

**Subject:        Code of Conduct and Student Discipline**

**MORAVIA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**CODE OF CONDUCT AND STUDENT DISCIPLINE  
(REVISED AUGUST 2022)**

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## I. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Moravia School District wishes to acknowledge and thank all administrators, teachers, support staff, students and parents for their assistance in the development of this Plan:

## II. PREFACE TO DISCIPLINE CODE

The Moravia School District is committed to providing a safe and orderly school environment where students may receive and personnel may deliver quality educational services without disruption or interference. Responsible behavior by students, teachers, other personnel, parents and other visitors is essential to achieving this goal. A primary task of our school is to create a stimulating educational climate for all students, in an atmosphere that is conducive to teaching, learning and living. This is achieved in part with a focus on the rights of all those involved.

It is the position of the Moravia School District faculty and administration that students cannot learn and teachers cannot teach when disruptions exist. It is also our firm belief that the students in attendance are responsible people.

The rights of individuals are reserved only by the protection and preservation of the rights of others. Students responsible for the way they exercise these rights must accept the consequences of their actions and recognize the boundaries of their rights. Each exercise of an individual's rights must demonstrate respect for the rights of others.

The Moravia School District recognizes the need to clearly define expectations for acceptable conduct on school property, to identify the possible consequences of unacceptable conduct, and to ensure that discipline when necessary is administered promptly and fairly. To this end, the Moravia School District adopts this code of conduct. Unless otherwise indicated, this code of conduct applies to all students, school personnel, parents and other visitors when on school property or attending a school function.

## III. DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this code of conduct, the following definitions apply:

**Disruptive student** means an elementary or secondary student under the age of 21 who is substantially disruptive of the educational process or substantially interferes with the teacher's authority over the classroom (as exhibited by the student's persistent unwillingness to comply with the teacher's instructions or repeatedly violates the teacher's classroom behavior rules).

**Firearm** means a firearm as defined in 18 USC §921. The term "firearm" means (A) any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; (B) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; (C) any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or (D) any destructive device.

The term "**destructive device**" means:

- (A) any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas
  - (i) bomb,
  - (ii) grenade,
  - (iii) rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces,

- (iv) missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce,
  - (v) mine, or
  - (vi) device similar to any of the devices described in the preceding clauses;
- (B) any type of weapon (other than a shotgun or a shotgun shell which the Secretary finds is generally recognized as particularly suitable for sporting purposes) by whatever name known which will, or which may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant, and which has any barrel with a bore of more than one-half inch in diameter; and
- (C) any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device described in subparagraph (A) or (B) and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled.

The term "destructive device" shall not include any device which is neither designed nor redesigned for use as a weapon; any device, although originally designed for use as a weapon, which is redesigned for use as a signaling, pyrotechnic, line throwing, safety, or similar device; surplus ordnance sold, loaned, or given by the Secretary of the Army pursuant to the provisions of section 4684(2), 4685, or 4686 of title 10 of the United States Code; or any other device which the Secretary of the Treasury finds is not likely to be used as a weapon, is an antique, or is a rifle which the owner intends to use solely for sporting, recreational or cultural purposes.

**Parent** means parent, guardian or person in parental relation to a student.

**Removal** means an action taken by a teacher to remove a disruptive student from a classroom for a full period or more or for a period of time greater than forty-five (45) minutes. A removal does not include such practices as short-term "time outs", sending a student into the hallway or to the principal's or counselor's office for a brief period of time, to the extent that the removal does not exceed a full period or forty-five (45) minutes.

**School property** means in or within any building, structure, athletic playing field, playground, parking lot or land contained within the real property boundary line of a public elementary or secondary school, or in or on a school bus, as defined in Vehicle and Traffic Law §142. Education Law §2801(1).

**School function** means any school-sponsored extracurricular event or activity.

**Violent student** means a student under the age of 21 who:

1. Commits, while on school property or at a school function, an act of violence upon another student or any other person lawfully on school property or at the school function, or attempts to do so
2. Commits an act of violence upon a school employee, or attempts to do so
3. Possesses, while on school property or at a school function, a firearm or weapon
4. Displays, while on school property or at a school function, what appears to be a firearm or weapon
5. Threatens, while on school property or at a school function, to use a firearm or weapon
6. Knowingly and intentionally damages or destroys the personal property of any school employee or any person lawfully on school property or at a school function
7. Knowingly and intentionally damages or destroys school property

**Weapon** shall mean any other gun, BB gun, pistol, revolver, shotgun, rifle, machine gun, disguised gun, dagger, dirk, razor, stiletto, switchblade knife, gravity knife, brass knuckles, slingshot, metal knuckle knife, box cutter, cane sword, electronic dart gun, Kung Fu star, electronic stun gun, pepper spray or other noxious spray, explosive or incendiary bomb, or other device, instrument, material or substance that can cause physical injury or death when used to cause physical injury or death.

#### **IV. STUDENT BILL OF RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

##### **A. Student's Bill of Rights**

In accordance with Section 100.2(l) of the Commissioner's Regulation, this code will be followed on the Moravia School District grounds, in buildings, on buses and at any function or on any work site sponsored by Moravia School District.

- Students have the right to pursue an education in an atmosphere that is safe and conducive to learning, and to achieve all that they are capable of achieving.
- Students have the right to pursue a particular course of study which best meets their educational needs.
- Students have the right to be respected on the merits of their attributes as individuals.
- Students have the right to procedural due process guaranteed by the United States Constitution and New York State Education Law prior to disciplinary action taken against them.
- Students have the right to freedom of speech and expression which do not interfere with the educational process or infringe upon the rights of others.
- Students have the right to freedom from discrimination relative to participation in curriculum offerings and extra-curricular activities.
- Students have the right to have rules clearly stated, explained and distributed at the beginning of every school year or at the start of enrollment in the Moravia School District.
- Students have the right to freedom from unreasonable search and seizure. The key word is "unreasonable", as a student and/or his or her possessions which include but are not limited to a school locker, backpack or vehicle parked on school grounds may be searched and contraband seized when there is reason to believe the student is engaging in an illegal activity or an activity in violation of Moravia School District rules or policy.
- Students with handicapping conditions have the right to have their behavior evaluated on the basis of their handicapping condition.

##### **B. Student's Bill of Responsibilities**

- Students will conduct themselves with respect toward self, fellow students, teachers and others.
- Students will strive to achieve their potential in all areas.
- Students will follow the directions of the faculty and administration.
- Students will fulfill all classroom obligations.
- Students will show respect for Moravia School District property and for the property of others.
- Students will strive to demonstrate good conduct and positive attitude at all times in all Moravia School District activities.
- Students will dress and groom themselves neatly in clothes that are suitable for school activities in accordance with the dress code contained within this code. Clothing which is not compatible with safety or which interferes with the ability to engage in the activities involved in the classroom, shop or lab is prohibited, as is dress which is so distracting as to interfere with the learning process.
- Students will be held financially responsible for texts, tools, locks or any other Moravia School District equipment assigned to them. Students will also be held responsible for property they damage.

