



**District Parent/Student  
Handbook  
2020-2021**

## **Disclaimer**

This handbook is not intended to create a contractual relationship with the student; rather, it is intended to describe the school, its current practices, procedures, rules, and regulations (or code of conduct) which may be subject to change based upon administrative or Board of Education action.

## **Board Policies**

Current board policies are available on the District website ([www.mahometseymour.org](http://www.mahometseymour.org)). See the **Board of Education** and select **Board Policy Manual**.

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## **Absences and Excuses**

When a student is absent from school for the day, a parent (or guardian) must call the school before 9:00 a.m. that morning. Absences for the following reasons are justifiable and, therefore, will be excused. For reasons 5, 6, and 7, absences should be prearranged if possible.

1. Illness of pupils.
2. Death of a relative or near friend.
3. Accident or emergency.
4. Absences for student competition and performances shall be prearranged and permitted at the discretion of the principal.
5. Religious holidays or other religious causes.
6. Trips on school business.
7. Medical and dental appointments that cannot be arranged for out-of-school hours.

While it is understood that in unusual circumstances, it may be necessary for students to be absent from school due to family travel, Mahomet-Seymour staff strongly discourage student absences for family vacations or travel. Teacher/student and student/student class interaction as well as in-class instruction is a very important part of the educational process that cannot be replicated outside of the classroom.

If a child is absent from school without validation from the parent/guardian, the school district will make a reasonable attempt to contact the parent/guardian by phone.

## **Asbestos Management Plan**

An inspection has been made of the Unit 3 school buildings for asbestos-containing material. Locations of this material have been identified and a plan to manage the asbestos condition has been developed to keep it in a good contained condition. This plan calls for the surveillance of the material by the asbestos responsible person as designated by the Board of Education every six months and for re-inspection at the end of three years. The plan is available for review at the Administrative Center during office hours.

## **Attendance Hours**

M-S High School	8:20-3:12
M-S Jr. High (6 – 8)	8:15-3:12
Lincoln Trail (3 - 5)	8:25-3:05
Middletown Prairie (K - 2)	8:30-3:00
Middletown Prairie (Pre-K)	8:30-11:00 and 12:25-3:00

## **Attendance Policy**

When a student will be absent from school, a parent or guardian is expected to call and report the absence and reason for the absence within a reasonable amount of time. If a call has not been made to the school by 10:00 a.m. on the day of a student's absence, an automated Skyward call will go out notifying the student's parent/guardian of the absence. If the school does not hear from the parents or guardians the absence will be marked unexcused. After ten days, the school will send a letter to inform the student and their family on the status of their child's attendance. At that point, the administration will determine if further absences will be excused.

While it is understood that in unusual circumstances, it may be necessary for students to be absent from school due to family travel, Mahomet-Seymour staff strongly discourages student absences for family vacations or travel. Teacher/student and student/student class interaction, as well as in-class instruction, is a very important part of the educational process that cannot be replicated outside of the classroom.

We may use or request the following interventions to improve attendance after 10 days:

1. Student Meeting
2. Parent Meeting/Contact home
3. Required doctor's note to excuse illnesses
4. Staff or Social Work check-ins
5. Home visit
6. Youth Assessment Center referral (JH and HS)
7. Referral to Attendance Improvement Program through the Regional Office of Education (for chronic absenteeism and for chronic truancy or for patterns that indicate a student is establishing poor attendance)
8. Other disciplinary measures

After the 15th and 18th absence, the school will send a letter to inform the student and their family on the status of their child's attendance. At 18 absences, the student will be considered Chronically Absent by the definition provided by the state.

Definitions:

**Chronic absenteeism:** If a student is absent for ANY reason for 10% (18 days) in a school year, he/she is considered to be chronically absent.

**Chronic truancy:** If a student is absent without valid cause for 5% (9 days) in a school year, he/she is considered to be chronically truant. Chronic truancy is a violation of the state compulsory attendance law.

This data is reported to the Illinois State Board of Education for inclusion on the Illinois School Report Card.

## **Birth Certificates**

Parents who are registering their child for the first time in the District must present a certified birth certificate. This is the certificate on file with the county clerk in the county in which the child was born. According to the Missing Children Records Act (325 ILCS 50/5) a pupil must provide a certified copy of his or her birth certificate to the school district within 30 days of enrollment.

## **Board Policy**

For reference to Board Policy not covered here, please see the Board Policy Manual on the District website ([www.mahometseymour.org](http://www.mahometseymour.org)) and in the Office of the Superintendent. Policies are continually updated and revised, and the District welcomes input from parents and community members.

## **Breakfast and Lunch Programs**

Mahomet-Seymour school meals are planned to meet federal guidelines. Hot breakfasts and lunches are available for children in grades K-12. Meal accounts can be replenished through Skyward Family Access. For grades K-5, the breakfast price is \$1.65 and the lunch price is \$2.20. For grades 6-12, the breakfast price is \$1.75 and the lunch price is \$2.40. The milk price without a meal is \$.40 per carton.

Mahomet-Seymour encourages all parents to complete the free/reduced lunch application. Depending on the income guidelines set by the Federal government each year, your child(ren) may qualify for free meals or meals at a reduced price. The preferred method for completion of

the free and reduced lunch application is through Skyward Family Access. Applications are also available in the school offices and online at the District website ([www.mahometseymour.org](http://www.mahometseymour.org)). Families must apply every year and meet the income guidelines set up by the federal government.

## **Child Abuse**

According to Illinois law, a staff member who has reasonable cause to suspect that a student may be an abused or neglected child shall report such a case to the Department of Children and Family Services. The DCFS phone number is 1-800-25-ABUSE (1-800-252-2873). (Traditional considerations of confidentiality shall not constitute grounds for failure to report such cases.

