

MONONA GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Exhibit 443

CODE OF CLASSROOM CONDUCT

The district recognizes and accepts its responsibility to create, foster and maintain an orderly and safe class environment that is conducive to the teaching and learning process. Every member of the school community is expected to cooperate in this central mission. The district shall strive to make its schools as free as possible of the dangers of violence, weapons, drugs and other behavior considered harmful to the educational environment. This effort is enforced through each school's student discipline code and district policies addressing school violence, weapons, drugs and alcohol.

A teacher employed by the Monona Grove School District may remove a student from the teacher's class if the student violates the terms of the code of conduct specified in this document. In addition, long-term placement in an alternative educational setting of a student is possible. Removal from class under this code does not prohibit the district from pursuing or implementing other disciplinary measures, including but not limited to detention, suspension or expulsion, for the conduct for which the student was removed.

A. Grounds for Removal from Class

Removal is a serious measure and should not be imposed in an arbitrary, casual or inconsistent manner. Behavioral expectations are more likely to be followed when terms are communicated as clearly as possible to students and staff. However, it is neither possible nor necessary to specify every type of improper or inappropriate behavior or circumstance that would justify removal under this code. A teacher's primary responsibility is to maintain an appropriate educational environment for the class as a whole.

Except as provided in section F below, a student may be removed from class for conduct or behavior which: (1) violates the behavioral rules and expectations set forth in the student handbook; or, (2) is disruptive and/or dangerous.

1. Conduct that violates the behavioral rules and expectations in the student handbook. The student handbook contains behavioral expectations for the individual schools in the district. These rules and expectations are generally explained and discussed with students near the beginning of each school year. Such discussions should include an explanation of this code and the district's policy regarding placement in an alternative educational setting.
2. Behavior that is disruptive and/or dangerous. Notwithstanding any inconsistent or contrary provisions in the district's policies regarding suspension and expulsion, or in the student handbook, for the purposes of this code the following behavior,

by way of example and without limitation, may be determined to be disruptive or dangerous so as to warrant removal from class:

- a. Inappropriate physical contact intended or likely to injure, distract or annoy others.
- b. Inappropriate verbal conduct intended or likely to upset, distract or annoy others.
- c. Behavior that may constitute sexual or other harassment.
- d. Repeated or extreme inappropriate verbal conduct likely to disrupt the educational environment, particularly when others are talking (e.g., lecture by teacher, response by other student, presentation by visitor) or during quiet (study) time.
- e. Throwing any object, particularly one likely to cause harm or damage.
- f. Inciting other students to act inappropriately or to disobey the teacher or school or class rules, including without limitation inciting others to walk out.
- g. Destroying the property of the school, staff member or another student.
- h. Loud, obnoxious or outrageous behavior.

B. Definitions

For purposes of this code:

1. “Student” means any student enrolled in the district.
2. “Class” is any class, which students attend, or in which they participate while in school under the control or direction of the district. This definition of “class” includes, without limitation: regular classes, special classes, field trips, resource room sessions, labs, library time, counseling groups, assemblies, study halls, lunch or recess.
3. A “teacher” is any certified instructor, instructional support staff member, counselor, student services representative, school nurse, police liaison officer, or administrator employed by the district.
4. A “teacher of that class” means the regularly assigned teacher of the class or any teacher assigned to teach, monitor, assist in or oversee the class. This definition includes any assigned substitute teacher. Where there is more than one teacher in a class, any teacher may remove a student from that class, upon informing the other teacher(s) of his/her intent to do so. It is advisable, though not absolutely required, that all teachers of a class assent to the removal of the student.
5. A “building administrator” means a principal of a school or other individual duly designated by the building administrator or Superintendent.

C. Removal Procedures

Except where the behavior is extreme, a teacher should warn a student that continued misbehavior might lead to removal from class. When the teacher determines that removal is appropriate, the teacher should follow the established building procedures and those outlined in the staff handbook.

D. Placement Procedures

If the Principal and/or designee is considering removing a student from class and placing him/her in an alternative educational setting, he/she will notify the Director of Pupil Services who will establish and convene a team of school personnel and the student's parent/guardian if the student is a minor or the student if appropriate, to discuss and determine if an alternative placement is to be recommended and provided.

Long-term placement in an alternative educational setting is an extremely serious step, which should not be undertaken hastily or for less than compelling reasons. Such a step could have profound consequences for the affected student and his/her class, as well as any new class or teacher to which the student may then be assigned. Long-term placement in an alternative educational setting should not ordinarily be considered or implemented except after a thorough consultation, including a thorough consideration of alternatives between the teacher(s) and the building principal or designee. Likewise, long-term placement should not ordinarily be considered on the basis of a single incident. The ultimate decision regarding long-term placement rests with the building administrator.

E. Parent/Guardian Notification Procedures

The Principal or his/her designee will notify the parent/guardian of a minor student who has been removed from class as soon as practicable indicating the reason for removal.

F. Removal and Placement of Students with Disabilities

Different rules and considerations apply for students identified as requiring special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. In particular, placement for such students is a decision of the student's individualized education program (IEP) team, subject to stringent procedural safeguards and cannot be made unilaterally by teachers or the administration. In addition, most students covered by the IDEA should have a behavioral intervention plan, which will address: (1) to what extent the student should be expected to conform to the behavioral requirements applicable to non-disabled students; (2) alternative consequences or procedures for addressing behavioral issues; and, (3) intervention strategies for improving behavior.

It is highly advisable that all IEP teams address these issues and this code at least annually, setting forth the consensus of the IEP team regarding behavioral expectations and consequences.

Notwithstanding these issues, students identified as requiring special education services under the IDEA or Section 504 may, in general, be removed from class under the same terms and conditions as non-disabled students. However, no change in placement for more than 10 school days may be made for a student with disabilities outside of the IEP process.

BOARD APPROVAL: June 9, 2004