

## CODE OF CONDUCT

Student participation in student government, clubs, performing arts, competitive activities and athletics is governed by the regulations developed and administered by the Montana High School Association and the Missoula County Public School District. The Athletic Code of Conduct is a commitment to represent self, school, family and the community in the most positive manner at all times. The Code of Conduct is in effect for the entire school year and all subsequent high school years, to include fall athletic practices in August and any school-sponsored events, regardless of the time of year. ([Seasonal Activities Code of Conduct Sign-Off](#) [Code of Conduct Parent](#))

The Code of Conduct includes the following:

### **Academic Expectations**

A student must achieve a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher and may not have an F in any subject at each grading period i.e. mid-quarter, quarter, and, semester, to be eligible for participation in competitive athletic and specific activity programs.

### **Citizenship Expectations**

Missoula County Public Schools offers a variety of voluntary activities designed to enhance the classroom education of its students. Students who participate in extracurricular activities serve as ambassadors of the school district throughout the calendar year either away from, or at school. Students who wish to exercise the privilege of participating in extracurricular activities must conduct themselves in accordance with board policies and must refrain from activities that are illegal, immoral, or highly inappropriate. Participation in activities is a privilege conditioned upon meeting the eligibility criteria established by the MCPS Board of Trustees, administration, and individual activity coaches and sponsors. The Activities Director shall keep records of violations of the Citizenship Expectations.

### **Alcohol / Drug and Other Conduct**

- A. The Code of Conduct shall be enforced during the school year when a student (regardless of age) is enrolled at MCPS for school-sponsored activities, including summer activities.
- B. Any student involved in an extra-curricular performing or competitive activity or athletic program shall not knowingly purchase, possess, use, transmit, or be under the influence of alcohol, tobacco, alternative nicotine product performance enhancing drugs, or controlled substances of any kind during a school year, regardless of the student's age. A student who finds himself or herself in jeopardy because of a substance abuse problem will be referred for professional assistance at the family's expense.
- C. Any student who knowingly finds himself/herself in the company of persons who illegally possess, use, transmit, or under the influence of alcohol, performance enhancing drugs, or controlled substance (i.e., frequenting of area, places, or sites where drugs and/or alcohol are present) is expected to leave within a reasonable period of time. Failure to do so will result in discipline as if they were in violation of this policy.
- D. Any student engaging in an inappropriate or offensive conduct or any act that would be grounds for arrest or citation in the criminal or juvenile court system, excluding minor traffic offenses, regardless of whether the student was cited, arrested, convicted or adjudicated for the act(s).
- E. Student Transfers: A student who transfers from one Missoula County Public School to another or from another district will maintain his/her accumulative offense status regarding the Code of Conduct.

### **Code of Conduct Violations**

1. First offense in a student's high school career: The student shall be suspended from competing or performing in a school-sanctioned activity for one year. Days counted include 12 calendar months beginning the date the student is notified of suspension.
2. Second offense in a student's high school career: The Student shall be suspended from competing or performing in any school-sanctioned activity for one year. Days counted include 12 calendar months beginning the date the student was notified of the suspension.
3. Third offense in a student's high school career: Full suspension from all extra-curricular activity programs for the remainder of the student's high school career.

**Reduction of suspension time:** A student can reduce the suspension time for first and second offenses by registering for an approved education course and providing documentation from the approved program he/she will participate in the course. The student will be required to submit evidence of course completion and shall continue to attend practices in the activity during the period of suspension if approved by the Athletic Director. First and second offenses can be reduced further if a student self-reports to the Activity Director or designee within 48 hours of the incident and completes the approved education course. First offenses are reduced to 30 days with the approved education course or 20 days with self-report and the course. Second offenses are reduced to 60 days with approved education course or 50 days with self-report and the course.

**Violations are cumulative during a student's four years in high school.**

**Appeals Procedure:**

Due process shall be given to all students with regard to administration of the code of conduct policy. Any appeals of consequences shall be made in writing to the high school administration. All appeals will be addressed through the Uniform Grievance Procedure outlined in MCPS Board Policy 1700. This process can be found on the MCPS website under the Policy section.