## V. RESPONSIBILITIES OF STAFF AND PARENTS

### A. Parents

All parents are expected to:

- Recognize that the education of their child(ren) is a joint responsibility of the parents and the school community.
- Send their children to school ready to participate and learn.
- Ensure their children attend school regularly and on time.
- Ensure absences are excused.
- Insist their children be dressed and groomed in a manner consistent with the student dress code.
- Help their children understand that in a democratic society appropriate rules are required to maintain a safe, orderly environment.
- Know school rules and help their children understand them.
- Convey to their children a supportive attitude toward education and the Moravia School District.
- Build good relationships with teachers, other parents and their children's friends.
- Help their children deal effectively with peer pressure.
- Inform school officials of changes in the home situation that may affect student conduct or performance.
- Provide a place for study and ensure homework assignments are completed.

### B. Teachers

All teachers are expected to:

- Recognize that the education of the children is a joint responsibility of the parents and the school community.
- Maintain a climate of mutual respect and dignity, which will strengthen students' self-concept and promote confidence to learn.
- Be prepared to teach.
- Demonstrate interest in teaching and concern for student achievement.
- Know school policies and rules, and enforce them in a fair and consistent manner.
- Communicate to students and parents:
  - Course objectives and requirements
  - Marking/grading procedures
  - Assignment deadlines
  - Expectations for students, including supply lists
  - Classroom discipline plan
- Communicate regularly with students, parents, and other teachers concerning growth and achievement.
- Build good relationships with students and parents.
- Help students deal effectively with peer pressure.

### C. Guidance Counselors

- Assist students in coping with peer pressure and emerging personal, social, and emotional problems.
- Initiate teacher/student/counselor conferences and parent/teacher/student/counselor conferences, as necessary, as a way to resolve problems.
- Regularly review with students their educational progress and career plans.
- Provide information to assist students with career planning.
- Encourage students to benefit from the curriculum and extracurricular programs.

D. Principals

- Promote a safe, orderly, and stimulating school environment, supporting active teaching and learning.
- Ensure that students and staff have the opportunity to communicate regularly with the principal and approach the principal for redress of grievances.
- Evaluate on a regular basis all instructional programs.
- Support the development of and student participation in appropriate extracurricular activities.
- Be responsible for enforcing the code of conduct and ensuring that all cases are resolved promptly and fairly.

E. Superintendent

- Promote a safe, orderly, and stimulating school environment, supporting active teaching and learning.
- Review with administrators the policies of the board of education and state and federal laws relating to school operations and management.
- Inform the board about educational trends relating to student discipline.
- Work to create instructional programs that minimize problems of misconduct and are sensitive to student and teacher needs.
- Work with administrators in enforcing the code of conduct and ensuring that all cases are resolved promptly and fairly.

F. Board of Education

- Collaborate with student, teacher, administrator, and parent organizations, school safety personnel, and other school personnel to develop a code of conduct that clearly defines expectations for the conduct of students, personnel, and visitors on school property and at school functions.
- Adopt and review at least annually the code of conduct to evaluate the code's effectiveness and the fairness and consistency of its implementation.
- Lead by example by conducting board meetings in a professional, respectful, courteous manner.

## **VI. STUDENT DRESS CODE**

Please note that no dress code can be all-inclusive. The school reserves the right to request that a student modify his/her appearance when certain articles of clothing are deemed contrary to the mission and values of the school district

Students who violate the dress code shall be required to modify their appearance by changing into appropriate clothing. Any student who refuses to do so shall be subject to discipline. Any student who repeatedly fails to comply with the dress code shall be subject to further discipline up to and including out of school suspension. The dress code at extracurricular activities and for special days (ie: Spirit Week) may vary but is still subject to the discretion of the principal and chaperones.

Students will dress and groom themselves in clothes that are appropriate for school activities. Dress that is distracting to the learning process is prohibited. Students and their parents have the primary responsibility for acceptable student dress and appearance. Teachers and all other personnel shall exemplify and reinforce acceptable student dress and help students develop an understanding of appropriate appearance in the school setting.

A student's dress shall:

1. Not include items that are vulgar, obscene, libelous, or denigrate and/or insult others on account of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or disability
2. Not display foul language or insinuated foul language
3. Not promote and/or endorse the use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs
4. Not promote and/or encourage illegal or violent activities
5. Not include chains, choke collars, collars with spikes, and other related items that may be considered dangerous
6. Not include open back shirts/blouses, tube tops, sports bras, or tops with large cutouts on the side
7. Not include items that cause or have the potential to cause a disruption to the learning environment (including, but not limited to, flags being worn as capes, headgear, etc.
8. Not include pants/shorts or other articles of clothing with holes in the seat or crotch or any other place deemed inappropriate
9. Include footwear at all times
10. Ensure that underwear/undergarments are completely covered and that the buttocks, breasts, and genital areas are properly covered (See through clothing items should not violate the spirit of this item)
11. Shirts must be long enough to cover the majority of the abdomen and provide adequate coverage at the neckline
12. Not include sunglasses, unless approved by the nurse for a medical reason
13. Not include bulky coats/trench coats that could be used to conceal a weapon
14. Not include costume apparel - with the exception of special events

Hats, bandanas, hoods, visors, all other headgear:

Elementary School: Students will not have permission to wear headgear. Specific situations (ie: outdoor Physical Education classes, special theme days, etc.) may have different rules.

Middle School/High School:

1. Students may wear headgear in the hallways, in the cafeteria, and when outside for PE class
2. Teachers will have discretion over if specific types of headgear may be worn in their classroom or not and not following their rule may have disciplinary consequences
3. The auditorium will be considered a “classroom space,” so depending on the activity, headgear may or may not be allowed (for example, NHS induction and award ceremonies will not allow headgear)
4. Headgear that is distracting, obnoxiously-sized, advocating items against district policy (ie: drugs, alcohol, etc.), or in any way take away from the safety and productivity of the learning environment may be requested by staff members to be removed

## **VII. PROHIBITED STUDENT CONDUCT**

The Moravia School District expects all students to conduct themselves in an appropriate and civil manner, with proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students, personnel and other members of the school community, and for the care of school facilities and equipment.