Abuse and neglect are defined by Illinois law but may generally be understood as follows:

1. Abuse is any physical or mental injury or sexual abuse inflicted on a child other than by accidental means by a person who is responsible for the child's health and welfare.
2. Neglect is abandoning a child, subjecting a child to an environment injurious to his/her welfare, or failing to provide the proper support, education, medical, or remedial care required by law by one who is responsible for the child's welfare.

## **Contacting Teachers During School Hours**

Teachers in each building are available thirty minutes before and thirty minutes after student attendance hours. At other times, a message may be left with the school secretary.

## **Crisis Plan**

In collaboration with the Mahomet Police Department and other community officials, the District has developed a Crisis Plan to keep your child safe while at school. In the event of an emergency, please stay informed through various media sources and phone messages sent from the Emergency Notification System (Skylert). **PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL.** If you are asked to pick up your child, you will be required to show a photo I.D. in order for your child to be released.

## **District Hours**

Offices in all buildings are staffed from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There are limited summer office hours for the schools; please call to check their summer schedules. The Administrative Center is open from 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. over the summer. All buildings are closed during Holiday and Spring Breaks.

## **Early Dismissal Days**

Early Dismissal days are a rearrangement of School Improvement days from previous years. ***On these days, students will be dismissed two hours earlier than normal, and are required to leave the building.*** Please see the school calendar on the District website for the Early Dismissal days. ([www.mahometseymour.org](http://www.mahometseymour.org))

## **Emergency Notification System (Skylert)**

To enhance communications between parents and schools, Mahomet-Seymour Schools have instituted a telephone, email and Twitter broadcast system that will enable school personnel to notify all households and parents by phone within minutes of an emergency or an unplanned event that causes early dismissal or school cancellation. This service is provided by Skylert, and is a part of the Skyward System. Mahomet-Seymour Schools will continue to report school closings due to snow or weather on local radio and TV stations in addition to the Skylert System.

The Skylert system will be used as an overlay to the public announcements.

When used, the service will simultaneously call all listed phone numbers in our parent contact list and will deliver a recorded message from the Superintendent or another school administrator. The service will deliver the message to both live-answer and answering machines. The Caller ID will display 217/586-4995 which is the Superintendent's Office number for Mahomet-Seymour Schools.

All information and contact numbers are strictly secure and confidential and are only used for the purposes described. **If you have changes to your student's contact information, please make changes in Skyward as soon as possible.**

## **Erin's Law**

Each year, students in grades Pre-K-5 will participate in sexual abuse education, as required by the state of Illinois under "Erin's Law", Public Act 96-1524. Erin's Law is prevention based and provides valuable information to students, in developmentally appropriate ways. Lessons will be provided by the building social worker, with the classroom teacher present as well.

Students in grades 6-12 are required to have information on teen dating violence, as well. This instruction is provided through Health Class in grades 6-9 as part of their Health curriculum. Students in grades 10-12 will be provided information during advisory, by the school social worker, the health teacher or another certified staff member.

Additionally, the law requires that all district staff be trained regarding sexual abuse and, for secondary teachers, teen dating violence. Training includes recognizing and reporting suspected child sexual abuse, how to respond to and support students who have been abused and strategies to support a safe and supportive school environment. All district employees are also mandated reporters of suspected child abuse, per state law, and undergo annual training for that as well.

## **Fees – Textbook Rental**

Parents will be required to pay the textbook rental fees during registration. Please pay online or make checks payable to *Mahomet-Seymour CUSD #3*. The fee is \$110 for grades K-5, \$135 for grades 6-8 and \$170 for grades 9-12.

## **Fees – Waivers**

Students will not be denied educational services or academic credit due to the inability of parents or guardians to pay fees and charges. Students whose parents are unable to afford student fees may receive a waiver of textbook fees. However these students are not exempt from charges for loss of and damages to books, materials, supplies, and equipment.

Applications for textbook fee waivers are available from the building principal's office, at registration, or on the District website ([www.mahometseymour.org](http://www.mahometseymour.org)), and may be submitted by a parent/guardian of a student who has been assessed fees. The parent/guardian shall submit written evidence as required on the textbook waiver form to determine eligibility for a waiver. A separate application form **is not** required for each student in a family.

A student may be eligible for a fee waiver when at least one of the following prerequisites is met:

1. The student is currently approved for free or reduced meals pursuant to 105 ILCS 125/1 et.seq.
2. The student is a ward of the court or of the Department of Children and

## Family Services (DCFS).

Administrative office staff shall determine the student's eligibility for a textbook fee waiver based on the school district's prerequisites for the waiver. If the waiver application is filed before September 30, parents/guardians shall be notified by October 10, of the acceptance or denial of their child's waiver of textbook fee application. If the waiver application is filed after September 30, parents/guardians shall be notified within ten (10) days of the acceptance or denial of their application. If an application is rejected, a reason will be stated. Parents may appeal the decision. Applications may be filed at any time during the year although textbook waivers are pro-rated after September 30. Families must apply for textbook fee waivers **each** school year.

### **Field Trips**

A field trip in Mahomet-Seymour CUSD #3 Schools is a school project involving a student group accompanied by a teacher engaging in an educational study. Field trips are carefully planned and coordinated with classroom instruction and are evaluated after the trip has been taken. The classroom teacher and volunteer parents supervise them. Written permission for each student to attend is required. All volunteers will undergo the appropriate screening based on the school activity(ies) for which he/she volunteers.

