

Oxford

Community Schools

Student Code of Conduct





The mission of Oxford Community Schools is to provide an education that challenges all students to achieve their maximum potential in academics, arts, and athletics and prepares them to succeed in a global society.

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*Student Code of Conduct
Revised August 2017*

Table of Contents

Introduction and Philosophy	Page 4
Restorative Practices	Page 5
Factors to Consider	Page 5
General Considerations	Page 8
Disciplinary Infractions	Page 9
Guidelines for Disciplinary Steps	Page 17
Bus Regulations and Responsibilities	Page 19
Sequence of Bus Disciplinary Steps	Page 19
Description of Disciplinary Steps	Page 19
• Temporary Class Closure	
• Loss of Extra Curricular Privileges	
• Teacher Initiated Suspension	
• Temporary Suspension	
• Suspension Appeal Procedure	
• Long Term Suspensions and Expulsions	
Access to Student Records	Page 28
Attendance Policy	Page 28
Classroom Discipline	Page 29
Corporal Punishment	Page 29
Criminal Acts and Police-School Relations	Page 30
Lockers	Page 30
Previous Misconduct	Page 30
Student Rights	Page 31
Nondiscrimination Clause	Page 31

INTRODUCTION AND PHILOSOPHY

It is the district's policy to provide students and staff with a safe learning environment free from substantial disruption. Consistent with this policy, the District may discipline students who engage in misconduct. Discipline may, but need not, include suspension or expulsion from school.

It is the district's policy that students should rarely be suspended or expelled from school and that steps should be taken to minimize occurrences of suspension and expulsion. It is further the district's policy to comply with all applicable state and federal laws related to student discipline.

It is the district's expectation that this Code of Conduct, especially those provisions that require consideration of specific factors and the possibility of restorative practices before suspending or expelling a student, will reduce the number of out-of-school suspensions that exceed 10 days and the number of expulsions.

Definitions

For purposes of this Code of Conduct:

- "Suspend" or "Suspension" means a disciplinary removal from school for less than 60 school days.

- "Expel" or "Expulsion" means a disciplinary removal from school for 60 or more school days.

- "Restorative practices" means practices that emphasize repairing the harm to the victim and the school community caused by a student's misconduct.

- "Weapon-Free School Zone" means school property and a vehicle used by a school to transport students to or from school property.

- "School Property" means a building, playing field, or property used for school purposes to impart instruction to children or used for functions and events sponsored by a school, except a building used primarily for adult education or college extension courses.

- "Dangerous weapon" means a firearm, dagger, dirk, stiletto, knife with a blade over 3 inches in length, pocket knife opened by a mechanical device, iron bar, or brass knuckles.

- "Firearm" means (1) 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; (2) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; (3) any firearm muffler silencer; or (4) any destructive device.

- "Destructive device" means (1) any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas; (2) any type of weapon by whatever name known will, or which may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant, and (3) any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting

any device into a destructive device and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled.

Restorative Practices:

Before suspending or expelling any student (except a student who possesses a firearm in a weapon-free school zone), teachers, administrators, and the district must first determine whether restorative practices would better address the student's misconduct, recognizing the Board's policy to minimize out-of-school suspensions and expulsions. Likewise, when suspending or expelling a student, teachers, administrators, and the district administration must consider whether restorative practices should be used in addition to the suspension or expulsion. Restorative practices, which may include a victim-offender conference, should be the first consideration to remediate offenses such as interpersonal conflicts, bullying, verbal and physical conflicts, theft, damage to property, class disruption, and harassment and cyberbullying.

A victim-offender conference is one type of restorative practice. Although not mandatory, a victim-offender conference allows the offender to repair harm caused to the victim, the offender, supporters of the offender, and other relevant members of the school community. A victim-offender conference must be initiated by the victim and, if the victim is under 15, must be approved by the victim's parent/guardian. The attendees may require the offender to do one or more of the following: (1) apologize; (2) participate in community service, restoration, or counseling; or (3) pay restitution. The selected consequences will be described in a written agreement signed by all attendees and must identify the time frame for the offender to complete the consequences. No person who claims to be the victim of unlawful harassment may be compelled to meet with the alleged perpetrator of the harassment as part of a restorative practice.

Factors to Consider:

Before suspending or expelling a student from a class, subject or activity, a teacher/administrator/discipline tribunal must first determine whether suspension/expulsion is warranted based on the following factors:

- The student's age
- The student's disciplinary history;
- Whether the student has a disability;
- The seriousness of the behavior;
- Whether the behavior posed a safety risk;
- Whether restorative practices are a better option; and
- Whether lesser interventions would address the behavior.

The Factors to Consider must be reviewed and documented when suspending a student:

- from class, subject **or** activity by a teacher
- as a discretionary suspension of 10 or fewer school days
- as a suspension of less than 60 days
- as a suspension of more than 60 days
- as a mandatory suspension or expulsion.

Mandatory Suspension or Expulsion:

It is the policy of the district to comply with the federal Gun-Free Schools Act and sections 1310, 1311, and 1311a of the Revised School Code. *Nothing in this section of the Code of Conduct may be construed to limit the Discipline Tribunal's discretion to suspend or expel a student for any offense that the student code of conduct identifies as possibly resulting in a suspension or expulsion.* The Superintendent directs all administrators to refer all incidents that may result in a mandatory suspension or expulsion to the Discipline Tribunal. The Discipline Tribunal recognizes that, as explained below, in some circumstances it may choose not to suspend or expel a student.

Possession of a Firearm

If a student possesses a firearm in a weapon-free school zone, the Discipline Tribunal will permanently expel the student unless the student demonstrates, in a clear and convincing manner, at least one of the following:

- The student was not possessing the instrument or object to use as a weapon or to deliver, either directly or indirectly, to another person to use as a weapon;
- The student did not knowingly possess the weapon;
- The student did not know or have reason to know that the instrument or object constituted a “dangerous weapon;” or
- The student possessed the weapon at the suggestion, request or direction of, or with the express permission of, school or police authorities.