The best discipline is self-imposed, and students must learn to assume and accept responsibility for their own behavior, as well as the consequences of their misbehavior. The Moravia District School, however, recognizes the need to make its expectations for student conduct while on school property or engaged in a school function specific and clear. The rules of conduct listed below are intended to do that and focus on safety and respect for the rights and property of others. Students who will not accept responsibility for their own behavior and who violate these school rules will be required to accept the penalties for their conduct. Discipline may be imposed on students who engage in the following:

#### **A. Disorderly Conduct**

Examples of disorderly conduct include:

1. Running and/or wandering in the hallways
2. Making unreasonable noise, including playing music in speakers rather than earphones
3. Using language or gestures that are profane, lewd, vulgar, discriminatory, or abusive
4. Obstructing vehicular or pedestrian traffic
5. Engaging in any willful act which disrupts the normal operation of the school community, including disrupting classes/teachers
6. Trespassing and unlawful entry: being on school property or in a school building at a time when not authorized to do so
7. Computer/electronic communications misuse, including any unauthorized use of
  - a. computers, software, or internet/intranet account; accessing inappropriate websites; or any other violation of the Moravia School District acceptable use policy
8. Bringing to school or having in his/her possession any item considered a nuisance, dangerous or immoral (firearms, weapons, chains, sharp objects, firecrackers, pornographic material, etc.)
9. Parking on school grounds during the instructional day without permission
10. Driving or riding to and from off-campus activities without permission
11. Public display of affection beyond reasonable good taste

#### **B. Insubordinate Conduct**

Examples of insubordinate conduct include:

1. Failing to comply with the reasonable directions of teachers, school administrators or other school employees in charge of students or otherwise demonstrating disrespect, whether verbally, through gestures, or otherwise
2. Lateness for, missing or leaving a class or school building/school grounds without permission
3. Refusing to leave any classroom or the building after being directed to do so by Moravia School District authorized personnel
4. Skipping any disciplinary consequences assigned by staff

#### **C. Disruptive Conduct**

Examples of disruptive conduct include:

1. Failing to comply with the reasonable directions of teachers, school administrators or other school personnel in charge of students.
2. Physically restrain or detain any other person or remove such person from any place where he/she has authority to remain.

3. Obstruct the free movement of persons and vehicles in any place where such movement is authorized or permitted.

**D. Violent Conduct**

Examples of violent conduct include:

1. Committing an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, scratching, spitting or biting – this is not an exhaustive list) upon a teacher, administrator or other school employee or attempting to do so.
2. Committing an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, scratching, spitting or biting – this is not an exhaustive list) upon another student or any other person lawfully on school property or attempting to do so.
3. Possessing a firearm, ammunition or weapon. Authorized law enforcement officials are the only persons permitted to have a firearm or weapon in their possession while on school property or at a school function.
4. Displaying what appears to be a firearm, ammunition or weapon.
5. Threatening to use any firearm or weapon.
6. Intentionally damaging, tampering with or destroying the personal property of a student, teacher, administrator, other employee or any person lawfully on school property, including graffiti or arson. This includes entering the vehicle of someone else without permission.
7. Intentionally damaging or destroying school property.

**E. Endangering The Safety, Morals, Health Or Welfare Of Others**

Examples of such conduct include:

1. Lying to school personnel.
2. Stealing the property of other students, school personnel or any other person lawfully on school property or attending a school function.
3. Defamation, which includes making false or unprivileged statements or representations about an individual or identifiable group of individuals that harm the reputation of the person or the identifiable group by demeaning them.
4. Discrimination, which includes the use of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability as a basis for treating another in a negative manner.
5. Intimidation, which includes engaging in actions or statements that put an individual in fear of bodily harm.
6. Hazing, which includes any intentional or reckless act directed against another for the purpose of initiation into, affiliating with or maintaining membership in any school sponsored activity, organization, club or team.
7. Selling, using or possessing obscene material.
8. Using vulgar or abusive language, cursing or swearing.
9. Possessing, smoking, or sharing a cigarette, e-cigarette (device that operates electronically by “vaporizing,” or aerosolizing, a liquid solution. The aerosol or vapor is then inhaled by the user.), cigar, or pipe/smoking paraphernalia or possessing, using, or sharing smokeless tobacco on school grounds or at any school sponsored activity.
10. Possessing, consuming, selling, distributing or exchanging alcoholic beverages or illegal substances, or being under the influence of either. “Illegal substances” include, but are not limited to, inhalants, marijuana, cocaine, LSD, PCP, amphetamines, heroin, steroids, look-alike drugs, synthetic marijuana or synthetic cannabinoids, and any substances commonly referred to as “designer” or “look alike” drugs, as well as paraphernalia for use of the above.

11. Inappropriately possessing, using, selling or sharing prescription and over-the-counter drugs. Any drug taken in accordance with a current prescription signed by a physician is to be deposited with and administered through the nurse's office.
12. Gambling.
13. Indecent exposure, that is, exposure to sight of the private parts of the body in a lewd or indecent manner.
14. "Sexting" which includes the sending, receiving, possession, requesting or sharing of sexually explicit messages, photographs, or images by electronic devices.
15. Cyberbullying, which includes, but is not limited to, the following misuses of technology: harassing, teasing, intimidating, threatening, or terrorizing another student or staff member by way of any technological tool, such as sending or posting inappropriate or derogatory e-mail messages, instant messages, text messages, digital pictures or images, or website postings (including blogs).
16. Initiating a report warning of fire or other catastrophe without valid cause, misuse of 911, tampering with or discharging a fire extinguisher.
17. Engage in any act which is in violation of an established Moravia School District rules or policy, to willfully incite others to commit any of the acts herein, or to engage in irresponsible behavior or conduct contrary to decent, polite, honorable and honest standards
18. Videotaping, photographing, or audio recording anyone on school campus without their knowledge and consent. Sharing or posting such material is also prohibited.
19. Sexual activity of any kind, including inappropriate touching.
20. Failure to follow other rules/protocols set forth in building-level handbooks, technology agreements, permission slips, teacher course syllabi, etc.
21. Engaging in any criminal violation.

#### **F. Students Who Engage In Misconduct On A School Bus**

It is crucial for students to behave appropriately while riding on buses to ensure their safety and that of other passengers and to avoid distracting the bus driver. Students are required to conduct themselves on the bus in a manner consistent with established standards for behavior laid out in this Code, building-level handbooks, transportation handbooks, and by bus drivers to their riders.

#### **G. Students Who Engage In Academic Misconduct**

Academic misconduct is strictly prohibited. Examples of academic misconduct include:

- Plagiarism.
- Cheating.
- Copying.
- Altering records.
- Assisting another student in any of the above actions.
- Using technology to attempt any of the above

Teachers may deal with academic misconduct by giving no credit for the assignment and may include the building principal in seeking further consequences, as appropriate. Students in advanced classes may be removed from such classes as a consequence of academic misconduct.

#### **H. Off Campus Speech**

The Moravia School District may take disciplinary action pursuant to this Code of Conduct against students for off-campus speech, which causes or threatens to cause a material or substantial disruption in the school. Speech can include traditional speech, or electronic speech such as e-mail messages, blogs, website postings (including but not limited to Facebook, YouTube, Snapchat, Instagram, TikTok, Twitter, etc.), instant messages, text messages, digital pictures or images, digital video, and digital audio.

## **I. Electronic Devices**

The Moravia School District recognizes there is value to students in possessing and using electronic devices in the school setting, including for educational pursuits, important communication, etc. The use of electronic devices can, however, be disruptive to the educational process and are items that are frequently lost or stolen. The Moravia School District is not responsible for the security and safekeeping of these items and is not financially responsible for any damage, destruction, or loss of electronic devices.

In order to maintain a secure and orderly learning environment, and to promote respect and courtesy regarding the use of electronic devices, the Moravia School District hereby establishes the following rules and regulations governing student use of electronic devices, and procedures to address student misuse of electronic devices.

**“Electronic device(s)”** means a privately owned device that is used for voice, audio, video, or text communication or any other type of computer or computer-like instrument which includes, but are not limited to, cell phones, smart watches, iPods, iPads, headphones, portable game consoles, cameras, and lap top computers.