### **Food Allergy Plan**

All food services (i.e., hot lunch) in the Mahomet-Seymour School District are "nut free." Peanut butter sandwiches will be replaced with SunButter® and jelly sandwiches, and are offered on lunch menus and items containing nut products will not be served. Cafeteria seating in every building will be organized to minimize potential nut allergen contact. Teachers will be notified of students with severe food allergies. This will enable teachers to control the types of snacks provided in their classrooms. Parents are encouraged to choose an alternative form of protein or snack to send to school with their children that does not contain peanuts or other nut products. Some suggested protein alternatives include SunButter® Sunflower Seed Spread, SoyNut® Butter, hard-boiled eggs, or yogurt.

### **Freedom of Information**

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) of Illinois makes all school records open to public inspection and copying except where:

1. other statutes expressly forbid public access (such as certain information about individual students) or
2. a requested record falls under one of the exemptions provided by the FOIA.

Information on the Freedom of Information Act can be found in Board Policy 2:250. The Board Policy can be found on the District website. ([www.mahometseymour.org](http://www.mahometseymour.org))

### **Harassment of Students Prohibited**

No person, including a District employee or agent, or student, shall harass, intimidate or bully a student based on the basis of actual or perceived: race; color; nationality; sex; sexual orientation; gender identity; gender-related identity or expression; ancestry; age; religion; physical or mental disability; order of protection status; status of being homeless; actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy; association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned actual or perceived characteristics; or any other distinguishing characteristic. The District will not tolerate harassing, intimidating conduct, or bullying whether verbal, physical, or visual, that affects the tangible benefits of education, that unreasonably interferes with a student's educational performance, or that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment. Examples of prohibited conduct include name-calling, using derogatory slurs,

stalking, causing psychological harm, threatening or causing physical harm, threatened or actual destruction of property, or wearing or possessing items depicting or implying hatred or prejudice of one of the characteristics stated above.

Students who believe they are victims of harassment are encouraged to discuss the matter with the student Nondiscrimination Coordinator (Superintendent Dr. Lindsey Hall, 586-2161), Building Principal, Assistant Building Principal, or a Complaint Manager Nathan Mills or Christine Northrup, 586-2161).

For further information, see Board Policy 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited) and Policy 7:180 (Preventing Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment).

## **Insurance**

CUSD #3 does not offer student insurance but does provide information about insurance coverage on the District webstore. Questions about coverage should be directed to the insurance company rather than to the schools. The current provider is Markel Insurance Company. Their Customer Service Department can be reached at 877/444-5014 or [Markel.info@sevencorners.com](mailto:Markel.info@sevencorners.com).

Junior high and high school students involved in intramural or interscholastic sports, including cheerleading, are required to either purchase the current school accident insurance or provide proof of personal coverage. A Parent Permission & Insurance Verification Form for Athletes must be completed by all athletes. The form is available on the District website or in the Jr. High and High School offices.

## **Medical Protocol Guidelines**

All students with diagnosed medical conditions that might require intervention while at school must have a medical protocol on file with the student's building and with the school nurse.

Parents or guardians of those students must meet with the school nurse and any other staff deemed necessary by the building principal prior to the student beginning school. A medical protocol will be established to meet individual student's needs based upon information provided by the parents/guardians. Physician documentation of the condition and any necessary treatments may be required.

Staff will initiate treatment of the student's condition as per the medical protocol. If the protocol includes parameters, such as high or low blood sugar values for diabetic students, staff must be able to maintain or return the student's values to within the set parameters in one hour or less. If protocol led intervention does not correct the situation within one hour, the parent/guardian will be alerted to come and pick the student up from school until the parameters are regained.

If staff are unable to reach the parent/guardian by phone, or if the parent/guardian is unavailable to pick the student up from school immediately, emergency procedures will be initiated, beginning with a 911 call to have the student transported to the hospital.

## **Medical - Student Illness Guidelines**

Parents will be notified if their student becomes ill at school. When in doubt about your student's health, please keep the student at home. Students should not be sent to school if any of these

symptoms are present:

- Fever above 100.5
- Sore throat with fever or swollen glands
- Consistent coughing with pain or fever
- Vomiting/nausea
- Diarrhea

Children may return to school after 24 hours on antibiotic for a diagnosed contagious illness or 24 hours after fever, vomiting or diarrhea subside. Precautions in these areas are meant to protect your child and others.

Health problems such as diabetes, epileptic seizures, allergies, breathing difficulties, etc., must be reported to the District nurse and the teacher when the child is enrolled in school.

### **Medication Policy (Board Policy 7:270)**

Students should not take medication during school hours or during school-related activities unless it is necessary for a student's health and well-being. When a student's licensed health care provider and parent/guardian believe that it is necessary for the student to take a medication during school hours or school-related activities, the parent/guardian must request that the school dispense the medication to the child and otherwise follow the District's procedures on dispensing medication.

No School District employee shall administer to any student, or supervise a student's self-administration of, any prescription or non-prescription medication until a completed and signed "School Medication Authorization Form" is submitted by the student's parent/guardian. No student shall possess or consume any prescription or non-prescription medication on school grounds or at a school-related function other than as provided for in this policy and its implementing procedures.

Nothing in this policy shall prohibit any school employee from providing emergency assistance to students, including administering medication.

