

DEMONSTRATIONS OF STUDENTS

It is recognized by the Morehouse Parish School Board that individual students or groups of students may, from time to time, feel the need to assert their collective sentiments in matters of public opinion. Students have a right to express their opinions, in a proper manner, and to exercise the opportunity to discuss any problem with their teachers and principal. It is the duty of the principal to always keep lines of communication open with his/her students, and to listen to the complaints in a fair and sincere manner.

In the expression of opinion, students shall be expected to conduct themselves in an orderly and controlled manner. Boisterous, unrestrained behavior by students shall not be tolerated. Disorderly demonstrations, sit-ins, lock-ins; or damages to school grounds, school plants, or school records shall not be permitted. Any type of demonstration that prevents the orderly progress of a school day, that prevents normal class functions, or that prevents nonparticipating students from their usual class activity, shall be considered unacceptable behavior and shall result in appropriate disciplinary action being taken by the principal. Students participating in such demonstrations shall be immediately suspended and removed from the campus; by force if necessary. Students who are suspended may be recommended for expulsion; such students shall not be allowed to return to the campus until the term of suspension and/or expulsion is terminated by the Superintendent or his/her designee.

DISRUPTIONS IN SCHOOLS

The Morehouse Parish School Board shall not tolerate disruptive acts or influence from any student or person at the schools. All school personnel are directed to immediately take action against any student or person who attempts to interrupt, interfere with, or obstruct the educational processes of the schools, and to report the name of any instigator or offender to proper law enforcement personnel and, if necessary, to the District Attorney's office.

Violators shall be subject to fines, imprisonment, or both. Student violators shall be suspended and shall not be permitted to return to school without the written consent and permission of the Superintendent.

When and if needed, local police officers and sheriff's deputies may be stationed at each school to ensure the safety of school personnel and students and to permit the schools to operate normally.

The following steps shall be taken in the event of any disruption of the normal operations of the schools:

1. The disruption shall be immediately brought to the attention of the Superintendent or his/her representative by the principal of the school. The

Superintendent shall have the authority at his/her discretion to alert the police authorities.

2. Students participating in a disruptive demonstration shall be directed by the building principal or his/her representative to go to their regular classroom assignment. At the same time the principal or his/her representative will arrange for a meeting between the administration and the individual, leaders of a group, or the group, if feasible, to discuss in a rational, orderly manner the problem which has caused the disorder.
3. Nonstudent demonstrators and other unauthorized persons will be directed by the building principal or his/her representative to remove themselves from school property forthwith.
4. In the event steps 2 and/or 3 fail to stop the demonstration, the Superintendent or his/her representative will ask the police to remove the demonstrators and any individuals failing to comply under step 3.
5. When necessary for their safety, students and staff may be directed to leave the building and school property.
6. At no time while any demonstration is in process, is the Superintendent or any school or School Board personnel to enter into negotiations on the issues with the protestors, either orally or in written form.
7. As soon as normal educational and business processes can be resumed, the Superintendent shall be charged with establishing communications with the leaders of the protesting group in order to resolve their requests or to refer them to the board in an orderly manner.
8. Students and/or employees participating in a disruptive demonstration on school grounds will be responsible for their actions.

Revised: March, 2025

Approved: June 3, 2025

Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§14:122.1, 14:328, 17:81, 17:416, 17:416.1; Jenkins v. Louisiana State Board of Education, 506 F 2d 992 (CA. 5th 1975); Board minutes, 6-3-25.