**All electronic devices district-wide, will not be permitted at any point during the instructional day. This includes classrooms, hallways, and bathrooms.**

Elementary school: Student cell phones and other personal electronic devices will be stored in student cubbies/lockers during the instructional day.

Middle school: Student cell phones and other personal electronic devices will be stored in student lockers during the instructional day. Students will be allowed to use their personal electronic devices during their lunch period.

High school: Student cell phones and other personal electronic devices should be stored in lockers or backpacks during the instructional day. Students will be allowed to use their personal electronic devices during their lunch period. Seniors will be permitted to use their personal electronic devices in the senior lounge.

Students may use electronic devices during class time when authorized pursuant to an Individual Education Plan (IEP), a Section 504 Accommodation Plan, or a Health Care Plan.

Students shall not use electronic devices at any time or place for: (a) activities which disrupt the educational environment; (b) illegal activities in violation of state or federal laws or regulations; (c) unethical activities, such as cheating on assignments or tests; (d) immoral or pornographic activities, including, but not limited to, sexting; (e) activities which threaten, humiliate, harass, or intimidate others; (f) activities in violation of Moravia School District policies and procedures relating to student conduct and harassment; or (g) activities which invade the privacy of others. Such student misuses may result in appropriate disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, suspension from school in accordance with

this code of conduct.

Electronic devices used in violation of this policy may be confiscated by school personnel and returned to the student or parent / guardian at an appropriate time. If an electronic device is confiscated, the electronic device shall be taken to the school's main office to be identified, placed in a secure area, and returned to the student and/or the student's parent/guardian in a consistent and orderly way.

Depending upon the nature of the violation, consequences **will include** a relinquishment of the electronic device to the school administration and may yield suspension from school for repeated violations.

#### **J. Harassment and Discrimination (Dignity for All Students Act)**

##### **Definitions:**

1. **School property** shall mean in or within any building, structure, athletic playing field, playground, parking lot, or land contained within the real property boundary line of a public elementary or secondary school; or in or on a school bus, as defined in section one hundred forty-two of the vehicle and traffic law.
2. **School function** shall mean a school-sponsored extracurricular event or activity.
3. **Disability** shall mean: (a) a physical, mental or medical impairment resulting from anatomical, physiological, genetic or neurological conditions which prevents the exercise of a normal bodily function or is demonstrable by medically accepted clinical or laboratory diagnostic techniques; or (b) a record of such an impairment; or (c) a condition regarded by others as such an impairment, provided, however, that in all provisions of this article dealing with employment, the term shall be limited to disabilities which, upon the provision of reasonable accommodations, do not prevent the complainant from performing in a reasonable manner the activities involved in the job or occupation sought or held.
4. **Employee** shall mean employee as defined in subdivision three of section eleven hundred twenty-five of this title.
5. **Sexual orientation** shall mean actual or perceived heterosexuality, homosexuality or bisexuality.
6. **Gender** shall mean actual or perceived sex and shall include a person's gender identity or expression.
7. **Harassment** shall mean the creation of a hostile environment by conduct or by verbal threats, intimidation or abuse that has or would have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits, or mental, emotional or physical well-being; or conduct, verbal threats, intimidation or abuse that reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause a student to fear for his or her physical safety; such conduct, verbal threats, intimidation or abuse includes but is not limited to conduct, verbal threats, intimidation or abuse based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex.

### **Prohibition of Harassment and Discrimination:**

The Moravia School District prohibits discrimination or harassment against any student, by employees or students on school property or at a school function, that creates a hostile environment by conduct, with or without physical contact and/or verbal threats, intimidation or abuse, of such a severe nature that:

1. Has or would have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits, or mental, emotional and/or physical well-being; or
2. Reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause a student to fear for his/her physical safety.

Such conduct shall include all forms of discrimination and harassment of students based on actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender, or sex by school employees or students on school property and at school-sponsored activities and events that take place at locations off school property. In addition, any act of discrimination or harassment, outside of school sponsored events, which can reasonably be expected to materially and substantially disrupt the education process may be subject to discipline.

The Moravia School District will investigate all complaints of harassment and discrimination, either formal or informal, and take prompt corrective measures, as necessary. Complaints will be investigated in accordance with applicable policies and regulations. If, after an appropriate investigation, the Moravia School District finds that this code of conduct has been violated, corrective action will be taken in accordance with Moravia School District policies and regulations, this code of conduct, and all appropriate federal or state laws.

### **K. Prohibition of Retaliatory Behavior (Commonly Known as "Whistle-Blower" Protection)**

The Moravia School District prohibits any retaliatory behavior directed at complainants, victims, witnesses and/or any other individuals who participated in the investigation of any complaint of discrimination, harassment, or violation of this code of conduct.

## **VIII. REPORTS TO LAW ENFORCEMENT**

All students are expected to promptly report violations of the code of conduct to a teacher, the building principal or his or her designee. Any student observing a student possessing a firearm, weapon, alcohol or illegal substance on school property or at a school function shall report this information immediately to a teacher, the building principal, the principal's designee or the superintendent. Any firearm, weapon, alcohol or illegal substance found shall be confiscated immediately, if possible.

All staff authorized to impose disciplinary sanctions are expected to do so in a prompt, fair and lawful manner. Staff who are not authorized to impose disciplinary sanctions are expected to promptly report violations of the code of conduct to their principal or supervisor who shall in turn impose an appropriate disciplinary sanction.

The building principal or his or her designee must notify the appropriate local law enforcement agency of those code violations that constitute a crime **and** substantially affect the order or security of a school as soon as practical, but in no event later than the close of business the day the principal or his or her designee concludes the investigation and determines guilt and finds that the violation was a criminal act that affected the order and/or security of the school. The notification may be made by telephone. The notification must identify the student and explain the conduct that violated the code of conduct and constituted a crime. Parents/Guardians should note that the District may contact law enforcement about their child without prior approval/permission from the parent/guardian.

## **IX. DISCIPLINARY PENALTIES & PROCEDURES**

Any pupil who violates any of the rules of the code of conduct shall be subject to immediate and appropriate disciplinary action. Disciplinary action, when necessary, will be firm, fair and consistent so as to be the most effective in changing student behavior. In determining the appropriate disciplinary action, school personnel authorized to impose disciplinary penalties will consider the following:

- The student's age.
- The nature of the offense and the circumstances which led to the offense.
- The student's prior disciplinary record.
- The effectiveness of other forms of discipline.
- Information from parents, teachers and/or others, as appropriate
- Other extenuating circumstances.

### **A. Penalties**

Students who are found to have violated the code of conduct may be subject to the following penalties, either alone or in combination. The school personnel identified after each penalty are authorized to impose that penalty, consistent with the student's right to due process.

- Oral warning – any member of the staff
- Written warning– bus drivers, aides and monitors, counselors, teachers, principal, superintendent
- Written notification to parent – counselors, teachers, principal, superintendent
- Detention/Lunch Detention – teachers, principal, superintendent
- Suspension from clubs, social or extracurricular activities – activity director, principal, superintendent
- Suspension of other privileges – principal, superintendent
- In-school suspension – principal, superintendent
- Removal from classroom – teachers, principal, superintendent
- Short-term (five days or less) suspension from school – principal, superintendent, board of education.
- Long-term (more than five days) suspension from school – superintendent, board of education.
- Permanent suspension from school – superintendent, board of education.

