



Disciplinary Responses to Student Behavior (DCPS Student Discipline Policy, DCMR Chapter 25)

Tier 1

Tier 1 behaviors are those behaviors that are insubordinate or cause minor disruptions to the academic environment but do not involve damage to school property or harm to self or others. Tier 1 behaviors result in classroom-level disciplinary responses that may be elevated to administrative response if they are not successfully abated by the teacher or the appropriate school-level committee.

Behavior	Disciplinary Response(s)
1.1 Attending class without required class materials or assigned work	<input type="checkbox"/> Verbal redirection or reprimand <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher/student conference <input type="checkbox"/> Parental contact in writing or by phone <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher/Parent conference <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Removal of Student from Classroom* <input type="checkbox"/> In-School Disciplinary Action* <input type="checkbox"/> Behavior contract <input type="checkbox"/> Other school-based consequences as approved by a person designated by the Chancellor
1.2 Behaviors that disrupt or interfere with classroom teaching and learning	
1.3 Communication with staff and peers that is not polite, courteous, or respectful	
1.4 Directing profanity or obscene/offensive gestures toward peers	
1.5 Excessive noise in the classroom, hall, or building	
1.6 Inappropriate displays of affection	
1.7 Noncompliance with an approved dress code ¹	
1.8 Off-task behaviors that demonstrate disengagement from classroom learning	
1.9 Refusal to comply with reasonable staff instructions, or classroom or school rules	
1.10 Refusal to present school-issued identification upon request	
1.11 Running in the classroom, hall, or building	
1.12 Unexcused lateness for school or class	
1.13 Any behavior or other conduct not specifically enumerated in any other tier in this chapter that is insubordinate or causes minor disruption to the academic environment but does not involve damage to school property or harm to self or others	

¹ In the case of non-compliance with an approved dress code or uniform policy, disciplinary actions are described in DCMR Chapter 24 Section B2408.16

*Definition included at the end of this document. Complete policy document (DCMR Chapter 25) is available on the DCPS website.



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Tier 2

Tier 2 behaviors are those behaviors not specifically enumerated in any other tier in this chapter that cause disruption to the academic environment, involve damage to school property, or may cause minor harm to self or others. Tier 2 behaviors result in school-based and administrative disciplinary responses.

Behavior	Disciplinary Response(s)
2.1 Directing profanity or obscene/offensive gestures toward staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbal redirection/reprimand • Teacher/student conference or Administrator/student conference • Parental contact in writing or by phone • Administrator/parent conference • Temporary Removal of Student from Classroom* • In-School Disciplinary Action* • Behavior contract • Other school-based consequences as approved by a person designated by the Chancellor
2.2 Inappropriate or disruptive physical contact between students	
2.3 Intentional misuse of school equipment/supplies/facilities	
2.4 Leaving classroom without permission	
2.5 Throwing objects that may cause injury or damage property	
2.6 Unauthorized presence in hallway during class time	
2.7 Unauthorized use of portable electronic devices during school hours (e.g. mp3 players, cell phones)	
2.8 Unexcused absence from class	
2.9 Unexcused absence from school ²	
2.10 Using computer/office equipment without permission	
2.11 Any behavior or other conduct not specifically enumerated in any other tier in this chapter that causes disruption to the academic environment, involves damage to school property, or may cause minor harm to self or others	
2.12 Documented pattern of persistent Tier 1 behavior	

² DCMR Chapter 21 (Attendance and Transfers) provides guidance about student attendance

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Disciplinary Responses to Student Behavior (DCPS Student Discipline Policy, DCMR Chapter 25)

Tier 3

Tier 3 behaviors are those behaviors not specifically enumerated in any other tier in this chapter that cause significant disruption to the academic environment or cause harm to self or others. In addition to lesser consequences, Tier 3 behaviors may result in either on-site or off-site Suspension.