If the student demonstrates one of the above circumstances in a clear and convincing manner and the student has not been previously suspended or expelled from school, the Discipline Tribunal will not expel the student unless the Discipline Tribunal finds that, based on the circumstances, expulsion is warranted. The Factors to Consider are found on Page 5 of the Code of Conduct.

Possession of a Dangerous Weapon (Other than a Firearm)

If a student possesses a dangerous weapon in a weapon-free school zone, the Discipline Tribunal will consider whether to permanently expel the student or

to impose a less severe penalty after first considering the Factors to Consider on Page 5 of the Code of Conduct.

Arson and Criminal Sexual Conduct

If a student is convicted of, or pleads guilty or no contest to, committing arson, as defined in section 1311 of the Revised School Code, in a school building or on school grounds, the Discipline Tribunal will consider whether to permanently expel the student or to impose a less severe penalty after first considering the Factors to Consider on Page 5 of the Code of Conduct.

Physical Assault Against Employee, Volunteer or Contractor

If a student in grade 6 or above commits a physical assault at school against an employee, volunteer, or contractor and the victim reports the physical assault to an administrator or, if the victim is unable to report the assault, another person makes the report on the victim's behalf, the Discipline Tribunal will consider whether to permanently expel the student or to impose a less severe penalty after first considering the Factors to Consider on Page 5 of the Code of Conduct.

Physical Assault Against Another Student

If a student in grade 6 or above commits a physical assault at school against another student and the physical assault is reported to an administrator, the Discipline Tribunal will consider whether to suspend or expel the student or to impose a less severe penalty after first considering the Factors to Consider on Page 5 of the Code of Conduct.

Bomb Threat or Similar Threat

If a student in grade 6 or above makes a bomb threat or similar threat directed at a school building, other school property or at a school-related event, the Discipline Tribunal will consider whether to suspend or expel the student or to impose a less severe penalty after first considering the Factors to Consider on Page 5 of the Code of Conduct.

Additional Procedures

A resident student in grade 6 or above who was expelled by another school district for possession of a **dangerous weapon, arson, criminal sexual conduct, physical assault against an employee, volunteer or contractor, physical assault against another student and/or making a bomb threat or similar threat**, may submit a Petition for Reinstatement to the Discipline Tribunal requesting enrollment in the district. The Discipline Tribunal will consider the petition, along with any information the Discipline Tribunal determines relevant. The Discipline Tribunal may either grant or deny the petition. If the Discipline Tribunal denies the petition,

the student may not enroll in the District. The decision of the Discipline Tribunal is final.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

- The first time a student is involved in a rule infraction, disciplinary action will be imposed according to the grade of that student, and the category of his or her offense.
- Once a student has been involved in an infraction resulting in disciplinary action, he/she may, at the discretion of the building administrator, be advanced one category for each subsequent infraction requiring further disciplinary action.
- The provisions of this Code of Conduct are applicable to all students enrolled in the Oxford Community Schools. The following, however, should be noted:

Special education students are expected to comply with the Code of Conduct. However, behaviors which result in a cumulative total of more than 10 days per school year may require that the student's Individualized Educational Planning Team convene to determine if the behavior in question is a manifestation of the student's disability.

Crossroads for Youth serves student populations with special needs. The administrators in charge of this program may authorize judicious deviations from specific policies and procedures outlined in this Code of Conduct where necessary to meet these special needs. Such deviations should preserve the overall intent of the Code and must maintain the due process and other legally required provisions of the Code in all respects, while ensuring a safe environment for both students and staff that is conducive to learning.

- In the event a student's behavior and/or achievement indicates possible chemical use or abuse, an administrator may refer the student to appropriate agencies. Parent(s) or guardian(s) shall be notified if school officials have reason to believe a student may be abusing chemicals.
- Students who violate the Code of Conduct due to chemical use or abuse or dependency, and who agree to an evaluation and/or counseling by an approved agency may receive a modification of the disciplinary action normally prescribed. The building administrator may at his/her discretion require documentation of a student's successful completion or participation in a treatment program.
- Referrals to outside agencies and related recommendations are intended to

provide students with an additional source of assistance. The school district accepts no responsibility for the diagnosis made, the course of treatment received or any failure of said treatment. Nor does the school district assume any responsibility for the payment of outside agencies or individuals, or for making arrangements for such payment. Any services or materials rendered or provided by outside agencies or individuals that are not school employees will be the responsibility of the student involved and/or the student’s parent(s) or guardian(s).

DISCIPLINARY INFRACTIONS

While no comprehensive list of student misconduct can be compiled, an attempt has been made in this section to indicate rule infractions which are regarded as most significant, and to categorize them from least (Category A) to most (Category G) serious. Unless otherwise specified or apparent, the infractions are applicable on all school property (including school transportation), at all school related activities (including educational, athletic and social events held away from school), and at all times (including outside of school hours). The district adheres to rules and regulations governed through IDEA for students with a disability.

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

COMPUTER EQUIPMENT AND NETWORKS

Students are responsible for their conduct while using school computer equipment, networks, or accounts assigned to them. The normal school rules governing acceptable behavior and communications apply equally in this forum. Infractions will result in the loss of access to computer equipment and networks, disciplinary action under this Code, and/or referral for legal action.

While students have a right of access to school computers, computer systems and computer networks, these rights entail corresponding responsibilities. As a minimum, it is assumed that students will comply with such written standards as stated in the Acceptable Use Policy, and will honor agreements that they and/or their parents are required to sign.

	Infraction	Category
1.	Misuse, unauthorized use of computer equipment, including: exposing equipment to damage; posting personal contact information about oneself including one’s name, address, telephone, school address, work address, etc.; unauthorized use of other students’	B-D

computer files; tampering with computer equipment; unauthorized or improper use of computer bulletin boards; intentional acts to bypass installed internet content filters; using school technology to arrange an online meeting for social purposes; providing your password to another person; using your personal e-mail account for non-educational purposes.