### **Medication Administration Procedures**

The following procedures will apply to the Districts policy on Administering Medications to Students:

1. The school will only administer prescribed medication necessary for management of diagnosed long-term, chronic illness or disability and ADD/ADHD.
  - a. **Antibiotics and over the counter drugs such as Tylenol, Ibuprofen, cough medicine, etc., given for acute, intermittent illness, will NOT be administered by school staff.**
2. Before any prescription or long-term over the counter medication will be given at school, a School Authorization for Medication form MUST be completed and signed by both prescribing physician and parents/guardians annually, and be on file in the school office. See #6 below for self-administration/Exception policy on long-term non-prescription medication.
3. All oral prescription medications that are prescribed to be taken during the school day **must** be brought into the school office, in the original container, by a parent or legal guardian. The medication must be handed to the secretary and

parents/guardians must then sign the Medication Refill Sign-in Sheet located in the school office. **No Exceptions!**

4. All oral prescription medications must be taken in the office, in clear view of the person administering the medication. Exceptions to this will be determined on a case by case basis by the District Nurse and the building administrator. Exceptions may include, but are not limited to: Prescriptions, such as digestive enzymes, for students diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis or other disease processes which directly impact their activities of daily living.
5. The School Nurse or administrator's designee will return any unused prescription medication to only the parent/guardian at the end of the school year.
6. If your student has a diagnosed condition, such as migraines, that requires long term or chronic need for non-prescription medication that they will self-administer, the parent and diagnosing physician or the District Nurse must sign an Exceptions to Medication form. Medications must be kept in an original, labeled container, and should contain no more than 1 day's dosage of medication; the student must also keep a copy of the Exceptions form with the medication. If the student is unable to self-administer/manage the medication, a School Authorization for Medication form must be completed by the diagnosing/prescribing physician for the medication to be kept in the school office. (see #2 above) The District Nurse and/or principal's designee will retain the discretion to reject requests that do not meet the medication policy.

### **Non-custodial Parent Rights**

District policy and state law provide for informing non-custodial parents of the progress of their children in school unless a court order exists preventing such action. A copy of any court order prohibiting contact with children or access to information about them should be filed with the building principal.

### **Non-discrimination Statement**

Mahomet-Seymour CUSD #3, in compliance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and other federal laws and regulations, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in any of its policies, practices, or procedures. The lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in educational programs.

Any person having questions regarding the above is directed to contact Mahomet-Seymour CUSD #3 Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Lindsey Hall, Title IX and Section 504 Coordinator, at 1301 S. Bulldog Dr., Mahomet, Illinois, 61853 or (217) 586-2161.

### **Parent/Student Handbook**

The Superintendent shall prepare disciplinary rules implementing the District's disciplinary policies. These disciplinary rules shall be presented annually to the Board for its review and approval.

### **Parent/Teacher Conferences**

Parent/Teacher conferences are held twice every school year: once in the fall and once in the spring. The purpose of these conferences is for the classroom teacher to review student progress with parents and/or guardians of every student in the school. Parents also have an opportunity to share their concerns regarding their child's performance in school.

## **Parental Involvement Opportunities**

The Mahomet-Seymour Schools believe that parental involvement is critical to the successful education of every child. Therefore, numerous opportunities for parental involvement are the hallmark of the Mahomet-Seymour Schools. Listed below are just some of the organizations, committees, and groups that parents may join. For additional information on any of these groups contact any school or district administrator.

1. High School Music Boosters
2. High School Athletic Boosters
3. Elementary P.T.O. (Grades Pre-K through 5th)
4. Secondary P.T.O. (Grades 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>)
5. Mahomet-Seymour Education Foundation

## **Pesticide Application Registry Notice**

Mahomet-Seymour CUSD #3 practices Integrated Pest Management, a program that combines preventive techniques, non-chemical pest control methods, and the appropriate use of pesticides with a preference for products that are the least harmful to human health and the environment. The term "pesticide" includes insecticides, herbicides, rodenticides, and fungicides. The District notifies all parents by email before pesticide applications at the schools. To receive this, and other District email notifications, provide a valid email address to your child's school office.

## **Physicals, Dental & Eye Exams, and Immunizations**

All students entering pre-school, kindergarten, sixth, and ninth grades, and all students new to the district must have physicals and proof of immunizations for diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, mumps, measles (rubella), German measles, chicken pox, Hepatitis B and pneumonia. All students in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and above must also provide proof of having received a Tdap vaccine and Meningococcal with a booster at grade 12. A physical examination must be completed within one year prior to registering your child into the above grades.

Children enrolling in kindergarten and any student enrolling in a public or private school for the first time are required to have an eye examination. The exam must be conducted by an optometrist or ophthalmologist and must include history, visual acuity, subjective refraction to best visual acuity near and far, internal and external examination, and a glaucoma evaluation, as well as any other tests or observations that in the professional judgment of the doctors are necessary.

All children in kindergarten, second, sixth and ninth grades must present proof of having been examined by a licensed dentist before May 15 of the current school year in accordance with rules adopted by the Illinois Department of Health. Dental exam forms are available in the school offices or on the District website. *If the completed form is not on file with the school by May 15<sup>th</sup>, the school can withhold the student's year-end report card.*

Students entering the Mahomet-Seymour District for the first time will have 30 days from the date of enrollment to provide proof of the required examination and immunization. If the previous school does not send the physical and immunizations with the records, it is the responsibility of the parents or guardians to obtain these documents.

Physical, eye, and dental forms are available in the school offices, at the Administrative Center (1301 S. Bulldog Dr.), or online at the District website ([www.mahometseymour.org](http://www.mahometseymour.org)).

## **Privacy Act**

Under the Privacy Act, parents are not required to have their child's name in the school directory.

Parents may opt in to a school directory through the parent portal in Skyward. Parents/students will not be included unless the parent chooses to do so.

### **Restrictions on Publications & Written or Electronic Material**

Students are prohibited from accessing and/or distributing at school or any school related activities any written or electronic material, including material from the internet that (1) is obscene, pornographic, lewd or vulgar; (2) has the purpose of harassing or bullying another student or staff member; (3) otherwise causes substantial disruption at school or school sponsored activities.

