image not only to the community, but also to all those who participate in any way in athletic activities in MPS schools.

Good sportsmanship is displayed when every athlete:

- Uses appropriate language. Abusive or profane language will not be tolerated.
- Treats opponents with the respect due to them as guests and hosts.
- Shakes hands with opponents after the game.
- Exercises self-control at all times.
- Refrains from using obscene language, cheers, or remarks; threatening gestures; or physical force.
- Respects the judgment of officials and their interpretation of rules.
- Accepts the responsibility and privilege of representing their school positively by acting in a manner that creates a positive attitude.

Responsibilities of Spectators

Good sportsmanship is displayed when every spectator:

- Realizes that a ticket gives the privilege to observe a contest and support high school activities, not the license to verbally and/or physically assault others or be obnoxious.
- Greets visiting teams with friendly applause.
- Respects the property of the school and the authority of supervisory personnel.
- Shows respect for injured players when they are removed from the game.
- Respects decisions made by contest officials.
- Refrains from applauding mistakes by opponents or penalties called against them. A positive approach is expected.
- Respects the judgment and strategy of the coach and the efforts made by players.
- Refrains from using obscene language, cheers, or remarks; threatening gestures; or physical force.
- Refrains from throwing objects of any kind.
- Seeks approval of the principal/designee for banners. Hanging or use of banners comes under the direction of the athletic director and/or commissioner of athletics.
- Leaves premises willingly if refused entry by building manager.
- Refrains from unauthorized use of electronic communications at athletic events.

Elementary and Middle School Interscholastic Academics and Athletics

Many elementary and middle schools offer interscholastic academic and athletic activities. Coaches may allow students to participate in practices before they achieve academic eligibility. Middle school students will need to meet standards-based grade requirements to participate in competitions. Please contact Alex Brown, middle school youth sports supervisor, at (414) 773-9923, for information concerning these requirements.

Sports and Gender Equity

Board Policy 2260–Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity

Board Policy 2266–Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities

Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972 prohibits institutions that receive federal funding from gender discrimination in education program activities and promotes gender equity in middle and secondary school sports programs. MPS is committed to providing the best educational program activities that make it possible for every child in the district to benefit from all opportunities offered.

The district encourages parents and students to informally resolve complaints of gender discrimination as defined by Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972. If a resolution cannot be reached, a formal complaint procedure is used. For more information on Student Nondiscrimination, please see the Student Nondiscrimination Policy in this handbook. For questions concerning gender equity, contact Matthew Boswell, Senior Director, Department of Student Services, 5225 W. Vliet St., Room 133, Milwaukee, WI 53208, (414) 475-8027.



Textbooks/Instructional Materials

Pursuant to Board Policy 2521–Selection of Instructional Materials and Equipment; 2510–Adoption of Textbooks, each student within a classroom, including students with disabilities, will have equal access to any adopted textbooks/ instructional materials as recommended by the superintendent.

Textbooks/instructional materials furnished for use by a student attending MPS shall be returned to the class teacher or the designated school representative at the end of the course. In case of withdrawal, textbooks/instructional materials shall be returned to the teacher at the time of withdrawal. Each student, or his or her parent/guardian, shall be responsible for all textbooks/instructional materials issued. Any materials previously issued but not returned are paid for by the student, parent, or guardian. Failure to do so may incur a fine and could result in the loss of participation in extracurricular activities or could impact transfers. Refer to the table of fees for amounts that will be assessed for lost or damaged textbooks/instructional materials.

ype of Damage (per textbook/novel)	eplacement Cost per Textbook
ost Textbook	**00%**
lissing Pages	**00%**
ater Damage (if we are able to continue use)	**0%**
roken Binding (if we are able to repair)	**5%**
orn Cover (if both covers are returned with book)	**0%**
lissing Barcode (back cover) but number is identifiable	**1**

Student Protections

Bullying

Bullying is defined as deliberate or intentional behavior using words or actions that is intended to cause fear, humiliation, intimidation, harm, or social exclusion. Bullying involves an imbalance of power and often involves repeated behavior. Bullying behavior can be physical, verbal, indirect (such as spreading rumors, social exclusion, and isolation), or using technology in a hurtful manner, also called cyberbullying. Cyberbullying includes, but is not limited to, use of email, instant messaging, text messages, digital pictures or images, cell phones, or social media postings to bully others. Bullying can also be carried out by someone engaging in bullying behavior on behalf of another.