The Building Principal is authorized to suspend pupils for a period of time not to exceed five days for any one incident. The superintendent and board of education may impose long-term suspensions in accordance with Education Law §3214.

Additional forms of penalty/consequence that may be assigned to students include:

1. Referral to the legal system, including FAST
2. Transportation suspensions

3. Referral to counseling programs
4. Mediation
5. Principal's Hearing
6. Restitution
7. Formal apology
8. Research activity/project/presentation aimed at teaching the student about the infraction
9. Behavioral management plans
10. Loss of credit for an assignment (in the case of academic misconduct)
11. Loss of device privileges (in the case of device violations and/or related bullying)

## **B. Procedures**

The amount of due process a student is entitled to receive before a penalty is imposed depends on the penalty being imposed. Students who are to be disciplined other than an oral warning, written warning or written notification to their parents are entitled to additional rights before discipline can be imposed.

### **1. Teacher disciplinary removal of disruptive students**

A student's behavior can affect a teacher's ability to teach and can make it difficult for other students in the classroom to learn. In most instances the classroom teacher can control a student's behavior and maintain or restore control over the classroom by using good classroom management techniques.

For purposes of this code of conduct, a disruptive student is a student who is substantially disruptive of the educational process or substantially interferes with the teacher's authority over the classroom. A substantial disruption of the educational process or substantial interference with a teacher's authority occurs when a student demonstrates a persistent unwillingness to comply with the teacher's instructions or repeatedly violates the teacher's classroom behavior rules.

A classroom teacher may remove a disruptive student from class for up to two days. The removal from class applies to the class of the removing teacher only.

If the disruptive student does not pose a danger or ongoing threat of disruption to the academic process, the teacher must provide the student with an explanation for why he or she is being removed and an opportunity to explain his or her version of the relevant events before the student is removed. Only after the informal discussion may a teacher remove a student from class.

If the student poses a danger or ongoing threat of disruption, the teacher may order the student to be removed immediately. The teacher must, however, explain to the student why he or she was removed from the classroom and give the student a chance to present his or her version of the relevant events within 24-hours.

The teacher must complete an established disciplinary removal form and meet with the principal or his or her designee as soon as possible, but not later than the end of the first day of a student removal, to explain the circumstances of the removal and to present the removal form. If the principal or designee is not available by the end of the same school day, the teacher must leave the form with the secretary and meet with the principal or designee prior to the beginning of classes on the next school day.



Within 24-hours after the student's removal, the principal or another administrator designated by the principal must notify the student's parents that the student has been removed from class and why. The parent must be informed that he or she has the right, upon request, to meet informally with the principal or the principal's designee to discuss the reasons for the removal. If a conference is requested by the parent, the teacher who ordered the removal must attend the informal conference.

If at the informal meeting the student denies the charges, the principal or the principal's designee must explain why the student was removed and give the student and the student's parents a chance to present the student's version of the relevant events. The informal meeting must be held within 48 hours of the student's removal. The timing of the informal meeting may be extended by mutual agreement of the parent and principal.

The principal or the principal's designee may overturn the removal of the student from class if the principal finds any one of the following:

1. The charges against the student are not supported by substantial evidence.
2. The student's removal is otherwise in violation of law, including the code of conduct.
3. The conduct warrants suspension from school pursuant to Education Law §3214 and a suspension will be imposed.

The principal or his or her designee may overturn a removal at any point between receiving the referral form issued by the teacher and the close of business on the day following the 48-hour period for the informal conference, if a conference is requested. No student removed from the classroom by the classroom teacher will be permitted to return to the classroom until the principal makes a final determination or the period of removal expires, whichever is less.

Each teacher must keep a complete log (on a provided form) for all cases of removal of students from his or her class. The principal must keep a log of all removals of students from class.

## **2. Suspension from school**

Any staff member may recommend to the superintendent or the principal that a student be suspended. All staff members must immediately report and refer a violent student to the principal or the superintendent for a violation of the code of conduct. All recommendations and referrals shall be made in writing unless the conditions underlying the recommendation or referral warrant immediate attention. In such cases a written report is to be prepared as soon as possible by the staff member recommending the suspension.

The superintendent or principal, upon receiving a recommendation or referral for suspension or when processing a case for suspension, shall gather the facts relevant to the matter and record them for subsequent presentation, if necessary.

### **a. Short-term (5 days or less) suspension from school**

When the superintendent or principal (referred to as the "suspending authority") proposes to suspend a student charged with misconduct for five days or less

pursuant to Education Law §3214(3), the suspending authority must immediately notify the student orally. If the student denies the misconduct, the suspending authority must provide an explanation of the basis for the proposed suspension. The suspending authority must also notify the student's parents in writing that the student may be suspended from school. Where possible, notice should also be provided by telephone if the school has been provided with a telephone number(s) for the purpose of contacting the parents.

The notice shall provide a description of the charges against the student and the incident for which suspension is proposed and shall inform the parents of the right to request an immediate informal conference with the principal. Both the notice and informal conference shall be in the dominant language or mode of communication used by the parents.

The notice and opportunity for an informal conference shall take place before the student is suspended unless the student's presence in school poses a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disruption to the academic process. If the student's presence does pose such a danger or threat of disruption, the notice and opportunity for an informal conference shall take place as soon after the suspension as is reasonably practicable.

After the conference, the principal shall promptly advise the parents in writing of his or her decision. The principal shall advise the parents that if they are not satisfied with the decision and wish to pursue the matter, they must file a written appeal to the superintendent within five business days. The superintendent shall issue a written decision regarding the appeal. If the parents are not satisfied with the superintendent's decision, they must file a written appeal to the board of education with the board clerk within five business days of the date of the superintendents' decision. Only final decisions of the Board may be appealed to the Commissioner within 30 days of the decision.

b. **Long-term (more than 5 days) suspension from school**

Generally, long-term suspensions will be initiated and conducted upon a recommendation from the superintendent or principal. When a suspension for more than five days is warranted, reasonable notice shall be given to the student and the student's parents of their right to a fair hearing. At the hearing the student shall have the right to be represented by counsel, the right to question witnesses against him or her and the right to present witnesses and other evidence on his or her behalf.

The superintendent shall personally hear and determine the proceeding or may, in his or her discretion, designate a hearing officer to conduct the hearing. The hearing officer shall be authorized to administer oaths and to issue subpoenas in conjunction with the proceeding before him or her. A record of the hearing shall be maintained, but no stenographic transcript shall be required. A tape recording shall be deemed a satisfactory record. The hearing officer shall make findings of fact and recommendations as to the appropriate measure of discipline to the superintendent. The report of the hearing officer shall be advisory only, and the superintendent may accept all or any part thereof.