2. Unauthorized use of hard drive, network or program files belonging to the school or the school staff; trespassing into unauthorized area of any computer system; hacking or vandalism of equipment or systems; installing software to the computer or system; deliberately attempting to disrupt the computer system or destroy data by spreading computer viruses or by any other means. G

3. Posting private information about another person, including his/her name, address, telephone, school address, work address, picture, etc. E

4. Forgery; falsely writing or altering the signature of another individual; unauthorized use of school passes, permits, etc.; falsifying times, dates or other data on school related records or forms for fraudulent purposes. C

5. Plagiarism; misrepresenting the work of another individual as one's own. Cheating; attempting to improve one's performance on tests or other schoolwork through the use of unauthorized materials, by copying from another individual, or knowingly providing materials to be used for the purpose of cheating. C

6. Tardy - failure to report to school or class on time. A

7. Truancy; failure to attend any or all scheduled classes without legitimate reason (including leaving class without proper authorization); closed campus violation: Once a student arrives on school grounds, and school is in session, they may not leave without permission from school authorities and must check out through the Main Office. Students may not leave campus for the expressed purpose of obtaining lunch. Food deliveries by outside vendors are prohibited. B-C

8.	Loitering; lingering in hallways, restrooms, parking lots or other areas inside the school building without legitimate purpose and/or proper authorization.	A-D
9.	Trespassing; being in an unauthorized place and/or failing to leave when so directed by school personnel; entering or remaining on the school campus or grounds without authorization and with no lawful purpose.	E
10.	Gambling; participating in games of skill or chance for money or profit.	A
11.	Intentional nuisance including the misuse of any laser device.	C
12.	The use of a cell phone or any electronic device, during school hours, unless approved by a building administrator and/or teacher.	C
13.	Possession, display or sale/distribution of pornographic material with the intent of harassing, intimidating and/or embarrassing specific individuals. A police report will be made.	B-G
14.	Use of obscene or profane language or gestures; use of racial or ethnic slurs, when incidental and not specifically directed toward another individual.	B
15.	Fleeing from school personnel to avoid a disciplinary investigation, obstructing an investigation; intentionally providing misleading information to school officials or their agents.	C-G
16.	Intentionally littering or failure to maintain a clean school environment including leaving trash on lunch table.	A
17.	Disrespect toward school personnel expressed by word, attitude, tone of voice or behavior.	C
18.	Inappropriate public intimacy.	B
19.	Disregard for the educational environment; disorderly conduct; behavior that interferes with, interrupts, or	D

causes disruption to the educational process for self or others and/or the orderly conduct of school events. Breach of public peace, failure to follow lawful and proper instructions of school personnel or falsely identifying self to school personnel.

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| 20. | Failure to properly register a motor vehicle driven to school; improper parking of a motor vehicle driven to school. | A |
| 21. | Reckless or improper driving of a motor vehicle on school property. | C |
| 22. | Behavior potentially dangerous to any school bus or the safety of any passengers therein. | B |
| 23. | Possession, use or distribution of fireworks on school property including in locker or vehicle or at school sponsored events. | C-D |
| 24. | Use or intent to use explosives or incendiary devices which cause or have the potential to cause major physical damage or great bodily harm. | G |
| 25. | Vandalism; damage to school property or to personal property while on school premises. | E |
| 26. | Placing 911 calls; the intentional and malicious placement of a 911 emergency call from any ground phone in school property. Tampering with a fire alarm or other firefighting equipment or systems; setting off a false fire alarm. Police will be contacted. | F-G |
| 27. | Arson - willful or intentional damage or attempt to damage any real or personal property by fire or incendiary device. Intentional setting of a fire in a school building or on school grounds. Police will be contacted. | G |
| 28. | Threat - any threat (verbal or electronic) by a person to bomb or use other substances or devices for the purpose of exploding, burning, or causing damage to a school building or school property, or to harm students or staff. Police will be contacted. | G |

28.5	Sharing electronic information that could result in an act of violence	G
29.	Larceny/Burglary; theft of money, school property, or personal property on school premises and/or theft involving unlawful entry into lockers, desks, cabinets, etc; breaking and entering of a school building or portion of a school building for the purpose of committing larceny or a felony. Police will be contacted.	D
30.	Robbery/extortion: Armed Robbery: The taking of property from a person by force or threat while armed with a weapon or article representing a weapon. Unarmed Robbery: The taking of property from a person by force or threat. Extortion: Threatening another person for the purpose of extorting money or property, or to compel the threatened person to do an act against the threatened person’s will. Police will be contacted.	F
31.	Possession or use of tobacco including cigarettes, electronic cigarettes (also known as e-cigarettes), personal vaporizers or PV, chewing tobacco or other tobacco products, regardless of age, on school property or at a school related event.	D
32.	Unauthorized possession of over-the-counter drugs.	A
33.	Illicit Drug: Drug related incidents are events involving trafficking (including the intent to arrange for distribution, sale, or use), sale, purchase, possession or use of substances (including steroids, all prescription drugs for which the student does not have a prescription and inappropriate use of nonprescription drugs and other substances, Spice, K2). Drug-related offenses will include the following:	F-G
A.	Possession or use of marijuana, hashish, other cannabinoids, or other illicit drugs on school grounds or at school activities; being under the influence of marijuana or illicit drugs on school grounds or at school activities; inappropriate use of medication on school grounds or at school activities. Police will be contacted.	F-G
B.	Trafficking or possession for sale or marijuana or other	

