

POLICY	BOARD OF EDUCATION OF FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND
STUDENT DISCIPLINE	POLICY 403

Purpose

It is the expectation of the Board of Education (Board) that student discipline practices provide a form of prevention and intervention activities, and encourage and promote positive behavior, problem solving, conflict resolution, and reduce disruption.

Policy Statement

All schools will have a safe, positive, healthy, and inviting environment which fosters respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, fairness, caring, and good citizenship. It is the responsibility of everyone associated with the school to teach, promote, and model self-discipline in order to preserve the quality of our educational environment.

Consistent with the belief that we continuously teach by example, and that training is important in developing good citizens, the Board adopts the principles of cultural competency, fairness, equity, continuous improvement, and conflict resolution. In order to maintain a positive, safe, and inviting school climate where desired learning and citizenship will occur, all individuals are expected to exemplify this philosophy.

The Board establishes that student disciplinary regulations, at a minimum:

- Reflect a discipline philosophy inclusive of fostering, teaching, and acknowledging positive behavior, problem solving, and conflict resolution;
- Be designed to keep students connected to school so that they may graduate high school and be college and career ready;
- Describe the conduct that may lead to in-school and out-of-school suspension or expulsion;
- Allow for discretion in imposing discipline;
- Address the ways the educational and counseling needs of suspended students will be met; and
- Explain why and how long-term suspensions or expulsions are last resort options.

Corrective actions to discipline problems must be taken in a sensitive and positive way. It is an expectation that teachers and principals indicate such behaviors impinge on the rights of others and make learning difficult. It is important that the student not be rejected. Rather, the student should be advised that a mistake has been made and that the school wants to provide interventions and support the student to redirect his or her actions in a positive and constructive direction.

No matter how effective a disciplinary program may be, violations of the rules do occur. Staff responses are necessary and should be appropriate to the specific behavior. The school administrator has responsibility for investigating the matter and taking action based upon his/her knowledge of the facts and the needs of the student. The listing of minimum and maximum disciplinary action does not imply or require a “step-by-step” progression of increasing severity.

Corporal punishment, defined as any intentional physical contact used in the act of disciplining a child, is prohibited by law.

Legal Reference	§§ 7-304 and 7-306, Education Article, <i>Annotated Code of Maryland</i>		
	COMAR 13A.08.01.11 “Disciplinary Action”		
Source Document	<i>Resource Guide of Maryland School Discipline Practices</i> , Maryland State Department of Education, January 24, 2017		
Policy History	Reviewed 2018	Adopted 3/22/06	Revised 5/23/2018