Bullying behavior by an individual student, a group of students, or an adult is prohibited in all schools and education environments as well as on school district property and at school-related functions (Board Policy 5517.01–Bullying). When a student's out-of-school bullying speech or behavior results in "a substantial disruption of the learning environment," the student can be disciplined. Bullying obstructs the school district's ability to maintain the safety and welfare of students and staff. Students who engage in bullying behavior will be disciplined according to the School/Classroom Code of Conduct. Individuals who report bullying will be supported and protected against potential retaliation for making such a report.

Dating Violence

Dating violence is the use of harmful or threatening behaviors to control another person in a relationship of a romantic or intimate nature or a romantic interest, regardless of sex or gender identity. These behaviors can occur in a relationship that is either ongoing, has concluded, or if there have been limited interactions between the individuals involved. Dating violence includes, but is not limited to, physical, verbal, emotional, psychological, and sexual abuse, whether in person or via electronic communication. Dating violence may also constitute sexual harassment under Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972.

Milwaukee Public Schools takes dating violence seriously, and such violence is not tolerated in the District. If you or someone you know has or may be experiencing dating violence, please contact a trusted adult or school administrator to report it and receive additional support.

Protected Classes

- Ancestry
- Color
- Creed
- Gender
- Marital, pregnancy, or parental status
- National origin
- Physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability
- Race
- Religion
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

Student Nondiscrimination Policy

MPS is committed to providing the best education possible for every child in the district as long as the student can benefit from attendance and their conduct is compatible with the welfare of the entire student body. This includes a policy of nondiscrimination and acceptance of diversity (Board Policy 2260–Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity; 2260.01–Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Discrimination Based on Disability).

Under Section 118.13 and PI 9 – Wisconsin Administrative Code Policy

In MPS, as required by Wisconsin Statutes §118.13 and PI 9, no person may be denied admission to any public school or be denied participation in, be denied the benefits of or be discriminated against in any curricular, extracurricular, pupil services, recreational or other program or activity because of the person's sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability.

This policy also prohibits discrimination under related federal statutes, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (race, color, and national origin), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (sex), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (disability) and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (disability).

If You Believe Your Child Has Been Discriminated Against

Board Policy 2266– Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities

Any complaints regarding the interpretation, application, or possible violations of the district's student nondiscrimination policy shall be addressed in accordance with the following procedures:

- If any person believes that MPS, or any school district official or employee, has engaged in discrimination that is prohibited by section 118.13, Wis. Stats., they may bring or send a written complaint to the following designated district employee: Catherine Coleman, Director of Title IX & Student Protections, Room 133, P.O. Box 2181, 5225 W. Vliet St., Milwaukee, WI 53201-2181.
- The designated employee, upon receiving such a written complaint, shall immediately record the receipt of the written complaint. Within 45 days after receiving the written complaint, the designated employee shall provide the complainant with written acknowledgement of the receipt of the written complaint, including the date the complaint was received.

Appeals

Under Wisconsin Statute §118.13 and PI 9: If a complainant wishes to appeal the determination of the committee, they have the right to appeal the decision to the state superintendent within 30 days of the committee's decision. The complainant may also appeal directly to the state superintendent if the school district or its employees have failed to comply with the provisions of Wisconsin Statute §118.13 or PI 9.04(2). Any appeal should be addressed to:

State Superintendent, Department of Public Instruction
P.O. Box 7841, 125 S. Webster St., Madison, WI 53707

Appeals under 20 U.S.C. sec. 1415 and Chapter 115, Wisconsin Statutes, relating to the identification, evaluation, education placement, or the provision of a free and appropriate public education of a child with a disability, shall be resolved through the procedures authorized by Chapter 115, sub chapter V, Wisconsin Statutes. Complaints under 20 USC1231 e-3 and 34 CFR secs. 76.780-76.782 alleging that the state or a sub-grantee is violating a federal statute or regulation that applies to a program shall be referred directly to the state superintendent. Discrimination complaints on some of the above bases may also be filed with the federal government using the following contact information: **Office for Civil Rights – U.S. Department of Education, Cesar E. Chavez Memorial Building, 1244 Speer Blvd., Suite 310, Denver, CO 80204-3582; phone: (303) 844-5695; fax: (303) 844-4303; TDD: (800) 877-8339; email: OCR.Denver@ed.gov.**

Title IX: Sex-Based Discrimination

Sex-based discrimination includes sexual harassment; gender-based harassment; sexual violence; discrimination based on pregnancy and related conditions, sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex stereotypes; and the failure to provide equal opportunities in employment, admission, enrollment, or any educational programs or activities.