An appeal of the decision of the superintendent may be made to the board of education. All appeals to the board of education must be in writing and submitted to the clerk of the board of education within five business days of the date of the superintendent's decision. The board may adopt in whole or in part the decision of the superintendent. Final decisions of the board may be appealed to the Commissioner within thirty days of the decision.

**C. Minimum Periods of Suspension**

**1. Students who bring a firearm to school (Gun Free Schools Act)**

Any student found guilty of bringing a firearm (as that term is defined in 18 USC §921) onto school property will be subject to suspension from school for at least one calendar year. Before being suspended, the student will have an opportunity for a hearing pursuant to Education Law §3214. The superintendent has the authority to modify the one-year suspension on a case-by-case basis. In deciding whether to modify the penalty, the superintendent may consider the following:

- The student's age
- The student's grade in school
- The student's prior disciplinary record
- The superintendent's belief that other forms of discipline may be more effective
- Input from parents, teachers and/or others
- Other extenuating circumstances

A student with a disability may be suspended only in accordance with the requirements of state and federal law.

**2. Students who commit violent acts or bring a weapon to school**

Any student, other than a student with a disability, who is found to have committed a violent act or who has brought a weapon onto school property, as that term is defined by this code of conduct, shall be subject to suspension from school for a minimum of 5 school days. The superintendent has the authority to modify the minimum five-day suspension on a case-by-case basis. In deciding whether to modify the penalty, the superintendent may consider the same factors considered in modifying a one-year suspension for possessing a weapon, as set forth above.

**3. Students who are repeatedly substantially disruptive of the educational process or repeatedly substantially interferes with the teacher's authority over the classroom**

Any student, other than a student with a disability, who repeatedly is substantially disruptive of the educational process or substantially interferes with the teacher's authority over the classroom will be suspended from school for at least five school days. For purposes of this code of conduct, "repeatedly is substantially disruptive" means engaging in conduct that results in the student being removed from the classroom by teacher(s) pursuant to Education Law §3214(3-a) and this code on four or more occasions during a semester, or three or more occasions during a trimester. The superintendent has the authority to modify the minimum five-day suspension on a case-by-case basis. In deciding whether to modify the penalty, the superintendent may consider the same factors considered in modifying a one-year suspension for possessing a weapon.

**D. Referrals**

**1. Counseling**

The Guidance Office shall handle all referrals of students to counseling.

**2. FAST Referral**

The Moravia School District may file a FAST referral with the County on any student under the age of 18 who demonstrates that he or she requires supervision and treatment by:

- Being habitually truant and not attending school as required by part one of Article 65 of the Education Law.
- Engaging in an ongoing or continual course of conduct which makes the student ungovernable or habitually disobedient and beyond the lawful control of the school.
- Knowingly and unlawfully possesses any illegal drug or controlled substance.

**3. Juvenile Delinquents and Juvenile Offenders**

The superintendent is required to refer the following students to the County Attorney for a juvenile delinquency proceeding before the Family Court:

- Any student under the age of 16 who is found to have brought to school a firearm, as that term is defined in 18 USC §921; or
- Any student 14 or 15 years old who qualifies for juvenile offender status under the Criminal Procedure Law §1.20 (42).

The superintendent is required to refer students age 16 and older or any student 14 or 15 years old who qualifies for juvenile offender status to the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

**X. DISCIPLINARY RESPONSIBILITIES**

**A. Superintendent and Board Responsibilities**

The Superintendent and Board of Education have the following discipline responsibilities:

- To maintain a well-trained staff at all levels.
- To give full support to the staff charged with the responsibility for enforcing discipline in accordance with Moravia School District policies and New York State Law.

**B. Administrator and Faculty Responsibilities**

The administrators and faculty have the following student discipline responsibilities:

- To communicate the student rules and discipline procedures to parents, pupils and the community
- To support and enforce the student rules and discipline procedures in a fair and consistent manner

- To protect the group and individual rights of pupils, parents, faculty, and community in all matters related to student behavior
- To promptly notify parents of student problems relative to the student's discipline
- To work towards an educational solution to all student discipline problems in an effort to prevent their occurrence and/or reoccurrence
- To periodically review and evaluate student disciplinary rules and procedures as they relate to community and school goals

**C. Parent Responsibilities**

The parents or guardians have the following student discipline responsibilities:

- To be aware of the student rules and discipline procedures
- To discuss and reinforce the student rules and discipline procedures with the pupil
- To work with the administrators, faculty and pupils towards the solution of a student's behavior problems
- To provide suggestions for the on-going development of the disciplinary rules and procedures at the Moravia School District
- To make sure your child's attendance at the Moravia School District is regular and punctual and that all absences are properly excused as required by New York State Law
- To take financial responsibility for texts, tools, locks or any other equipment assigned to the student

**D. Student Responsibilities**

The student has the following student discipline responsibilities:

- To know the student behavior rules and discipline procedures
- To exhibit reasonable conduct in accordance with the Moravia School District rules
- To seek help in solving problems that might lead to disciplinary problems
- To accept responsibility for one's actions

**XI. ALTERNATIVE INSTRUCTION**

When a student of any age is removed from class by a teacher, the Moravia School District will provide continuing educational programming and activities for the student. When a student of compulsory attendance age is suspended from school pursuant to Education Law §3214, the Moravia School District will take steps to provide alternative means of instruction for the student.

**XII. CORPORAL PUNISHMENT AND ACTS OF RESTRAINT**

For the purposes of definition in this Policy, corporal punishment is considered to be any act of physical force upon a pupil for the purpose of punishing that pupil.

Corporal punishment should be distinguished from the act of reasonable physical force to protect oneself from injury, to protect another pupil or teacher or other person from physical injury, to protect the property of the Moravia School District or of others, or to restrain or remove a pupil whose behavior is interfering with the orderly exercise and performance of Moravia School District functions, powers, and duties if that pupil has refused to comply with a request to refrain from further disruptive acts. Moments

of permitted use of physical force or restraint include those situations which affect the immediate health or safety of students or staff or visitors or the protection of public property from destructive mischief.

The Moravia School District does not permit the use of corporal punishment on campus as a behavior management technique.

The Board does, however, endorse the prudent and necessary use of physical restraint whenever and wherever such restraint is needed to maintain the safety and well-being of staff or pupils.

By July 15 and January 15 of each year, the superintendent of schools shall file a report with the Commissioner of Education detailing each complaint about the use of corporal punishment, the results of the investigation of that complaint, and the action, if any, taken in that particular case.

### **XIII. DISCIPLINE OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

The Moravia School District recognizes that it may be necessary to suspend, remove or otherwise discipline students with disabilities to address disruptive or problem behavior. The Moravia School District is committed to ensuring that the procedures followed for suspending, removing or otherwise disciplining students with disabilities are consistent with the procedural safeguards required by applicable federal and state laws and regulations. This code of conduct, however, affords students with disabilities no greater or lesser rights than those expressly afforded by applicable federal and state law and regulations.

#### **A. Definitions**

For purposes of this section of the code of conduct, the following definitions apply:

A **disciplinary change of placement** is a removal from the child's current educational placement for more than ten consecutive school days in the course of a school year, or a series of removals that constitute a pattern, because they cumulate to more than ten school days in a school year and because of factors such as the length of each removal, the total amount of time the child is removed and the proximity of the removals to each other.