A student engages in gross disobedience and misconduct and may be disciplined for creating, distributing or accessing written or electronic materials, including but not limited to Facebook pages or any other social networking sites or internet blogs, which cause substantial disruption to school operations or interferes with the rights of other students or staff members.

For further information, see Board Policy 7:310 (Restrictions on Publications and Written or Electronic Material) and Board Policy 7:190 (Student Discipline).

### **Rights of Homeless Students**

The school district shall provide an educational environment that treats all students with dignity and respect. Every homeless student shall have equal access to the same free and appropriate educational opportunities as students who are not homeless. This commitment to the educational rights of homeless children, youth, and youth not living with a parent or guardian, applies to all services, programs, and activities provided or made available.

A student is considered “homeless” if he or she is presently living:

- In a shelter or sharing housing with relatives or others due to lack of housing;
- In a motel/hotel, camp ground, or similar situation due to lack of alternative, adequate housing;
- At a train or bus station, park, in a car, or in an abandoned building;
- Temporarily housed while awaiting DCFS foster care placement.

#### **All homeless students have rights to:**

- **Immediate school enrollment.** A school must immediately enroll students even if they lack health, immunization or school records, proof of guardianship, or proof of residency.
- **Enroll in:**
  - The school he/she attended when permanently housed (school of origin)
  - The school in which he/she was last enrolled (school of origin)
  - Any school that non-homeless students living in the same attendance area in which the homeless child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend.
- **Remain** enrolled in his/her selected school for as long as he/she remains homeless or, if the student becomes permanently housed, until the end of the academic year.
- **Priority** in certain preschool programs.
- **Participate** in a tutorial-instructional support program, school-related activities, and/or receive other support services.
- **Obtain** information regarding how to get fee waivers, free uniforms, and low-cost or free medical referrals.
- **Transportation services:** A homeless student attending his/her school of origin has a right to transportation to go to and from school of origin as long as (s)he is homeless or, if the student becomes permanently housed, until the end of the academic year.

Additional information can be found in the McKinney-Vento Act, 42 U.S.C. 11431 and the Illinois

## **Sex Offender Registration Act**

Public Act 94-0994, which was passed by the State of Illinois General Assembly, amends the **Sex Offender Registration Act** and requires school districts to notify parents that information about sex offenders is available to the public as provided for in the Act. The web site for the **Illinois Sex Offender Registry** is: <http://www.isp.state.il.us/sor/>. To view a map of registered sex offenders, please go to: <http://www.familywatchdog.us/>.

## **Sexual Harassment Policy**

The Board of Education and Mahomet-Seymour Administrators believe that students have a right to be free from harm perpetuated by antisocial acts while attending school. To that end, the District has approved a sexual harassment policy as related to students. For the complete Board Policy regarding harassment of students, see Policy 7:20 and 7:180 of the Board Policy Manual on the District website ([www.mahometseymour.org](http://www.mahometseymour.org)).

Students should report unwelcome activities of a sexual nature directed toward them to a building administrator or to a Complaint Manager. The two Complaint Managers are:

1. Christine Northrup, Director of Special Education, 586-2161
2. Nathan Mills, Jr. High School Principal, 586-4415

[Sexual Harassment and Sexual Bullying \(for Teens\) - Nemours KidsHealth](#)

[Sexual Assault & Sexual Harassment](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=HKk-pbeW3ic>

[Talking to Kids About Sexual Harassment ... Before They Even Know About Sex](#)

[How to Teach Consent to Elementary Students](#)

[Talking to Our Children about Sexual Harassment and Consent](#)

[Consent at Every Age](#)

## **Special Education**

The Mahomet-Seymour Unit 3 Schools offer a comprehensive Special Education program for children between the ages of 3 and 21. Unit 3 strives to provide the least restrictive special education environment in order for children to develop to their maximum potential. Parents are an integral part of the placement and on-going educational planning for children receiving special education services.

## **Special Education - Behavioral Interventions for Students with Disabilities**

Teachers and administrators should use behavioral interventions to promote and strengthen desirable adaptive student behaviors and reduce identified inappropriate behaviors. A policy outlining behavioral interventions for students with disabilities is available from the principal of

each school as well as the Director of Special Education.

## **Special Education - Parent Rights**

P.L. 94-142 and the State of Illinois Rules and Regulations to Govern the Administration and Operation of Special Education provide that every handicapped child in the United States has a free, appropriate public education. In order to meet this goal, these documents specify that as a parent you have the right:

1. To allow or deny permission for your child to be individually evaluated.
2. To have your child evaluated within sixty days of referral.
3. To fair evaluation procedures for your child.
4. To an independent evaluation if you feel the school's evaluation was inadequate or unfair.
5. To allow or deny permission for your child to be placed in a special education program.
6. To an individualized education program for your child, describing what he/she can do, and what goals he/she will aim for during the school year.
7. To participate in the development of your child's individualized education program.
8. To allow or deny permission to have your child's individualized education program changed.
9. To have a translator at all meetings you attend to discuss your child's program if you are deaf, or if your native language is not English.
10. To a due process hearing before an impartial hearing officer to resolve major disagreements you may have with your school about your child's program.
11. To bring an advocate, or friend, and/or legal advisor to meetings at which your child's individualized education program will be written and to due process hearings.
12. To view and receive copies of your child's school records and evaluation results, and to prohibit unauthorized persons from access to these records.
13. To request removal of inaccurate or misleading information from your child's records, and/or to include your own statement in your child's records.
14. To have your handicapped child educated with non-handicapped children to the maximum extent appropriate.