It is the policy of MPS (Board Policy 2266–Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities) to maintain an environment that is free of sexual harassment. Any form of sexual harassment is prohibited. This includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sexually motivated physical contact, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Any student or MPS employee whose conduct toward or communication with another student or MPS employee is of a sexual nature and is sufficiently severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it denies or limits a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the district's education programs, activities, or employment is in violation of this policy. This policy applies to conduct within the district's education programs and activities, as well as off-campus conduct that creates a hostile environment within a district school or workplace.

Initial Report and Intake
The district maintains a comprehensive grievance process to resolve complaints of sex discrimination and sexual harassment filed by students, parents, employees, or individuals participating or attempting to participate in an MPS educational program or activity. Any individual who believes they have experienced or witnessed sexual harassment may submit a report directly through Guardian, the official MPS Title IX reporting platform, or directly to a school principal or the District Title IX Coordinator. Upon receipt of a report, the Title IX coordinator will promptly contact the complainant to implement supportive measures and a safety plan to ensure safety and continued access to education. If a formal complaint is initiated, the Title IX Coordinator will assign an impartial investigator to gather evidence. The investigator will conduct separate interviews with all parties and witnesses. If appropriate and voluntarily agreed to by both parties, the matter may be resolved through an informal resolution process. If a formal process is required, disciplinary actions may be imposed only after a separate, designated decision-maker reviews the completed investigative report and issues a final written determination. A confidential record of the proceedings and outcomes will be securely maintained by the district.
Formal Grievance Resolution and Internal Appeals
The district is committed to a prompt and equitable resolution of all Title IX complaints. Formal investigations are managed and tracked directly by the district's central administration rather than at the individual school level. If a party believes a temporary safety plan or resolution is not being followed or wishes to check the status of an ongoing investigation, they should contact the Director of Title IX & Student Protections at (414) 475-8449 or by email at titleix@milwaukeepublicschools.org. Following the conclusion of an investigation and the issuance of a final written determination by a designated decision-maker, both the complainant and respondent have the right to file an internal administrative appeal within the district. If a party has exhausted the district's internal grievance and appeal processes and believes the district remains in violation of federal law, they may file an external appeal with the federal monitoring agency: **Office for Civil Rights – U.S. Department of Education, Cesar E. Chavez Memorial Building, 1244 Speer Blvd., Suite 310, Denver, CO 80204-3582; phone (303) 844-5695; fax (303) 844-4303; TDD (800) 877-8339; email OCR.Denver@ed.gov.**

Sexual Harassment of Students by MPS Employees or Private Citizens

Any student who believes they have been subjected to sexual harassment or sex-based discrimination by an MPS employee, contractor, volunteer, or private citizen within a district educational program or activity must contact the school principal or the Title IX Coordinator, or submit a report through the Guardian platform. All such allegations will be routed immediately to the Director of Title IX & Student Protections for formal jurisdictional evaluation. The district will investigate all complaints using the equitable Title IX grievance process.

If the investigation concludes that an employee or third party has violated this policy, the file will be referred to the Labor Relations Department to enforce disciplinary action or termination as outlined in the MPS Employee Handbook. Where criminal conduct is suspected, the district will immediately report the matter to the appropriate law enforcement authorities while continuing to fulfill its independent obligation to investigate under Title IX.



Complaints or Disagreements with Schools

MPS wants to help parents and families find solutions when there is a problem or disagreement about their child's education. The process is called "dispute resolution." By working in partnership with your child's school, parents and school staff can quickly find solutions. All MPS staff working on a complaint are required to keep information confidential.

1. **Where should I start my complaint?**
   Contact the school principal or leader. You may make a verbal or written complaint. School leaders will strive to investigate and respond to complaints within five business days.
2. **What if I am not satisfied with the school-based resolution?**
   You can file a complaint online at mpsmke.com/parentconcerns. Once filed, the complaint will be directed to a designated MPS employee who will work with school leadership to address your concern. The district will investigate and respond to your complaint within two school days.
3. **What if I am not satisfied with the resolution of my complaint by the school or other personnel?**
   If you received a resolution at Step 1 or 2 of the complaint process, but you remain unsatisfied with the resolution, you may follow up. Speak with Welcome Center staff to discuss additional options or next steps. The district Welcome Center is inside MPS Central Services, 5225 W. Vliet St., Milwaukee, 53208.