	illicit drugs on school grounds or at school activities. Police will be contacted.	G
34.	Alcohol: Alcohol-related incidents are incidents where students: possess or use alcohol on school grounds or at school activities; were under the influence of alcohol on school grounds or at school activities.	G
35.	Intimidation; including but not limited to: Verbal, oral or written name calling, taunting, teasing, insulting, intimidating remarks, sarcasm, prejudicial comments, use of obscene or profane language or gestures, racial slurs or ethnic slurs directed toward another individual; indirect spreading of rumors about someone with malicious intent, excluding someone from social groups.	D-F
36.	Bullying Behavior: Repeated behaviors that have been previously addressed by school personnel which are malicious and specifically intended to bully, intimidate or harass another person, which may or may not be because of that person's race, color, creed, religion, gender, or national origin. Cyber Bullying: Electronically sending or posting messages or images which are intended to hurt, intimidate, harass, or embarrass another person, create a hostile school environment, regardless of where or when the messages were sent.	F
37.	Verbal assault; any willful spoken threat to inflict physical injury under circumstances which create a reasonable fear of imminent injury, coupled with the apparent ability to inflict injury, against another student, district employee, volunteer, or contractor on school property, on a school bus or other school related vehicle, or at a school-sponsored activity or event.	E-F
38.	Dress or appearance; clothing and grooming must conform to school dress code policy.	A-C
39.	Indecent exposure, nudity, or similar conduct disruptive to the educational process or violating the civil code.	E
40.	Inappropriate sexual comments and behavior including the pulling down (commonly referred to as pantsing)	D-G

or up of another's clothing resulting in the exposure of undergarments leading to indecent exposure or nudity.

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| 41. | Sexual harassment; unwelcome sexual advances, any form of improper physical contact; unwelcome sexual remarks or other offensive speech or actions. | G |
| 42. | Sexual Conduct: consensual sexual behaviors occurring on school property, a school bus, or at a school sponsored event/activity. WARNING: The taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or otherwise (commonly called texting, sexting, emailing, etc.) may constitute a CRIME under state and/or federal law. Any person taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing obscene, pornographic, lewd or otherwise illegal images or photographs will be reported to law enforcement and/or other appropriate state or federal agencies, which may result in arrest, criminal prosecution, and LIFETIME inclusion on sexual offender registries. | F |
| 43. | Criminal sexual conduct: rape; sexual assault in a school building or on school grounds, on a school bus, or at any school sponsored activity. Police will be contacted. | G |
| 44. | Physical assault; causing or attempting to cause physical harm to another student through force or violence. | G |
| 45. | Physical assault; causing or attempting to cause physical harm to a district employee, volunteer or contracted employee on school district property, on a school bus or other school related vehicle, or at a school-sponsored activity or event. | G |
| 46. | Fighting; any quarrel involving the striking of blows or other bodily contact when: the student is physically provoked; spontaneous or the outgrowth of prior circumstances or disagreements; planned or prearranged or if involving gangs or groups of students. | D-F |
| 47. | The possession or use of a weapon (other than those listed below in No. 48) including but not limited to: bb guns, air soft guns, knife with a blade less than 3 inches) in a school building or on school property. The term | G |

weapon shall mean an object or instrument the principal use of which is to inflict injury or physical harm upon the person of another or the use of which may result in pain or suffering. The term weapon shall also include a facsimile of objects or instruments which are weapons. The term weapon shall additionally include an object or instrument which is not in and of itself a weapon as defined above, but where the possession or use of same is coupled with an intent by a student to inflict injury or harm upon another person.

48. Possession or use of a dangerous weapon (other than a firearm) in a school building or on school grounds. The term “dangerous weapon” means a firearm, dirk, dagger, stiletto, iron bar, knife with a blade over three (3) inches in length, pocket knife opened by a mechanical device, and brass knuckles (MCL 380.1313(4)). The definition of “firearm” in section 380.11 refers to the definition of that term in the federal Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994, which will, or is designed or may readily be converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive: G

- Any weapon (including a starter gun) which will, or is designed or may readily be converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive;
- The frame or receiver of any such weapon;
- Any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or
- Any destructive device.

49. Possession of a firearm G*

If a student possesses a firearm in a weapon-free school zone, the Discipline Tribunal will permanently expel the student unless the student demonstrates, in a clear and convincing manner, at least one of the following:

- The student was not possessing the instrument or object to use as a weapon or to deliver, either directly or indirectly, to another person to use as a weapon;
- The student did not knowingly possess the weapon
- The student did not know or have reason to know that the instrument or object constituted a “dangerous

weapon” ; or

•The student possessed the weapon at the suggestion, request, or direction of, or with the express permission of, school or police authorities.

50. School incorrigibility - Any student who repeatedly violates school rules. G
51. Gang Related Activity - affiliation through symbols, colors, promotion or acting on behalf of a gang. G

**Disciplinary action for all infractions marked with an asterisk are defined and set by Michigan state law for students in grades six and above, and will be disciplined at Category G Step 8. Police will be contacted.*

GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPOSITION OF APPROPRIATE DISCIPLINARY STEPS

The chart below prescribes the disciplinary steps to be assigned to each category at the various grade levels. To use this chart, find the infraction in the list on pages 8 through 15. Note the category listed after the appropriate infraction. Find that category on the chart below and move down the column to the proper grade level for the student in question. You will see numbers listed such as, 1-3. These are disciplinary steps, and are described on pages 17-19.

DISCIPLINARY STEPS IMPOSED FOR INFRACTIONS

	Cat. A Infraction	Cat. B Infraction	Cat. C Infraction	Cat. D Infraction	Cat. E Infraction	Cat. F Infraction	Cat. G Infraction
Kindergarten	Step 1	Step 1-2	Step 1-3	Step 1-4	Step 1-5	Step 1-7	Step 2-8
Grades 1-2	Step 1	Step 1-2	Step 1-3	Step 1-4	Step 1-5	Step 2-7	Step 3-8
Grades 3-5	Step 1	Step 1-2	Step 1-3	Step 1-4	Step 2-5	Step 3-7	Step 4-8
Grades 6-8	Step 1	Step 1-2	Step 1-3	Step 2-4	Step 3-5	Step 4-7	Step 5-8
Grades 9-12	Step 1	Step 1-2	Step 2-3	Step 3-4	Step 4-5	Step 5-7	Step 6-8

DISCIPLINARY STEPS

The disciplinary steps listed below will be followed in the administration of all disciplinary action. Corrective measures may be altered per administrative discretion for situations not defined within.