## **Special Education - Section 504**

The district has an internal grievance procedure for prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging any action prohibited by regulations implementing Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Individual students and/or a parent or guardian on behalf of the student should take any complaints to the individual in charge of the level where the alleged violation occurred. If relief is not received at that level, a formal complaint should be addressed to the Director of Special Education.

## **State Assessments**

The following assessments will be administered during the 2019-2020 school year as required by the state:

- Illinois Science Assessment – Grades 5, 8, and Biology 1 \*
- Illinois Assessment of Readiness – Grades 3-8 \*
- PSAT 8/9 – Grade 9
- PSAT 10 – Grade 10
- SAT – Grade 11
- ACCESS – Students that are identified as English Language Learners

\*Some students may take the Dynamic Learning Maps assessment instead of the ISA and IAR, per their Individuated Education Program.

Individual student scores from the assessments listed above are available to parents via Skyward or parent report printouts. District scores can be found at [www.illinoisreportcard.com](http://www.illinoisreportcard.com).

Additional assessments not required by the state will be administered at the discretion of the district.

For more information on assessments, please contact the Director of Instruction.

## **Student Behavior**

The goals and objectives of this policy are to provide effective discipline practices that: (1) prioritize the safety and dignity of students and staff; (2) maintain a positive, weapons-free, and drug-free learning environment; (3) keep school property and the property of others secure; (4) address the causes of a student's misbehavior and, to the extent possible and practical, provide opportunities for all individuals involved in an incident to participate in its resolution; and (5) teach students positive behavioral skills to become independent, self-disciplined citizens in the school community and society.

As is the case throughout the Board Policy Manual, the term "includes" when used in this policy means "includes, without limitation."

### ***When and Where Conduct Rules Apply***

A student may be subject to disciplinary action for engaging in *prohibited student conduct*, as described in the section with that name below, whenever the student's conduct is reasonably related to school or school activities, including:

1. On, or within sight of, school grounds at any time, including before, during, and after school hours;
2. Off school grounds at a school-sponsored activity or event, or any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school;
3. Traveling to or from school or a school activity, function, or event; or
4. Anywhere, if the conduct or reasonably could be foreseen to do any of the following: interfere with, disrupt, or adversely affect the school environment, school operations, or an educational function, including; conduct that may reasonably be considered to: (a) be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a staff member; or (b) endanger the health or safety of students, staff, or school property.

### ***Prohibited Student Conduct***

The school administration is authorized to discipline students for gross disobedience or misconduct, including:

1. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, selling, or offering for sale:
  - a. Tobacco or nicotine materials, including electronic cigarettes.
  - a. Alcoholic beverages. A student who is under the influence of an alcoholic beverage is not permitted to attend school or school functions and is treated as in possession of.
  - b. Any illegal drug or controlled substance, or cannabis. Please see Board Policy 7:190 and 7:270 for information specific to medical cannabis.
  - c. Any anabolic steroid unless it is being administered in accordance with a physician's or licensed practitioner's prescription.

- d. Any performance-enhancing substance on the Illinois High School Association's most current banned substance list unless administered in accordance with a physician's or licensed practitioner's prescription.
- e. Any prescription drug when not prescribed for the student by a physician or licensed practitioner, or when used in a manner inconsistent with the prescription or prescribing physician's or licensed practitioner's instructions. Please see Board Policy 7:190 and 7:270 for information specific to medical cannabis.
- f. Any substance, regardless of whether it contains an illegal drug or is explicitly prohibited by this policy, that is inhaled, injected, smoked, consumed, or otherwise ingested or absorbed with the intention of causing a physiological or psychological change in the body, regardless of whether such change is in fact caused. This includes pure caffeine in tablet or powdered form. The prohibition in this section does not apply a substance for which the student has a prescription from a physician or licensed practitioner where the student is using the substance in a manner consistent with the prescription or prescribing physician's or licensed practitioner's instructions, including a student's use of legally prescribed asthma or other inhalant medication.
- g. "Look-alike" or counterfeit drugs, which are any: (a) that a student believes to be, or represents to be, an illegal drug, controlled substance, substance causing a physiological or psychological change in the body, or other substance that is prohibited by this policy; or (b) about which a student engages in behavior that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student expressly or impliedly believes or represents the substance to be an illegal drug, controlled substance, substance causing a physiological or psychological change in the body, or other substance that is prohibited by this policy. The prohibition in this section does not apply a substance for which the student has a prescription from a physician or licensed practitioner where the student is using the substance in a manner consistent with the prescription or prescribing physician's or licensed practitioner's instructions.
- h. Drug paraphernalia, including devices that are or can be used to: (a) ingest, inhale, or inject cannabis or controlled substances into the body; and (b) grow, process, store, or conceal cannabis or controlled substances.

Students who are under the influence of any prohibited substance are not permitted to attend school or school functions and are treated as though they had the prohibited substance, as applicable, in their possession.

1. Using, possessing, controlling, or transferring a "weapon" as that term is defined in the Weapons section of this policy, or violating the Weapons section of this policy.
2. Using or possessing an electronic device in any manner that disrupts the educational environment or violates the rights of others, including using the device to take photographs in locker rooms or bathrooms, cheat, or otherwise violate student conduct rules. Prohibited conduct specifically includes—creating, sending, sharing, viewing, or possessing an indecent visual depiction of oneself or another person through the use of a computer, electronic communication device, or cellular phone.
3. Using or possessing a laser pointer, unless the student: (1) has express authorization by a staff member; (2) is using the laser pointer in the context of instruction; and (3) is under a staff member's direct supervision when using the laser pointer.
4. Disobeying rules of student conduct or directives from staff members or school officials. Examples of disobeying staff directives include refusing a District staff member's request to stop, present school identification, or submit to a search.