Rights Regarding Student Records

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and state law give parents/guardians and students over 18 years of age (adult students) certain rights with respect to the student's education records.

Parents/guardians/adult students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the appropriate school official receives a request for access.

Parents/guardians/adult students should submit to the school principal or to the Department of Student Services a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal or representative from the Department of Student Services will make arrangements for access and notify the parent/guardian/adult student of the time and place at which the records may be inspected.

Copies of Records

Parents/guardians/adult students may request copies of records, and by providing written consent, have records released to other individuals or entities. A fee of 25 cents per page will be charged for copies of requested records. Requests for copies should be made at the student's school or at the Department of Student Services.



Amendment of Records

Parents/guardians/adult students have the right to request amendment of the student's education records that the parent/guardian/adult student believes are inaccurate or misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA or state pupil records law. The request should be addressed to: Matthew Boswell, Senior Director, Department of Student Services, MPS Central Services Room 133, 5225 W. Vliet St., P.O. Box 2181, Milwaukee, WI 53201-2181.

If the senior director decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent/guardian/adult student, the senior director or designee will notify the parent/guardian/adult student of the decision and of the right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent/guardian/adult student when notified of the right to a hearing.

Right to Privacy

The parent/guardian/adult student has the right to privacy of personally identifiable information in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA and state law authorize disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate education interests. A "school official" is a person employed by the school district as an administrator, supervisor, teacher, or support staff member (including health or medical personnel and school safety personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or entity with whom the district has outsourced services or functions it would otherwise use its own employees to perform (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); a person serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks; law enforcement officers who are individually designated by the school board and assigned to the school district; or an entity who has entered into an interagency agreement that allows for sharing of confidential information. A school official has a "legitimate education interest" if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

FERPA allows the school district to disclose education records without the consent of a parent, guardian, or adult student 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. Per Wisconsin State Statute §118.125 (4), these student records must be released to other schools/districts no later than the end of the next working day, once MPS or a school receives notice that the student has enrolled in another school/district.

Complaints

The parent/guardian/adult student has the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school district to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is: Student Privacy Policy Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20202-8520.

A complete copy of the MPS Student Records Policy (Board Policy 8330–Student Records) is available from the Department of Student Services, 5225 W. Vliet St., Room 133, Milwaukee, WI, 53208 or by visiting milwaukeepublicschools.org/about/board/policies

Infinite Campus Parent Portal

Get real-time updates and alerts right on your phone! Sign up for the Infinite Campus Parent Portal!

Keeping our families informed is a high priority at Milwaukee Public Schools. Receive real-time updates and alerts from the district and your child's school through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal.

You can access the Infinite Campus Parent Portal online at mpsmke.com/infinitecampus or through a Campus Parent mobile application.

The district and each school can send out important messages to parents or guardians very quickly to home phones and mobile devices through text messages, voice messages, and e-mails.

The Infinite Campus Parent Portal allows 24-hour access to enroll your child or view your child's:

- Schedule
- Grades
- Assignments
- Immunizations
- Attendance
- Transportation information
- District messages
- Real-time updates and alerts

Sign Up for Infinite Campus!

Go to your child's school to sign up for an Infinite Campus Parent Portal account. Bring photo identification and proof of the parent/guardian relationship with you. Once you have registered, you can access the Infinite Campus Parent Portal online at mpsmke.com/infinitecampus or through an Infinite Campus mobile app.

Sign up for an Infinite Campus Parent Portal account today! Contact your child's school for more information.

2026–27 Military Connections Survey

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The State of Wisconsin–Department of Public Instruction requires school districts to annually collect information from Military Connected Families. If a parent or guardian is connected to the U.S. Military, we are requesting the following information, including the name(s) and date(s) of birth (DOB) of the Military Connected Parent(s)/ Guardian(s).

Check all that apply. Please disregard this survey if you do not check any of the boxes below.

Parent/Guardian 1	Parent/Guardian 2	
☐	☐	Parent/Guardian is on active duty in the military.
☐	☐	Parent/Guardian is a traditional member of the Guard or Reserve.
☐	☐	Parent/Guardian is a member of the Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) under Title 10 OR full-time National Guard under Title 32.