STEP 1: PRELIMINARY CORRECTIVE MEASURES

Whenever possible, school authorities will use corrective measures in assisting students to modify inappropriate behavior prior to the use of the more punitive actions described in later steps. Such corrective measures might include, but are not limited to:

- Verbal or written reprimands
- Counseling by school personnel
- Student-teacher conference
- Recommendation for health evaluation
- Recommendation for placement in special program
- Referral to non-school service agencies
- Transfer to different teacher(s) or class(es) within a building
- Assignment of extra classwork
- Assignment of appropriate work details
- Assignment to detention outside school hours
- Loss of bus riding privileges
- Loss of extracurricular privileges
- Loss of driving and parking privileges
- Loss of lunch room privileges
- Temporary class closure
- Monetary restitution
- Restorative practices

STEP 2: ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE WITH STUDENT AND PARENT

An administrative conference with student and parent will usually occur subsequent to the preliminary corrective measures described in Step 1, and may include a review of suspension/expulsion procedures.

STEP 3: SUSPENSION FOR ONE SCHOOL DAY

The duration of this suspension is for one school calendar day. The student is suspended from all classes, school related activities and transportation for one school calendar day.

STEP 4: SUSPENSION FOR THREE SCHOOL DAYS

The duration of this suspension is for 3 school calendar days. The student is suspended from all classes, school related activities and transportation for 3 school calendar days.

STEP 5: SUSPENSION FOR FIVE SCHOOL DAYS

The duration of this suspension is for 5 school calendar days. The student is sus-

pended from all classes, school related activities and transportation for 5 school calendar days.

STEP 6: SUSPENSION FOR TEN SCHOOL DAYS

The duration of this suspension is for 10 school calendar days. The student is suspended from all classes, school related activities and transportation for 10 school calendar days.

Step 7: Suspension

The duration of this suspension is for a definite number of days in excess of 10 school days and up to 59 school days.

Step 8: Expulsion

Expulsion is the removal from school for 60 or more school days.

BUS REGULATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

DISCIPLINARY STEPS IMPOSED FOR BUS INFRACTIONS

Regulations have been established to govern bus usage in order to avoid disruptions in transportation or school schedules, to prevent unnecessary damage or wear to vehicles and - most importantly - to protect student health and safety. These regulations are provided to students in detail each year, and they are urged to review them carefully. Buses are operated for the convenience and protection of students, and they are expected to observe all regulations if they wish to maintain bus riding privileges.

	Cat. A Infraction	Cat. B Infraction	Cat. C Infraction	Cat. D Infraction	Cat. E Infraction	Cat. F Infraction	Cat. G Infraction
Kindergarten	Steps 1-3	Steps 1-3	Steps 1-3	Steps 1-4	Steps 1-5	Steps 1-7	Steps 2-8
Grades 1-2	Steps 1-3	Steps 1-3	Steps 1-3	Steps 1-4	Steps 1-5	Steps 2-7	Steps 3-8
Grades 3-5	Steps 2-3	Steps 1-3	Steps 1-3	Steps 1-4	Steps 2-5	Steps 3-7	Steps 4-8
Grades 6-8	Steps 1-3	Steps 1-3	Steps 1-3	Steps 2-4	Steps 3-5	Steps 4-7	Steps 5-8
Grades 9-12	Steps 1-3	Steps 1-3	Steps 2-3	Steps 3-4	Steps 4-5	Steps 5-7	Steps 6-8

DISCIPLINARY STEPS

The disciplinary steps listed below will be followed in the administration of all disciplinary action. Corrective measures may be altered per administrative discretion for situations not defined within.

STEP 1: PRELIMINARY CORRECTIVE MEASURES

Whenever possible, school authorities will use corrective measures in assisting students to modify inappropriate behavior prior to the use of the more punitive actions described in later steps. Such corrective measures might include, but are not limited to:

- Verbal or written reprimands
- Counseling by school personnel
- Assignment of appropriate work details
- Assignment of detention outside school hours
- Loss of bus riding privileges
- Loss of extracurricular privileges
- Loss of driving and parking privileges
- Temporary class closure
- Monetary restitution

When appropriate, such corrective measures may be used in conjunction with, as well as preliminary to, other disciplinary actions.

STEP 2: ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE WITH STUDENT AND PARENT

An administrative conference with student and parent will usually occur subsequent to the preliminary corrective measures described in Step 1, and may include a review of suspension/expulsion procedures.

STEP 3: SUSPENSION FOR ONE SCHOOL DAY

The duration of this suspension is for one school calendar day. The student is suspended from all classes, school related activities and transportation for one school calendar day.

STEP 4: SUSPENSION FOR THREE SCHOOL DAYS

The duration of this suspension is for 3 school calendar days. The student is suspended from all classes, school related activities and transportation for 3 school calendar days.

STEP 5: SUSPENSION FOR FIVE SCHOOL DAYS

The duration of this suspension is for 5 school calendar days. The student is suspended from all classes, school related activities and transportation for 5 school calendar days.

STEP 6: SUSPENSION FOR TEN SCHOOL DAYS

The duration of this suspension is for 10 school calendar days. The student is suspended from all classes, school related activities and transportation for 10 school calendar days.

Step 7: SUSPENSION

The duration of this bus and/or school suspension is for a definite number of days in excess of 10 school days and up to 59 school days.

Step 8: Expulsion

Expulsion is the removal from school for 60 or more school days.

DESCRIPTION OF DISCIPLINARY STEPS

TEMPORARY CLASS CLOSURE

Class closure is the temporary denial of a student's right to attend a particular class or classes while a matter of immediate concern related to said class or classes is being resolved.

1. Classes may be closed by a principal or assistant principal for a period not to exceed three school days.
2. The student will be notified by the administrator of the class closure, of the reasons therefore, and of the requirements necessary for his/her readmission to class or classes.
3. If the matter of concern is not resolved within the specified period, alternate disciplinary action must be taken.

LOSS OF EXTRACURRICULAR PRIVILEGES

1. Building administrators may suspend students from participating in, or being present at, extracurricular activities.
2. Coaches and sponsors of extracurricular activities shall have the authority to determine whether a student may participate in said activities, but only on the basis of predetermined rules which have received proper administrative approval.
3. Professional staff members present at any extracurricular activity have full authority to require a student to leave such activity when the student's behavior violates established school rules. A report of said student's misconduct and of the action taken will be made to the appropriate school administrator at the earliest opportunity, and no later than the beginning of the next subsequent school day.