An **illegal drug** means a controlled substance but does not include such a substance that is legally possessed or used under the supervision of a licensed healthcare professional or under any other authority under the Controlled Substances Act or under any other provision of federal law. "Controlled substance" means a drug or other substance as defined under certain schedules of the Controlled Substances Act.

An **interim alternative educational setting or "IAES"** means a temporary educational placement for a period of up to 45 days, other than the student's current placement at the time the behavior precipitating the IAES placement occurred, that enables the student to continue to progress in the general curriculum, although in another setting, to continue to receive those services and modifications, including those described on the student's current individualized education program (IEP), that will enable the student to meet the goals set out in such IEP, and include services and modifications to address the behavior which precipitated the IAES placement that are designed to prevent the behavior from recurring.

A **manifestation** means where the conduct in question was caused by, or had a direct and substantial relationship to, the child's disability; or if the conduct was a direct result of the school district's failure to implement the IEP.

A **removal** means a removal for disciplinary reasons from the student's current educational placement other than a suspension and change in placement to an interim alternative educational setting (IAES) ordered by an impartial hearing officer because the student poses a risk of harm to himself or herself or others.

A **suspension** means a suspension pursuant to Education Law § 3214.

A **weapon** is defined as a weapon, device, instrument, material or substance, animate or inanimate, that is used for, or is readily capable of, causing death or serious bodily injury.

A **serious bodily injury** shall mean a bodily injury that involves a substantial risk of death; extreme physical pain; protracted or obvious disfigurement; or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty.

## **B. Suspensions or Removals**

Students with disabilities shall be afforded the same procedural protections set forth in Education Law §3214 as non-disabled students.

### **1. CSE Involvement**

The CSE shall be notified of any disciplinary action taken by or intended to be taken by the Moravia School District if:

- The student is identified as a student with a disability;
- A referral is pending with the CSE; or
- The student is "deemed to be a student with a disability", which includes students in the following situations:
  - The parent has expressed concern in writing to school personnel that the student is in need of special education and related services (or orally if the parent cannot write or has a disability that prevents the parent from putting it in writing);
  - The behavior or performance of the student demonstrates the need for special education in accordance with the definition of "a student with a disability";
  - The child's teacher or other school district personnel has expressed concern about the behavior or performance of the student to the chairperson, a teacher, the principal, or other school personnel in accordance with the Child Find or CSE referral system.

### **2. Suspensions Up To 5 Days**

The Principal, Superintendent, or the Board of Education may suspend a student from school for up to five (5) days, as long as the discipline imposed is consistent with the discipline imposed on non-disabled students under similar circumstances.

If a student with a disability is suspended from school, then the Principal, District Superintendent, or Board of Education will be required to follow the procedures outlined in Article IX(B)(2)(a).

If it is determined that the suspension will not result in a disciplinary change of placement, then the suspension may be imposed without a manifestation determination.

- **Disciplinary Change of Placement & CSE Involvement**

If it is determined that the suspension would result in a disciplinary change of placement, then the suspension may not be imposed until the CSE has conducted a manifestation determination. A manifestation determination must be scheduled immediately, but in no case later than 10 school days after the date on which a decision involving a disciplinary change of placement is made.

- If the CSE determines that the behavior is related to the student's disability, no discipline may be imposed (unless the student is found guilty of possessing weapons or drugs and is placed in an IAES).
- If the CSE determines that the behavior is not related to the student's disability, then discipline may be imposed in a manner similar that imposed on a non-disabled student.

### **3. Suspensions Over 5 Days**

If an out-of-school suspension of more than five (5) days is sought, a superintendent's hearing must be held in accordance with Education Law §3214(3)(c) and Article IX(B)(2)(b) of this code of conduct. If a superintendent's hearing will be held by the Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES, the home school district and its CSE should be notified immediately.

- **Notice Of Due Process Rights**

Parents are to be provided with written notice of their due process rights. Notice of procedural safeguards must be given not later than the day on which a decision to take disciplinary action which could result in a suspension of over ten (10) days is made. The notice must include a full explanation of procedural safeguards available, including those relating to procedures for students who are subject to placement in an interim alternative educational setting.

- **Disciplinary Change of Placement & CSE Involvement**

If it is determined that the suspension would result in a disciplinary change of placement, then the suspension may not be imposed until the CSE has conducted a manifestation determination. A manifestation determination must be scheduled immediately, but in no case later than 10 school days after the date on which a decision involving a disciplinary change of placement is made.

- If the CSE determines that the behavior is related to the student's disability, no discipline may be imposed (unless the student is found



guilty of possessing weapons or drugs and is placed in an IAES).

- If the CSE determines that the behavior is not related to the student's disability, then discipline may be imposed in a manner similar to that imposed on a non-disabled student. The CSE should be notified of any disciplinary action which will be imposed so that it can meet within 10 days to develop/review the functional behavioral assessment and behavior intervention plan.
- If the suspension to be imposed will not result in a disciplinary change of placement, then a manifestation determination will not have to be conducted.

#### **4. IAES For Drugs/Weapons**

If a student with a disability has been found guilty of possessing weapons or drugs, then school personnel may order the student to be placed in an interim alternative educational setting ("IAES") for the same amount of time that a student without a disability would be subject to discipline, but not more than forty-five (45) days.

After a finding of guilt has been made at the superintendent's hearing, but prior to placing a student with a disability in an IAES, the CSE must conduct a manifestation determination. If the CSE determines that the student's behavior is a manifestation of his/her disability, the student may still be placed in an IAES if he/she was found guilty of possessing drugs or weapons.

The determination of the IAES must be made by the CSE. The IAES must:

- be selected so as to enable the child to continue to participate in the general curriculum, although in another setting, and to continue to receive those services and modifications, including those described in current IEP, that enable the child to meet IEP goals; and
- include services and modifications to address behavior so that it does not recur.

#### **5. IAES For Dangerous Students**

If the student is dangerous, the district may request an expedited hearing before an impartial hearing officer who can order that the student be placed in an IAES for up to forty-five (45) days.

If an IAES is sought from a hearing officer, the hearing officer must consider the following in making a placement:

- the appropriateness of the child's current placement; and
- whether the school has made reasonable efforts to minimize the risk of harm in the child's current placement, including the use of supplementary aids and services. 34 C.F.R. §300.521.

In order to place a student in a 45 day IAES, a hearing officer must determine:

- that the alternative educational setting meets the same requirements imposed upon the IEP Team in making such a placement;
- that the district has proven by substantial evidence (defined as “beyond a preponderance of the evidence”) that maintaining the current placement of such child is substantially likely to result in injury to the child or to others.

If the CSE determines that the student’s behavior is a manifestation of his/her disability, the student may still be placed in an IAES by the impartial hearing officer if the impartial hearing officer determines that maintaining the student in his/her current placement is substantially likely to result in injury to the student or others.

#### **6. Alternative Instruction & FAPE**

The Principal must immediately arrange for “substantially equivalent” alternative instruction for any student under the compulsory school age who has been suspended from school.

