

MULLICA TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISCIPLINE GUIDE

The Mullica Township School Discipline Guide allows for the following: school administration reserves the right to assign alternate consequences, and is the final authority on infraction interpretation; and as needed infractions may carry the possibility of parent conference, police contact, and/or Board action where necessary. Student discipline and code of conduct in the district will be applied without regard to race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or mental, physical or sensory disability or by any other distinguishing characteristics pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:5. Before dispensing disciplinary measures, administration will take into account, at least, the severity of offenses, age and developmental level of the student offender, and student history of inappropriate behavior in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.2.

DISCIPLINARY OFFENSE	CONSEQUENCES
Type One Offenses	For Type One offenses, school officials shall refer to Level A of the Discipline Ladder
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classroom Disruptions • Excessive Tardiness • Picking on, bothering, or distracting other students • Use of profanity or vulgar language • Dress Code Violation • Disrupting a school activity • Minor defiance of authority/disobedience (i.e. – not following directions) • Verbal insults or put downs • Use of cell phones or electronic devices at unauthorized times • Minor damage or defacement of school property • Unauthorized use of school equipment • Gambling • Physical/verbal aggression with another student (e.g. – pushing, shoving) • Scholastic Dishonesty • Inappropriate Language • Other minor school-based misconduct 	<p>If similar violations occurs during the same school year, the intervention moves to the next level on the ladder (e.g. – from Level A to Level B, and so on).</p> <p>The only exception to this is that persistent misconduct resulting in suspensions can lead to the student being declared “habitually disruptive,” for which the student will be recommended for expulsion.</p>
Type Two Offenses	For Type Two offenses, school officials shall refer to Level D of the Discipline Ladder
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • False activation of a fire alarm • Minor harassment, intimidation, or bullying based on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or religion • Severe defiance of authority/disobedience (e.g. – demonstrating gross disrespect for school personnel) • Inappropriate Physical Contact • Abusive Language • Trespassing • Theft (under \$500) * • Tobacco and Electronic Smoking Device Offenses** • Other school-based misconduct that disrupts the school environment • Recurring Type One Offenses (after going through Levels A through C of the Discipline Ladder) 	<p>If similar violations occur during the same school year, the intervention moves to a higher level on the ladder (e.g. – from Level D to Level E, and so on).</p> <p>Persistent misconduct resulting in suspensions can lead to the student being declared “habitually disruptive,” for which the student will be recommended for Board of Education Hearing.</p> <p>The only Type Two – Offenses for which students may be referred to law enforcement are those that are marked with an asterisk.</p> <p>** Tobacco and Electronic Smoking Device Offenses will result in a minimum 1 day out of school suspension and mandatory screening for dangerous substances by a medical professional</p>
Type Three Offenses	For Type Three offenses, school officials shall refer to Level E of the Discipline Ladder
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe harassment, intimidation, or bullying based on race, ethnicity, sexual orientations, gender identity, disability or religion • Being under the influence of drugs or alcohol • Possession of drugs or alcohol * • Destruction of school property, including graffiti (\$500 +) * • Theft (\$500 and over) * • Inappropriate physical conduct leading to injury • Other school-based misconduct that substantially disrupts the school environment • Recurring Type Two offenses 	<p>Persistent misconduct resulting in suspensions can lead to the student being declared “habitually disruptive,” for which the student will be recommended for Board of Education hearing.</p> <p>The only Type Three offenses for which students may be referred to law enforcement are those that are marked with an asterisk.</p> <p>For those offenses, incidents are to be resolved without the involvement of law enforcement whenever possible.</p>

<p>Type Four Offenses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serious fighting (including incidents with significant injuries, but which do not rise to the level of the Type Five offense “1st or 2nd degree assault”) • Terrorist threats (pending a threat assessment) • Possession of an explosive that seriously endangers the welfare or safety of the other students or school personnel • Unlawful Sexual Conduct • Willfully causing damage to the property of a school employee * • Assault, harassment, or false allegation of abuse against a school employee * • Other student behaviors that most seriously disrupt the school environment or seriously endanger the welfare or safety of other students or school personnel • Recurring Type Three offenses 	<p>For Type Four offenses, school officials shall refer to Level F of the Discipline Ladder</p> <p>As required by state law, the two offenses marked with an asterisk must be reported to law enforcement.</p> <p>For all other offenses, if the misconduct has seriously endangered the welfare or safety of other students or school personnel, the student may be recommended for expulsion and can be referred to law enforcement.</p> <p>However, incidents are to be resolved without the involvement of law enforcement whenever possible.</p> <p>If there is a referral to law enforcement or a recommendation of expulsion, the suspension period can be extended if necessary.</p> <p>Persistent misconduct resulting in suspensions can lead to the student being declared “habitually disruptive,” for which the student will be recommended for Board of Education hearing.</p> <p>Note that recurring Type One offenses can eventually proceed to Type Two and Type Three, but shall never result in referral to law enforcement.</p>
<p>Type Five Offenses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robbery • First or second degree assault • Sale of drugs and/or alcohol • Carrying, bringing, using, or possessing a knife or dangerous weapon with the authorization of the school or District • Habitual disruption 	<p>For Type Five offenses, school officials shall refer to Level F of the Discipline Ladder</p> <p>Students who commit these offenses are to be given a 3-10 day out-of-school suspension and, as required by state law, there will be a recommendation for Board of Education hearing and notification of law enforcement (with the exception of “habitual disruption”).</p> <p>Suspensions can be extended if necessary.</p> <p>Note that “habitual disruption” is not an independent offense, but rather refers to a classification under state law in which persistent misconduct as any level can result in the student being declared “habitually disruptive,” for which the student will be recommended for Board of Education hearing.</p>
<p>DISCIPLINE LADDER</p>	
<p>Six levels of intervention are defined in the discipline ladder. Disciplinary action should begin and be resolved at the lowest level possible, consistent with the nature of the violation. If similar violations continue, the intervention moves to a higher level on the ladder (e.g., from Level A to Level B).</p>	
<p>The discipline ladder is used to provide students with support to avoid future disciplinary action. At all levels of the disciplinary referral ladder, interventions considered may include any of the types referenced below:</p>	
<p>Level A – Teacher/Student</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student is provided an opportunity to tell his/her version of the incident. • The teacher or designated staff counsels with the student. • One or more interventions are initiated as appropriate (Counselor, Class Dojo, behavior charts, etc.) • Any interventions will be documented. • If a student needs to cool-off, contact the school counselor, CST, teacher, and/or library staff for a student to cool-off for a specific time period. The purpose of the cool-off period is to remove the student from the situation and is to last no longer than 15 minutes. The student is to return to the class following the cool-off period. 	
<p>Level B – Teacher/Student/Parent</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student is provided an opportunity to tell his/her version of the incident. • The teacher or designated staff notifies the student’s parent/guardian and documents the incident. • The teacher counsels with the student and, if possible, the parent/guardian. • One or more interventions are initiated as appropriate. • Any interventions will be documented. 	