TEACHER INITIATED SUSPENSION*

A teacher may suspend a student from a class, subject, or activity for up to one (1) full school day for violations of Categories B & C, which could result in a suspension under the provisions of the District Student Code of Conduct.

1. The teacher shall immediately send the student to the principal and specify the reason for the suspension.

2. As soon as possible after the suspension, but not later than the next school day, the teacher shall schedule a parent/guardian-teacher conference, regarding the suspension. If feasible, the counselor, psychologist and/or social worker shall attend the conference. The principal must attend upon request of the teacher or parent/guardian.

3. The student shall not be returned to the class, subject or activity that school day without the consent of both the teacher and the principal.

4. Students attending separate class periods throughout the school day shall be permitted during the term of the suspension to attend other classes in the school building.

*MCLA 380.1309

SUSPENSION

A suspension is the exclusion of a student from the premises and the denial of his/her attendance at, or participation in, classes and other school related activities for a period of up to ten school days.

1. A suspension will normally begin on the day an infraction occurs, or on the school day immediately subsequent, though its commencement may be deferred for up to three school days at the discretion of the administrator involved. The nature of the infraction, the ability to provide timely notification to parents, the availability of transportation for the student, and the portion of the day remaining at the time of the infraction are among the factors to be considered in this decision.

2. No minor shall be sent home on suspension during the school day until a parent, guardian or other responsible adult has been contacted and assumes responsibility for the student.

Suspensions may be imposed by an administrator pursuant to the guidelines in this Code and according to the following procedures:

1. The student will be advised of the charge(s) providing the basis for testimony supporting the charges.

2. If the student denies the charge(s) he/she will be afforded an opportunity to present information relevant to his or her defense.

3. If the student is suspended, his/her parent(s) will be notified as soon as possible of the suspension, the circumstances leading to the suspension, its length,

the conditions necessary for the student's reinstatement, and their rights of appeal.

4. A written notice summarizing the above information will also be sent to the parent(s) as soon as possible, with a copy of the same maintained in the school office.

5. A conference will be held with the parent(s) to plan the reinstatement of the student in the regular school program.

Students on temporary suspension will be provided an opportunity to keep up with their school assignments subject to the following conditions:

1. It will be the responsibility of the student and/or the student's parent(s) to initiate a request for assignments.

2. The student or parent(s) will bear the responsibility for securing the assignments in a manner prescribed by the school.

3. Work on assignments may commence during a suspension period which exceeds three days, but will in all cases be completed and turned in within a reasonable deadline following reinstatement as prescribed by the school.

Community service in lieu of out-of-school suspension may be issued as a consequence when students are issued a number of days of suspension greater than the days of school remaining in the school year.

Students being promoted from one grade to the next, who receive a suspension during the final days of a school year, may be issued all or part of their days of suspension in the form of community service during the summer. Students who fail to complete assigned community service hours during the summer will be required to complete their remaining hours of suspension during the initial days of the following school year.

Seniors who are suspended in the final days of the school year, or during the time period between the last day of school and commencement, may be issued all or part of their suspension in the form of community service. All community service hours must be completed prior to the start of the commencement rehearsal (typically 1-2 days prior to commencement). Failure to complete all hours will result in the student being prohibited from participating in commencement.

Building level administration will determine the activity and dates for service which may occur on school grounds during school hours. All service must take place under the supervision of an adult assigned by the building administrator. Community service that is scheduled off site will require the building administrator to communicate with the supervising adult for approval of the dates and activities prior to the start of the service.

A 6 hour day of service replaces one day of suspension. All service will include labor that does not allow the student to be at rest when not on an approved break. Students must be on time, stay on task, and follow all school rules during the assigned service. Failure to do so will result in the denial of the opportunity to complete any remaining community service required, and the initial consequence of suspension will be enforced. This includes seniors being prohibited from participating in graduation. An in-school-suspension may not be considered as community service.

Seniors who commit an infraction of the student code of conduct that would result in a 10 day suspension (and occurs after the last day of school and prior to commencement) must serve a minimum of 30 hours of community service.

Infractions of the student Code of Conduct that require a disciplinary hearing before the Discipline Tribunal will prohibit building level administration from issuing the alternative consequence of community service. At the hearing, the Discipline Tribunal may, at their discretion, issue community service as part or all of a consequence.

SUSPENSION APPEAL PROCEDURE

SUSPENSIONS NOT EXCEEDING 3 DAYS

BUILDING LEVEL

A student or student's parent(s) may request a review of any suspension not exceeding 3 school days. The review will be to the building principal.

1. Building level reviews will be conducted by the building principal, except in cases where that administrator is a witness against the student relative to the suspension. In such cases, the Superintendent of Schools will designate another building administrator to conduct the review.

2. Building level reviews will be held within 3 days of the day on which the suspension is scheduled to begin.

SUSPENSIONS EXCEEDING 3 DAYS AND UP TO 10 DAYS

A student or student's parent(s) may request a review of any suspension exceeding 3 school days and up to 10 school days. All such reviews will begin at the building level, but may proceed to the superintendent or designee. Imposition/continuation of the student's suspension will be deferred during any appeal process unless his/her presence at school will endanger the welfare or property of other persons or of the school district.

BUILDING LEVEL

1. Building level reviews will be conducted by a building administrator

except in cases where that administrator is a witness against the student relative to the suspension. In such cases, the Superintendent of Schools will designate another building administrator to conduct the review.

2. Building level reviews will be held within 3 days of the day on which the suspension is scheduled to begin.

3. If the student or the student's parents are dissatisfied with the outcome of a building level review, and if the suspension involved exceeds 3 school days and up to 10 school days, they may request a district level review.

DISTRICT LEVEL

1. District level reviews must be requested within one school day after completion of the building level review.

2. District level reviews will be conducted by the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee, and will be held within 3 school days of the request for same.

SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS

1. A long-term suspension is a suspension for a definite period of school in excess of 10 school days and up to 59 school days.

a. The superintendent or designee has the authority to impose a long-term suspension based upon a finding of misconduct, and a recommendation from the building administrator.

2. An expulsion is the removal from school for 60 or more school days.

a. The superintendent or designee has the authority to expel based upon a finding of misconduct and a recommendation from the building administrator.

3. Procedure

a. A long term suspension or expulsion shall not be imposed absent an investigation by a building administrator or the Superintendent's designee. In the investigation, the student shall be advised of the misconduct with which he/she is charged, the evidence supporting the charges, and shall be given the opportunity to present his/her version of the alleged incident(s). At the discretion of the investigator, other persons may be interviewed, and may be requested to attend the hearing or otherwise requested to provide information which will tend to assist in the resolution of the charges.

b. Where, upon the conclusion of an investigation of the charges the

investigator determines that the student has engaged in misconduct which merits the imposition of a long-term suspension or expulsion, the investigator shall recommend, in writing, to the Superintendent or designee who has not investigated the charges that the student be so disciplined, identifying the basis upon which the recommendation is founded. The investigator may also, upon making such determination, impose an immediate suspension of the student, pending further review of the recommendation.

c. Upon receipt of a recommendation from the investigator for a long-term suspension or expulsion of a student, the Superintendent or designee shall review such recommendation and shall determine whether to retain the matter for a hearing to determine the appropriateness of long-term suspension, forward the matter to the Discipline Tribunal for a hearing to determine the appropriateness of expulsion, or take other such action as is appropriate.

d. If the Superintendent or designee determines that it is appropriate to pursue either a long-term suspension or expulsion, then the Superintendent or designee shall schedule a hearing before the Discipline Tribunal, when long-term suspension or expulsion is at issue.

e. The hearing shall take place within ten (10) school days following the commencement of the student's suspension or within ten (10) school days of the date of a manifestation determination review.

f. When expulsion is at issue and a hearing cannot be scheduled before the Discipline Tribunal within the ten (10) school-day period, or it appears to the Superintendent or designee that the Discipline Tribunal may not be able to conclude the hearing within the ten (10) school-day period, the Superintendent or designee shall offer the student and his or her parent(s) or guardian(s) an opportunity for an intermediate hearing before the Superintendent or designee, within the ten (10) school-day period or request an extension of time until the next available meeting date, on the merits of the charges and the propriety of continuing the suspension until the Discipline Tribunal may conduct a hearing.

g. At a Discipline Tribunal hearing as described in the preceding subsection before the Superintendent or designee, evidence in support of the charges shall be presented by the investigator. The hearing officer shall not be bound by formal rules of evidence and may limit disclosure of the identity of students providing information relative to the charges in accordance with statutes and case law concerning student discipline proceedings. All witnesses who testify at the hearing shall be sworn. The student may be represented by counsel and may present witness in his or her behalf as well as cross-examine witnesses who testify at the hearing in support of the charges. Following the conclusion of the evidence and within ten (10) school days following the commencement of the student's suspension, the Superintendent or designee shall render a decision. Appeal is to the Board of

Education.

h. At the conclusion of the evidence, the Discipline Tribunal shall deliberate and may do so in private. Following such deliberations, the Discipline Tribunal shall, through an appropriate resolution adopted by a majority vote of its members, either dismiss the charges or order the suspension or expulsion of the student, as the Discipline Tribunal deems appropriate and within the limits of its discretion, based upon a finding that the charges have been established through the evidence presented at the hearing.

i. If the Discipline Tribunal decides to expel the student, a letter outlining such decision shall be sent to the student and his or her parent(s) or guardian(s). If there is a reasonable cause to believe that a student who has been charged with misconduct is handicapped, and the student has not previously been evaluated by a school district or agency authorized by the law to do so, an evaluation shall occur prior to the implementation of any long-term discipline which would otherwise be imposed. In the event that it is determined that the student is handicapped, and in the case of a student who has previously been determined to be handicapped, the IEPC shall be convened to determine whether the events which are the subject of the charges were proximately related to the handicapping condition. In the event it is determined that either the student is not handicapped or, if handicapped, the events which are the subject of the charges were not proximately related to the student's handicap, the foregoing procedures shall resume from the point at which they were suspended. In the contrary event, the charges shall be dismissed and an appropriate alternative education program placement shall be determined.

j. Due Process Rights: If the student and/or parent(s) or guardian(s) elects to appeal the process that resulted in the Discipline Tribunal's decision to the Board of Education, the student's parent or guardian must submit their appeal in writing to the Superintendent within five (5) school days of the Discipline Tribunal's decision.

4. Potential Readmission

a. A student who is expelled may be readmitted to any school within the Oxford Community Schools at the discretion of Administration, unless the Discipline Tribunal decides at the time of expulsion that the student must petition the Discipline Tribunal for reinstatement. Following expulsion the Discipline Tribunal may, but is not required to, authorize administration to render services to the expelled student such as admission to an alternative educational program authorized to accept suspended/expelled students within the district for continuation of academic classes or assistance in obtaining placement in alternative programs in or out of the district. After the expulsion period, the student or, on behalf of the student, the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) may seek readmission by applying to the Discipline Tribunal through the Superintendent or designee. The Discipline Tribunal may, in its discretion and subject to paragraph (b) below, choose to readmit the student if the student can satisfactorily demonstrate that he or she had made a sincere effort at rehabilitation subsequent to the expulsion, will not represent a threat to the safety and welfare of the students, and will not disrupt the educational process of the Oxford Community Schools. The Discipline Tribunal shall base its

decision in part on the severity of the incident leading to expulsion. The Discipline Tribunal may further qualify readmission upon specified conditions which it determines are appropriate. Such applications shall be filed no earlier than forty-five (45) days prior to the commencement of the semester for which readmission is sought. Appeal must be made to the Board of Education within five (5) days of the Discipline Tribunal's decision not to readmit the student. The decision of the Board of Education is final.

b. A student who is found to have physically assaulted a staff member, committed criminal sexual conduct, arson, or to have been in possession of a dangerous weapon in a weapon-free school zone, as those terms are defined in the Revised School Code, shall not be admitted to school in the District except in accordance with Section 1311(5) of the Revised School Code.