If any of the boxes above are checked, please complete the questions below and return the form to your child's school by **November 1, 2026.**

Child's Name:

Child's School:

PARENT/GUARDIAN 1

☐ This parent/guardian is a member of the military.

Name: DOB:

Start date of military service: End date of military service:

What is the current status of this service member? Check one.

☐ Active Duty, Deployed ☐ Discharged ☐ Inactive ☐ Killed in Action ☐ Student Military Identifier Only
☐ Active Duty, Not Deployed ☐ Injured ☐ Retired ☐ Transitioning out of Active Duty
☐ AGR (Active Guard Reserves) Title 10 or NG (National Guard) Title32

What is the correct branch of the military for this service member? Check one.

☐ Air Force ☐ Army ☐ Coast Guard ☐ Marine Corps Reserve
☐ Air Force Reserve ☐ Army Reserve ☐ Coast Guard Reserve ☐ Navy
☐ Air Force National Guard ☐ Army National Guard ☐ Marine Corps ☐ Navy Reserve

PARENT/GUARDIAN 2 (if applicable)

☐ This parent/guardian is a member of the military.

Name: DOB:

Start date of military service: End date of military service:

What is the current status of this service member? Check one.

☐ Active Duty, Deployed ☐ Discharged ☐ Inactive ☐ Killed in Action ☐ Student Military Identifier Only
☐ Active Duty, Not Deployed ☐ Injured ☐ Retired ☐ Transitioning out of Active Duty
☐ AGR (Active Guard Reserves) Title 10 or NG (National Guard) Title32

What is the correct branch of the military for this service member? Check one.

☐ Air Force ☐ Army ☐ Coast Guard ☐ Marine Corps Reserve
☐ Air Force Reserve ☐ Army Reserve ☐ Coast Guard Reserve ☐ Navy
☐ Air Force National Guard ☐ Army National Guard ☐ Marine Corps ☐ Navy Reserve

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Winter Weather Procedures

Heavy snow or other overnight severe weather that makes travel to school difficult has the potential to require the district to close schools. When schools are closed for weather, the decision is communicated through the MPS website (milwaukeepublicschools.org), MPS social media platforms, on WYMS-FM (88.9) radio, and on most major local television and radio news outlets. When MPS schools are closed prior to the start of the school day, all afternoon and evening recreation and interscholastic athletics/academics are also cancelled. For more information, visit milwaukeepublicschools.org/weather.

2026–27 Districtwide Calendar

g. 25–28	fessional Development & Organization Days	**. 1**	v Year's Day/Winter Break
g. 31	anization Day	**. 4**	sses Resume
. 1	t Day of School–Students	**. 18**	K Jr. Day
. 7	or Day Break	**. 22**	fessional Development Day
. 23	ent-Teacher Conference Day	**. 22**	ruary Break
. 26	ober Break	**. 25**	ent-Teacher Conference Day
. 3	fessional Development Day	**. 26–Apr. 2**	ing Break
. 24	fessional Development Day	**. 30**	fessional Development
. 25–27	nksgiving Break	**y 31**	morial Day
. 21–31	ter Break	**. 15**	t Day of School–Students
		. 16	ord Day
		. 21–22	ergency Makeup Days (if needed)
		. 28–30	ntral Services Closed*
			e: ACT testing dates to be determined.

EVERY DAY COUNTS!

176 STUDENT DAYS; 191 STAFF DAYS

Nondiscrimination Notice

It is the policy of Milwaukee Public Schools, as required by section 118.13, Wisconsin Statutes, that no person will be denied admission to any public school or be denied the benefits of, or be discriminated against in any curricular, extracurricular, pupil services, recreational, or other program or activity because of the person's sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability. Discrimination is prohibited in its programs and activities and provides equal access to Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups. This policy also prohibits discrimination under related federal statutes, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (race, color, and national origin), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (sex), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (disability), and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (disability). The individuals named below have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies. For section 118.13, Wisconsin Statutes, federal Title IX: Catherine Coleman, Director Title IX & Student Protections, Department of Student Services, Room 133, Milwaukee Public Schools, 5225 W. Vliet St., P.O. Box 2181, Milwaukee, WI, 53201-2181, (414) 475-8159. For section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), federal Title II: Jean Gatz, Section 504/ADA Coordinator, Department of Specialized Services, 6620 W. Capitol Dr., Milwaukee, WI, 53216, (414) 438-3677, ASL: (414) 438-3458.