5. Engaging in academic dishonesty, including cheating, intentionally plagiarizing, wrongfully giving or receiving help during an academic examination, altering report cards, and wrongfully obtaining test copies or scores.
6. Engaging in hazing or any kind of bullying or aggressive behavior that does physical or psychological harm to a staff person or another student, or urging other students to engage in such conduct. Prohibited conduct specifically includes any use of violence, intimidation, force, noise, coercion, threats, stalking, harassment, sexual harassment, public humiliation, theft or destruction of property, retaliation, hazing, bullying, bullying using a school computer or a school computer network, or other comparable conduct.
7. Engaging in any sexual activity, including consensual sexual activity, offensive touching, sexual harassment, indecent exposure (including mooning), and sexual assault. This does not include the expression of gender or sexual orientation or preference, or the non-disruptive display of affection during non-instructional time.
8. Teen dating violence, as described in Board policy 7:185, *Teen Dating Violence Prohibited*.
9. Causing or attempting to cause damage to, or stealing or attempting to steal, school property or another person's personal property.
10. Entering or being present on/in school property or a school facility without proper authorization.
11. In the absence of a reasonable belief that an emergency exists, calling emergency responders (such as calling 911); signaling or setting off alarms or signals indicating the presence of an emergency; or indicating the presence of a bomb or explosive device on school grounds, school bus, or at any school activity.
12. Being absent without a recognized excuse; State law and School Board policy regarding truancy control will be used with chronic and habitual truants.
13. Being involved with any public school fraternity, sorority, or secret society, including by: (a) being a member; (b) promising to join; (c) pledging to become a member; or (d) soliciting any other person to join, promise to join, or be pledged to become a member.
14. Being involved in gangs or gang-related activities, including displaying gang symbols or paraphernalia.
15. Violating any criminal law, including assault, battery, arson, theft, gambling, eavesdropping, vandalism, and hazing.
16. Making an explicit threat on an Internet website against a school employee, a student, or any school-related personnel if the Internet website through which the threat was made is a site that was accessible within the school at the time the threat was made or was available to third parties who worked or studied within the school grounds at the time the threat was made, and the threat could be reasonably interpreted as threatening to the safety and security of the threatened individual because of his or her duties or employment status or status as a student inside the school.
17. Operating an unmanned aircraft system (UAS) or drone for any purpose on school grounds or at any school event unless granted permission by the Superintendent or designee.
18. Engaging in any activity, on or off campus, that interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the school environment, school operations, or an educational function, including conduct that may reasonably be considered to: (a) be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a staff member; or (b) endanger the health or safety of students, staff, or school property.

For purposes of this policy, the term "possession" includes having control, custody, or care, of

an object or substance, including situations in which the item is: (a) on the student's person; (b) contained in another item belonging to, or under the control of, the student, such as in the student's clothing, backpack, or automobile; (c) in a school's student locker, desk, or other school property; or (d) at any location on school property or at a school-sponsored event.

Efforts, including the use of positive interventions and supports, shall be made to deter students, while at school or a school-related event, from engaging in aggressive behavior that may reasonably produce physical or psychological harm to someone else. The Superintendent or designee shall notify the parent/guardian of a student who engages in aggressive behavior about the incident. The failure to provide such notification does not limit the Board's authority to impose discipline, including suspension or expulsion, for such behavior.

No disciplinary action shall be taken against any student that is based totally or in part on the refusal of the student's parent/guardian to administer or consent to the administration of psychotropic or psychostimulant medication to the student.

### Disciplinary Measures

School officials shall limit the number and duration of expulsions and out-of-school suspensions to the greatest extent practicable, and, where practicable and reasonable, shall consider forms of non-exclusionary discipline before using out-of-school suspensions or expulsions. School personnel shall not advise or encourage students to drop out voluntarily due to behavioral or academic difficulties. Potential disciplinary measures include any of the following:

1. Notifying parent(s)/guardian(s).
2. Disciplinary conference.
3. Withholding of privileges.
4. Temporary removal from the classroom.
5. Return of property or restitution for lost, stolen, or damaged property.
6. In-school suspension. The Building Principal or designee shall properly supervise the student.
7. After-school study or Saturday study provided the student's parent/guardian has been notified. If transportation arrangements cannot be agreed upon, an alternative disciplinary measure must be used. The student must be supervised by the detaining teacher or the Building Principal or designee.
8. Community service with local public and nonprofit agencies that enhances community efforts to meet human, educational, environmental, or public safety needs. The District will not provide transportation. School administration shall use this option only as an alternative to another disciplinary measure, when appropriate, giving the student and/or parent/guardian the choice.
9. Seizure of contraband; confiscation and temporary retention of personal property that was used to violate this policy or school disciplinary rules.
10. Suspension of bus riding privileges in accordance with Board policy 7:220, *Bus Conduct*.
11. Out-of-school suspension from school and all school activities in accordance with Board policy 7:200, *Suspension Procedures*. A student who has been suspended may also be restricted from being on school grounds and at school activities.
12. Expulsion from school and all school activities for a definite time period not to exceed 2 calendar years in accordance with Board policy 7:210, *Expulsion Procedures*. A student who has been expelled may also be restricted from being on school grounds and at school activities.

13. Transfer to an alternative program if the student is expelled or if the parent/guardian agrees to such transfer. The transfer shall be in the manner provided in Article 13A or 13B of the School Code.
14. Notifying juvenile authorities or other law enforcement whenever the conduct involves criminal activity, including illegal drugs (controlled substances), "look-alikes," alcohol, or weapons or in other circumstances as authorized by the reciprocal reporting agreement between the District and local law enforcement agencies.