The seriousness of a long-term suspension imposes stringent due process requirements for the protection of the suspended student's rights, and these should be scrupulously adhered to.

ACCESS TO STUDENT RECORDS

Any student legally an adult and the parent(s) or guardian(s) of any other student were extended the right to review, refute and/or seek the amendment of that student's school records under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. In most circumstances these records cannot be released to other parties or agencies outside of the school system without the written consent of the student, if legally an adult, or the student's parent(s) or guardian(s). The Oxford Schools do release student records to courts when required by law, and upon request, to other schools in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. They also release directory information (i.e. name; date and place of birth; dates of attendance, current grade placement and/or date of graduation; scholarships, awards and honors earned; participation in officially recognized sports and activities; height and weight if a member of an athletic team; addresses and telephone numbers for inclusion in school or parent-teacher organization directories only) at their own discretion, unless specifically requested not to do so by parent(s), guardian(s), or an adult student. Detailed information regarding the requirements and procedures of the above act will be made available to students and parent(s) or guardian(s) at the beginning of each school year.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Regular school attendance is not only consistent with Michigan law and policies of the State Board of Education, but it correlates highly with good academic achievement and helps develop valuable personal habits as well. Any absences other than those resulting from illness or family emergency are strongly discouraged, though with proper notification, they may be approved for medical or dental appointments

or other important personal business which cannot be conducted outside of the school day. Because of differences in facilities, programs, student age and maturity, specific attendance regulations may vary among different grades and buildings at the elementary and middle school levels. At the high school level the Board of Education has adopted uniform policies and procedures which are spelled out in detail in the Wildcat Student Handbook. All buildings and grades will provide for the maintenance of accurate attendance records, and for the timely notification of parent(s) regarding attendance problems.

CLASSROOM DISCIPLINE

Effective teaching and learning cannot take place in a disruptive and uncontrolled atmosphere. Teachers, therefore, have both the right and duty to maintain appropriate classroom behavior by imposing classroom discipline apart from, but consistent with, the principles described in the Code. Indeed, the extent to which formal use of the Code can be avoided is one measure of the general effectiveness of classroom discipline.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

In light of evidence that the application of physical pain for the purpose of punishing misconduct negatively affects the learning process, Michigan has enacted legislation to prohibit the use of corporal punishment in all its local and intermediate school districts.

This legislation defines corporal punishment as the act of deliberately inflicting physical pain by any means upon the whole or any part of a student body as a penalty or punishment for offensive behavior. It further provides that any person who is employed by, or engaged as a volunteer or contractor of, a local or intermediate school board shall not threaten to inflict, or cause to be inflicted corporal punishment upon any student.

Though the above does not preclude the use of reasonable force within the scope of a school employee's responsibilities to protect students, employees or others from immediate physical harm, or to take possession of dangerous objects or to protect school property - such actions must be clearly required by the circumstances.

Generally, the preliminary corrective measures suggested earlier in this document are to be employed, along with such other steps as might assist students to understand their school related problems, and to learn successful methods for resolving them.

CRIMINAL ACTS AND POLICE-SCHOOL RELATIONS

Certain acts of school misconduct are also violations of existing law, and are subject to legal procedures in addition to school disciplinary action. Law enforcement agencies will therefore be notified in such cases when deemed advisable by the administrator for protection of the student, other persons or public or private property. Such notifications, along with the circumstances surrounding them, will be recorded in the school office, and parent(s) of the students involved will be notified as soon as possible.

Police may enter the schools upon the request of school officials, when they have evidence of the commission of a crime, or if they have warrants for arrest or search. Police are requested to advise an administrator of their presence in a building, and whenever possible, to provide advance notification of a proposed visit. Police questioning of students while in school will take place in private and in the presence of an administrator and/or the parent(s) of the students involved. School officials will notify the parent(s) of minor students of any such questioning or proposed questioning, preferably so as to permit their presence

LOCKERS

Although lockers are assigned to students for their use and convenience, the lockers at all times remain the exclusive property of the School District, and students have no reasonable expectation of privacy regarding lockers. School district administrators and staff reserve the right to inspect and search a locker if they deem it necessary, with or without prior notice to students.

PREVIOUS MISCONDUCT

In order to protect the health and safety of students and employees, and to prevent threatened disruption to the educational process, an otherwise eligible resident student may be disciplined, suspended or expelled on the basis of

- a prior act of misconduct committed outside of school hours and/or off school premises when the student was not enrolled in the Oxford Community Schools;
- a prior act constituting a gross misdemeanor, and other acts of misconduct, while the student was enrolled in another school district if the act of gross misdemeanor or other misconduct would constitute a sufficient basis for suspension or expulsion had it occurred while the student was attending the Oxford Community Schools.

(If a person previously had been permanently expelled from his/her resident district and all other districts for a statutory, mandatory offense - possession of dangerous weapons, arson, criminal sexual conduct, or physical assault of staff - then the individual could not attend the School District in any capacity, unless so admitted on a discretionary basis following the petition for readmission process.)

STUDENT RIGHTS

Students have the right to assemble, circulate petitions, and otherwise express their personal opinions orally or in writing. The exercise of these rights must be such that they do not violate existing law, disrupt usual school activities, endanger health or safety, or otherwise interfere with the rights of other individuals. Communications which are obscene, defamatory or express racial, ethnic, religious or sexual discrimination are prohibited. Each school will adopt regulations which are consistent with the above standards, and will make these available to students and parents at the beginning of each school year.

NONDISCRIMINATION CLAUSE

Non-Discrimination Clause: Oxford Community Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex (sexual orientation or gender), disability, age, height, weight, marital status or any other legally protected characteristic, in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Nancy E. Latowski, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, 10 North Washington Street, Oxford, MI 48371, (248) 969-5004.