

VIRTUAL CLASSROOM STUDENT CONDUCT

The Morehouse Parish School Board provides students with virtual classes for use when schools are closed due to inclement weather or other unanticipated emergencies. The provisions herein have been adopted to clarify expectations for student conduct in the virtual classroom and to provide notice of possible consequences of inappropriate conduct in the virtual classroom. Regardless of the model of instruction, student conduct is governed at all times by state law and School Board policy, and the *Student Code of Conduct*. All rules and guidelines are in effect before, during, and after school hours for all virtual students, whether on or off the school campus. All classroom rules and regulations including respect for the teacher and adherence to general rules of interaction and decorum shall be followed and practiced at all time.

In order to ensure that students and teachers are able to work and learn in a safe and orderly virtual environment, it is imperative that students have a quiet, well-lit "classroom" space-free, to the extent possible, from toys, images, messages, personal property, or other items that may distract from teaching and learning or that may subject the student to disciplinary action. During virtual instruction, the student must be seated in front of a blank wall background, in order to limit distractions. Teachers must be able to observe the working space and student, especially during testing. During virtual instruction, the student's audio shall be muted until the student wants to speak. The "Raise Hand" feature shall be used, and the audio unmuted after the teacher calls on the student.

School and/or District officials shall be required, as mandatory reporters, to alert local law enforcement and/or the Department of Children and Family Services if they observe conduct, messages, images, or objects that raise legitimate concerns for the safety and well-being of students in the virtual classroom. This may include students handling weapons in the virtual classroom, even if it is subsequently learned that the weapon is real or not.

Students are responsible for completing assignments and tasks in accordance with predetermined due dates. Academic support will be available by appointment only. Please contact the home-based school to schedule an appointment. If equipment is lost or stolen, the school must be notified. A police report must be filed immediately if the equipment is stolen.

In the virtual environment, there is a set of non-traditional types of misconduct that must be regularly monitored and, if not eliminated, then disciplined appropriately. Accordingly, in addition to applicable district policies, the *Code of Virtual Conduct* incorporates the following non-exclusive list of behaviors that are prohibited in the virtual classroom may result in disciplinary action.

- Recording, posting, taking pictures or sending pictures of any class session, teacher, or classmates without consent.

- Distributing online class access codes to individuals who are not assigned to the class.
- Sending or posting antagonistic, harassing, slanderous or discriminatory language of any kind with regards to race, color, religion, sex, gender, intelligence, age, orientation, disability, socioeconomic status or any other legally protected characteristic or activity.
- Committing lewd or sexual acts.
- Stealing, using, or disclosing someone else's code or password without authorization.
- Participating in the viewing or exchange of pornography, nudity, images of nudity or obscene materials.
- Disturbing or disrupting the on-line learning environment.
- Eating and drinking during virtual instruction.
- Inappropriate dress (uniform shirt is required for participation).
- Having another individual take a test or prepare an assignment, or assist in the test or assignment without approval.
- Attempting to send or sending anonymous messages of any kind.

Student conduct that occurs in the virtual classroom may be subject to progressive discipline which, depending on the seriousness of the conduct at issue, will include an initial verbal warning and consultation with the student's parent or guardian, prior to any formal disciplinary action. The seriousness of the conduct at issue will dictate the actions of administrators and the nature of the penalty ultimately imposed. For example, a student may be subject to a severe penalty, even for a first offense, depending on the seriousness of the conduct at issue. If students violate these rules, the teacher or principal may use, but are not limited to, the following consequences:

- Formal warning, redirection, contact parent. Document in JPAMS.
- Mute individual to block unwanted, distracting or inappropriate noise from the meeting and/or disable video to block unwanted, distracting or inappropriate gestures on video. Document in JPAMS
- Temporary removal from the virtual class. Document in JPAMS.
- Referral to the principal. Document in JPAMS.

Administrator actions may include, but are not limited to, the following actions after considering (1) the age of the student; (2) whether the conduct disrupted learning in the virtual classroom; (3) whether the conduct was violent or threatening in any way; (4) whether the conduct was illegal; (5) whether the conduct interfered with the rights of teachers and/or students to work and learn in a safe and orderly environment free from inappropriate images, messages, language or behavior (6) whether the student has committed prohibited conduct in the past; (7) whether the student has received prior warnings or discipline for similar conduct.

- Student/Parent conference. Document in JPAMS
- Other means of correction/restorative practices. Document in JPAMS

- Digital citizenship assignment. Document in JPAMS
- Remove student to a waiting room 1 day - 1st suspension. Document in JPAMS
- Remove student to a waiting room 2 days - 2nd suspension. Document in JPAMS
- Remove student to a waiting room 3 days - 3rd suspension. Document in JPAMS
- Remove student to a waiting room pending a hearing and referral to alternative education setting for thirty (30 days). Document in JPAMS

ATTENDANCE

Attendance shall be recorded by the classroom teacher. Virtual students that log into zoom or a comparable distance learning session will be given credit for that day's attendance. When a virtual student does not log into the distance learning session for that day, the student is responsible for going to Google Classroom to get the day's assignment. The assignment must be turned in by the end of the week unless the due date is later. Students that turn assignments in on time will be given credit for attendance on the day that the work was assigned. Students are required to have their computer camera turned on when virtual classes are in session. Students enrolled in a program that requires physical attendance must understand the importance of consistent attendance. Blended students may be removed to the virtual program if they accumulate ten (10) or more unexcused absences and replaced with a student on the waiting list if one exists.

Approved: June 3, 2025

Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §17:416; Board minutes, 6-3-25.