Behavior	Disciplinary Response(s)
3.1 Academic dishonesty	<input type="checkbox"/> Verbal redirection/reprimand
3.2 Bullying, or using humiliating, or intimidating language or behavior including Internet bullying	<input type="checkbox"/> Teacher/student conference or Administrator/student conference
3.3 Causing disruption on school properties or at any DCPS-sponsored or supervised activity	<input type="checkbox"/> Parental contact (written or by phone)
3.4 Communicating slurs based on actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, genetic information, disability, source of income, status as a victim of an intrafamily offense, or place of residence or business, including derogatory sexual language	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent conference <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Removal of Student from Classroom*
3.5 Engaging in behavior that demonstrates gang/neighborhood crew affiliation (displaying clothing or gestures associated with gangs)	<input type="checkbox"/> Behavior contract <input type="checkbox"/> In-School Disciplinary Action*
3.6 Engaging in reckless behavior that may cause harm to self or others	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade reduction for academic dishonesty
3.7 Engaging in sexual acts on school premises or at school-related functions	<input type="checkbox"/> On-site Short-Term Suspension* with provision of appropriate intervention services
3.8 Extortion	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site Short-Term Suspension*, except in response to unexcused tardiness or absence
3.9 Fighting where there is no injury and no weapon	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site Medium-Term Suspension*, except in response to unexcused tardiness or absence
3.10 Forgery	
3.11 Gambling	
3.12 Hazing	
3.13 Inappropriate use of DCPS computer or network (restricted websites, offensive emails)	

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Tier 3 (continued)

Behavior	Disciplinary Response(s)
3.14 Leaving school without permission	<input type="checkbox"/> Verbal redirection/reprimand
3.15 Lying to or giving misleading information to school staff	<input type="checkbox"/> Teacher/student conference or Administrator/student conference
3.16 Obscene, seriously offensive, or abusive language or gestures	<input type="checkbox"/> Parental contact (written or by phone)
3.17 Possession of tools or instruments which school administrators deem could be used as weapons	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent conference
3.18 Possession or distribution of obscene or pornographic material on school premises	<input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Removal of Student from Classroom*
3.19 Possession or use of tobacco	<input type="checkbox"/> Behavior contract
3.20 Posting or distributing material or literature that is disrespectful, demeaning, humiliating, or damaging to students and/or staff. This includes posting material on internet or sending material electronically (via email or cell phone)	<input type="checkbox"/> In-School Disciplinary Action*
3.21 Sale or distribution of any item without authorization	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade reduction for academic dishonesty
3.22 Trespassing	<input type="checkbox"/> On-site Short-Term Suspension* with provision of appropriate intervention services
3.23 Unauthorized possession, use, or distribution of over-the-counter medication	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site Short-Term Suspension*, except in response to unexcused tardiness or absence
3.24 Use of alcohol	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site Medium-Term Suspension*, except in response to unexcused tardiness or absence
3.25 Use of marijuana, controlled dangerous substances, imitation controlled substances, inhalants, other intoxicants, or drug paraphernalia	
3.26 Verbal, written, or physical threat to person or property (including intimidating postures)	
3.27 Any behavior or other conduct not specifically enumerated in any other tier in this chapter that causes significant disruption to the academic environment or causes harm to self or others	
3.28 Documented pattern of persistent Tier 2 behavior	

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Disciplinary Responses to Student Behavior (DCPS Student Discipline Policy, DCMR Chapter 25)

Tier 4

Tier 4 behaviors are those behaviors not specifically enumerated in any other tier in this chapter that cause disruption to the school operation, destroy school property, or cause significant harm to self or others. Tier 4 behaviors result in off-site Suspension.

Behavior	Disciplinary Response(s)
4.1 Activating false alarm	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site Short-Term Suspension*, except in response to unexcused tardiness or absence <input type="checkbox"/> Off-site Medium-Term Suspension*, except in response to unexcused tardiness or absence <input type="checkbox"/> Off-site Long-Term Suspension*, except in response to unexcused tardiness or absence
4.2 Acts of vandalism, destruction of property, or graffiti (tagging)	
4.3 Contaminating food	
4.4 Documented theft of school or personal property without force	
4.5 Fighting which creates substantial risk of or results in minor injury	
4.6 Inciting others to violence or disruption	
4.7 Interfering with school authorities or participating a major disruption of the school's operation	
4.8 Lewd or indecent public behavior or sexual misconduct	
4.9 Persistent Harassment based on actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, genetic information, disability, source of income, status as a victim of an intrafamily offense, or place of residence or business	
4.10 Possession of a weapon* or replica or imitation of a weapon (including water guns), other than weapons subject to the requirements of the Gun-Free Schools Act	
4.11 Retaliation for reporting harassment and sexual harassment	
4.12 Sexual harassment	
4.13 Tampering with, changing, or altering an official record or document of a school	
4.14 Using an article that is not normally considered a weapon to intimidate or threaten another individual	
4.15 Any behavior or other conduct not specifically enumerated in any other tier in this chapter that causes disruption to the school operation, destroys school property, or causes significant harm to self or others	
4.16 Documented pattern of persistent Tier 3 behavior	

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Disciplinary Responses to Student Behavior (DCPS Student Discipline Policy, DCMR Chapter 25)

Tier 5

Tier 5 behaviors are those behaviors not specifically enumerated in any other tier in this chapter that are illegal, cause significant disruption to the school operation, or cause substantial harm to self or others. Tier V behaviors result in off-site Suspension or Expulsion.