- Lunch detention via Google form (Students must have work with them).
- Think Sheet is to be filled out during the lunch detention.

Level C – Teacher/Student/Parent

- If intervention at Level B has not been successful, the teacher or designated staff will involve a case manager, nurse, school counselor, or any other member of the school's support staff.
- The teacher or designated staff notifies the student's parent/guardian and documents the incident.
- The student is provided an opportunity to tell his/her version of the incident.
- The teacher and any member of the support staff who has been involved will conference with the student and, if possible, the parent/guardian to provide support for correcting the misbehavior. If possible, all of the student's teachers will be included in the conference.
- One or more interventions are initiated as appropriate.
- Any referrals or interventions will be documented.
- After-school detention ranging from 1 hour to 3 hour depending on severity and frequency.
- No after-school activity the day of a detention.

Level D – Administrative Level Referral

- The student is referred to the appropriate administrator or designated staff person.
- Documentation of the steps taken to intervene and change the student's behavior is provided.
- The student is provided an opportunity to tell his/her version of the incident.
- The administrator or designated staff person schedules a conference with the parent/guardian and determines if further consultation with support personnel is necessary.
- One or more interventions are initiated as appropriate.
- If necessary, in-school suspension up to three days may be utilized. School officials should consider developing a behavior intervention plan for the student (in some cases, such a plan might be mandatory).
- Referrals and interventions will be documented.
- Volunteer Service as agreed upon by the parent and administration.
- Possible Detention(s) or In-School Suspension up to 3 days.
- Activity Suspension concurrent with days of ISS or Detentions.
- Ineligible for activities/events (during and/or after-school) for 10 school days.
- ** Tobacco and Electronic Smoking Device Offenses will result in a minimum 1 day out of school suspension and mandatory screening for dangerous substances by a medical professional

Level E – Suspension

- The student is referred to the appropriate administrator or designated staff person.
- Documentation of the steps taken to intervene and change the student's behavior is provided.
- The student is provided an opportunity to tell his/her version of the incident.
- The administrator or designated staff person schedules a conference with the parent/guardian and determines if further consultation with support personnel is necessary.
- One or more interventions are initiated as appropriate.
- If previous interventions have not been successful, the principal or principal's designee may consider the use of an in-school suspension of 1-3 days, or a 1-day out-of-school suspension with an option of an additional 1-day in-school suspension.
- Elementary school students shall not receive out-of-school suspensions for Type One offenses.
- School officials (administration, teachers, CST, counselors) are to develop a behavior intervention plan for the student.
- Upon return to school after suspension, further steps to encourage positive behavior are to be considered.
- Volunteer Service as agreed upon by the parent and administration.
- Activity Suspension concurrent with days of ISS or OSS.
- Ineligible for activities/events (during and/or after-school) for 20 school days.

Level F – Additional Suspension

- The student is referred to the appropriate administrator or designated staff person.
- Documentation of the steps taken to intervene and change the student's behavior is provided.
- The student is provided an opportunity to tell his/her version of the incident.
- The administrator or designated staff person schedules a conference with the parent/guardian and determines if further consultation with support personnel is necessary.
- One or more interventions are initiated as appropriate.
- If previous interventions have not been successful, the principal or principal's designee may consider the use of an in-school suspension or out-of-school suspension up to 4 days.
- School officials (administration, teachers, CST, counselors) are to develop a behavior intervention plan for the student.
- Persistent misconduct can result in the student being declared "habitually disruptive," for which the student will be recommended for long-term suspension and/or further action.
- Upon return to school after suspension, further steps to encourage positive behavior are to be considered.
- Volunteer Service as agreed upon by the parent and administration.
- Activity Suspension concurrent with days of ISS or OSS.
- Ineligible for activities/events (during and/or after-school) for 40 school days.