If the suspension is less than ten (10) days, a free appropriate public education (“FAPE”) does not have to be provided. The right to a FAPE begins on the eleventh school day in a school year that the student is removed from his/her current educational placement. The FAPE provided to such students shall meet the same requirements as an IAES.

If a suspension results in more than 10 cumulative days of suspension, but does not result in a disciplinary change of placement, the principal (or other designated school administrator) in consultation with the student’s special education teacher, must arrange for services “to the extent necessary to enable the student:

- Progress appropriately in the general curriculum; and
- Appropriately advance toward achieving the goals in the student’s IEP

#### **XIV. PUBLIC CONDUCT ON SCHOOL PROPERTY**

The Moravia School District is committed to providing an orderly, respectful environment that is conducive to learning. The maintenance of public order on school property is the responsibility of all members of the school community. Teachers, staff, students, and citizens must work together to facilitate the educational process. Students, employees of the Moravia School District, and visitors on school premises should at all times conduct themselves in a manner so as to reflect proper respect for public property and the rights of others. To create and maintain this kind of environment, it is necessary to regulate public conduct on school property and at school functions. For purposes of this section of the code, “public” shall mean all persons when on school property or attending a school function including students, teachers, and personnel.

All persons on school property or attending a school function shall conduct themselves in a respectful and orderly manner. In addition, all persons on school property or attending a school function are expected to be properly attired for the purpose they are on school property. Staff and employees of the Moravia School District are expected to exemplify and reinforce the standards for appropriate student dress (Section VI of this Policy) and behavior.

Provisions regarding rules and procedures for visitations to school buildings are contained within the Board Policy Manual and the School Safety Plan.

## **A. Prohibited Conduct**

No person, either alone or with others, shall:

- Use language or gestures that are profane, lewd, vulgar or abusive.
- Intentionally injure any person or threaten to do so.
- Intentionally damage or destroy school property or the personal property of a teacher, administrator, other employee or any person lawfully on school property, including graffiti or arson.
- Disrupt the orderly conduct of classes, school programs or other school activities.
- Distribute or wear materials on school grounds or at school functions that are obscene, advocate illegal action, appear libelous, obstruct the rights of others, or are disruptive to the school program.
- Wear any clothing or garment which is disruptive or interferes with the educational process or is not appropriate or safe for the school function or activity being attended.
- Intimidate, harass or discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation or disability.
- Enter any portion of the school premises without authorization or remain in any building or facility after it is normally closed.
- Obstruct the free movement of any person in any place to which this code applies.
- Violate the traffic laws, parking regulations or other restrictions on vehicles;
- Possess, consume, sell, distribute or exchange alcoholic beverages, controlled substances, or be under the influence of either on school property or at a school function.
- Possess or use firearms or weapons in or on school property or at a school function, except in the case of law enforcement officers or except as specifically authorized by the Moravia School District.
- Use any tobacco product on school grounds.
- Loiter on or about school property.
- Gamble on school property or at school functions.
- Refuse to comply with any reasonable order of identifiable school officials performing their duties.
- Willfully incite others to commit any of the acts prohibited by this code.
- Violate any federal or state statute, local ordinance or board policy while on school property or while at a school function.
- Engage in picketing and/or demonstrating which: interferes with entrances to buildings or the normal flow of pedestrian or vehicular traffic; interferes with organized meetings or other assemblies for the purpose of harassment; obstructs the privacy of administrative offices or the functioning of the physical plant.

## **B. Penalties**

Persons who violate this code shall be subject to the following penalties:

- Visitors. Their authorization, if any, to remain on school grounds or at the school function shall be withdrawn and they shall be directed to leave the premises. If they refuse to leave, they shall be subject to ejection.
- Students. They shall be subject to disciplinary action as the facts may warrant, in accordance with the due process requirements.
- Trespassers are individuals with no specific license or invitation to be on school grounds and shall be subject to immediate ejection.
- Tenured faculty members. They shall be subject to disciplinary action as the facts may warrant in accordance with Education Law §3020-a or any other legal rights that they may have.
- Staff members in the classified service of the civil service entitled to the protection of Civil Service Law §75. They shall be subject to immediate ejection and to disciplinary action as the facts may warrant in accordance with Civil Service Law §75 or any other legal rights that they may have.
- Staff members other than those described in subdivisions 4 and 5. They shall be subject to warning, reprimand, suspension or dismissal as the facts may warrant in accordance with any legal rights they may have.

### **C. Enforcement**

The building principal or his or her designee shall be responsible for enforcing the conduct required by this code.

When the building principal or his or her designee sees an individual engaged in prohibited conduct, which in his or her judgment does not pose any immediate threat of injury to persons or property, the principal or his or her designee shall tell the individual that the conduct is prohibited and attempt to persuade the individual to stop. The principal or his or her designee shall also warn the individual of the consequences for failing to stop. If the person refuses to stop engaging in the prohibited conduct, or if the person's conduct poses an immediate threat of injury to persons or property, the principal or his or her designee shall have the individual removed immediately from school property or the school function. If necessary, local law enforcement authorities will be contacted to assist in removing the person.

\* For visitors who regularly use the school for activities (e.g. community groups) who violate the tobacco policy, school officials will ask them to refrain from using tobacco on school grounds. For a second violation of the policy, the group's school-use privileges will be revoked.

The Moravia School District shall initiate disciplinary action against any student or staff member, as appropriate, with the "Penalties" section above. In addition, the Moravia School District reserves its right to pursue a civil or criminal legal action against any person violating the code.

## **XV. DISSEMINATION AND REVIEW**

### **A. Dissemination of Code of Conduct**

The administration will work to ensure that the community is aware of this code of conduct by:

- Providing copies of a summary of the code to all students.

- Mailing a summary of the code of conduct written in plain language to all parents of Moravia School District students before the beginning of the school year and making this summary available later upon request.
- Providing all current teachers and other staff members with a copy of the code and a copy of any amendments to the code as soon as practical after adoption.
- Providing all new employees with a copy of the current code of conduct when they are first hired.
- Making copies of the code available for review by students, parents and other community members.

The administration will meet with all staff members to ensure the effective implementation of the code of conduct. The Code of Conduct will be distributed to the faculty at the beginning of the school year and reviewed shortly thereafter.

The board of education will review this code of conduct every year and update it as necessary. In conducting the review, the board will consider how effective the code's provisions have been and whether the code has been applied fairly and consistently.

The board may appoint an advisory committee to assist in reviewing the code and the response to code of conduct violations. The committee will be made up of representatives of student, teacher, administrator, and parent organizations, school safety personnel and other school personnel.

Before adopting any revisions to the code, the board will hold at least one public hearing at which school personnel, parents, students and any other interested party may participate.

The code of conduct and any amendments to it will be filed with the Commissioner no later than 30 days after adoption.

## **XVI. EFFECTIVE DATE AND STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION**

This policy shall become effective on July 1, 2012.

Education Law §2801; Education Law §3214; Education Law Article 89; Part 100 of the Commissioner's Regulations; Part 200 of the Commissioner's Regulations; Part 201 of the Commissioner's Regulations; 20 U.S.C. §1415; 34 C.F.R. Part 300.