Behavior	Disciplinary Response(s)
5.1 Acts of Exceptional Misconduct at other schools	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site Long-Term Suspension*, except in response to unexcused tardiness or absence <input type="checkbox"/> Expulsion*
5.2 Any behavior that violates the Gun Free School Act	
5.3 Arson	
5.4 Assault with a weapon	
5.5 Assault/physical attack on student or staff	
5.6 Biohazard	
5.7 Bomb threat	
5.8 Causing serious disruption or damage to school’s computer systems, electronic files, or network	
5.9 Commission or attempted commission of any act of sexual assault or sexual aggression	
5.10 Fighting which results in a serious physical injury	
5.11 Participating in group fight which has been planned, causes major disruption to school day or results in substantial bodily injury	
5.12 Possession of drug paraphernalia or controlled substance, irrespective of the amount or type, pursuant to the criminal statutes of the District of Columbia, codified at D.C. Official Code § 48-1101 et seq. (2001)	
5.13 Possession of fireworks or explosives	
5.14 Possession or distribution of alcohol	
5.15 Selling or distribution of marijuana, prescription drugs, controlled dangerous substances, imitation controlled substances, inhalants, other intoxicants, controlled or drug paraphernalia	

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Tier 5 (continued)

Behavior	Disciplinary Response(s)
5.16 Theft or attempted theft using force, coercion, intimidation or Threat of violence	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site Long-Term Suspension*, except in response to unexcused tardiness or absence <input type="checkbox"/> Expulsion*
5.17 Use, possession, or bringing to school a loaded or unloaded firearm, as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921 (2000), including but not limited to pistols, blank pistols, starter pistols, revolvers, rifles, and shotguns.	
5.18 Use, threatened use, or transfer of any weapon*	
5.19 Using an article that is not normally considered a weapon to injure another individual	
5.20 Vandalism/destruction of property over \$500	
5.21 Any other intentional use of violence, force, coercion, Threats, intimidation, or other comparable conduct which causes or attempts to cause severe physical injury, substantial disruption, or obstruction of any lawful mission, process, or function of the D.C. Public Schools	
5.22 Any behavior or other conduct not specifically enumerated in any other tier in this chapter that is illegal, causes significant disruption to the school operation, or causes substantial harm to self or others	
5.23 Documented pattern of persistent Tier 4 behavior	



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Definitions of Disciplinary Responses

Temporary Removal of Student from Classroom – removal from the student’s classroom for less than half a school day, not to extend beyond the time of dismissal on the day of the disciplinary action. During any such removal, the student shall be supervised and provided with instructional materials.

In-School Disciplinary Action –disciplinary actions such as after-school detention, loss of privileges (including recess), exclusion from extracurricular activities, written reflection, conflict resolution, mediation, or similar actions of short duration that do not result in the student’s loss of academic instruction time.

Short-Term Suspension—on-site or off-site suspension for one (1) to five (5) school days for Secondary students or one (1) to three (3) school days for Elementary students).

Medium-Term Suspension—suspension for six (6) to ten (10) school days.

Long-Term Suspension—suspension for eleven (11) to ninety (90) school days.

Expulsion—the denial of the right of a student to attend any DCPS school or program, including all classes and school activities, except DCPS Alternative Educational Settings, for one (1) calendar year.

Weapons— Include, but not limited to: weapons enumerated in DC Official Code 22-4514 (2001); firearms, knives, martial arts devices, air gun, bb gun, paintball gun, mace, pepper spray, tear gas, explosives, slingshot, bullets, chemical weapon, razorblade, razor, other weapons or instruments designed to be or commonly used as weapons (chains, clubs, knuckles, night sticks, pipes, studded bracelets) and others as listed in Chapter 25 (found on DCPS website).

Notice of non-discrimination. In accordance with the D.C. Human Rights Act of 1977, as amended, D.C. Official Code §§ 2-1401.01 et seq. (Act), the District of Columbia does not discriminate on the basis of actual or perceived: race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, genetic information, disability, source of income, or place of residence or business. Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination which is prohibited by the Act. In addition, harassment based on any of the above protected categories is prohibited by the Act. Discrimination in violation of the Act will not be tolerated. Violators will be subject to disciplinary action. The following office has been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies: Equal Employment Opportunity Office, District of Columbia Public Schools, 825 North Capitol Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002.