The above list of disciplinary measures is a range of options that will not always be applicable in every case. In some circumstances, it may not be possible to avoid suspending or expelling a student because behavioral interventions, other than a suspension and expulsion, will not be appropriate and available, and the only reasonable and practical way to resolve the threat and/or address the disruption is a suspension or expulsion.

Corporal punishment is prohibited. Corporal punishment is defined as slapping, paddling, or prolonged maintenance of students in physically painful positions, or intentional infliction of bodily harm. Corporal punishment does not include reasonable force as needed to maintain safety for students, staff, or other persons, or for the purpose of self-defense or defense of property.

### **Weapons**

A student who is determined to have brought one of the following objects to school, any school-sponsored activity or event, or any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school shall be expelled for a period of at least one calendar year but not more than 2 calendar years:

1. A firearm, meaning any gun, rifle, shotgun, or weapon as defined by Section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code (18 U.S.C. § 921), firearm as defined in Section 1.1 of the Firearm Owners Identification Card Act (430 ILCS 65/), or firearm as defined in Section 24-1 of the Criminal Code of 1961 (720 ILCS 5/24-1).
2. A knife, brass knuckles, or other knuckle weapon regardless of its composition, a billy club, or any other object if used or attempted to be used to cause bodily harm, including "look-alikes" of any firearm as defined above.

The expulsion requirement under either paragraph 1 or 2 above may be modified by the Superintendent, and the Superintendent's determination may be modified by the Board on a case-by-case basis. The Superintendent or designee may grant an exception to this policy, upon the prior request of an adult supervisor, for students in theatre, cooking, ROTC, martial arts, and similar programs, whether or not school-sponsored, provided the item is not equipped, nor intended, to do bodily harm.

This policy's prohibitions concerning weapons apply regardless of whether: (1) a student is licensed to carry a concealed firearm, or (2) the Board permits visitors, who are licensed to carry a concealed firearm, to store a firearm in a locked vehicle in a school parking area.

### **ACTS OF MISCONDUCT - LEVEL I**

1. Misconduct in or around a school vehicle.
2. Classroom disturbances.
3. Dishonesty.
4. Littering - careless discarding of rubbish or other items.
5. Loitering - standing idly about or loafing in classrooms or other parts of a school building or on school grounds when asked to refrain from this action.
6. Misrepresentation.

7. Tardiness.
8. Truancy.
9. Disobeying directives from staff members or school officials and/or rules and regulations governing student conduct.

**SCHOOL BEHAVIOR ACTIONS/PROCEDURES**

Within each of the Levels of Misconduct a range of dispositions is possible. The staff member handling the case will select the appropriate disposition.

**LEVEL I**

Reprimand	Detention
Parent Call	Restorative Practices
Parent Teacher Conference	Parent/Administrator Conference

**ACTS OF MISCONDUCT - LEVEL II**

1. Especially serious, unmodified, multiple or repeated Levels I Acts of Misconduct. Especially serious, unmodified, multiple or repeated violations of Level I Acts of Misconduct may cause the infraction to be treated as Level II, III or Level IV misconduct.
2. Disrespect/Insubordination - Open or persistent defiance of authority and/or school rules and regulations. Included are verbal abuses, use of obscenities or recognizable derogatory gestures.
3. Failure to abide by corrective action for misconduct.
4. Failure to follow directions of school personnel.
5. Forgery or the use of forged notes or passes.
6. Gambling.
7. Refusal to identify self.
8. Stealing or theft (minor) - Covers small inexpensive items, i.e., books, pencils, etc. The unauthorized taking of larger, more expensive items would cause the infraction to fall under level IV of this policy.
9. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, selling or offering for sale: tobacco or nicotine materials, including electronic cigarettes.
10. Verbal Abuse: Name calling, profanity, obscenity, racial slurs or other derogatory statements or gestures.

**SCHOOL BEHAVIOR ACTIONS/PROCEDURES**

Within each of the Levels of Misconduct a range of dispositions is possible. The staff member handling the case will select the appropriate disposition.

**LEVEL II**

Detention	Parent Administrator Conference
Restorative Practices	Social Probation
In-School Suspension	Saturday Supervised Study
Suspension	

**ACTS OF MISCONDUCT - LEVEL III**

1. Especially serious, unmodified, multiple or repeated Levels I or II Acts of Misconduct.

Especially serious, unmodified, multiple or repeated violations of Levels I, II, or III Acts of Misconduct may cause the infraction to be treated as Level II, III or Level IV misconduct.

2. Threats to others - A threat to apply force or threat to do physical injury to another student or to school personnel.
3. Trespassing on school property - this applies to one or more of the following acts:
  - a. Entering upon or in property without justification or without implied or actual permission.
  - b. Entering or remaining upon or in school property without justification after being notified or requested to abstain from entering or after being told to leave.
  - c. Entering an area of the school building that is restricted in use and so posted.
4. Vandalism - Defacement or destruction of any school building or fixture including the willful writing, making marks, drawing characters, etc. on walls, furniture or fixtures.
5. Other acts of misconduct which seriously are disruptive and/or which create a safety hazard to students, staff and/or school property may be considered Level III.
6. Violation of the constitutional rights of another person.
7. Using violence, force, noise, coercion, threats, intimidation, fear or other comparable conduct toward anyone or urging other students to engage in such conduct.
8. Unexcused absenteeism; however, the truancy statutes and Board policy will be utilized for chronic and habitual truants.
9. Being a member of or joining or promising to join, or becoming pledged to become a member of, soliciting any other person to join, promise to join, or be pledged to become a member of any secret society.
10. Involvement in gangs or gang-related activities, including the display of gang symbols or paraphernalia.
11. Engaging in any activity that constitutes an interference with school purposes or an educational function or is disruptive.
12. Causing or attempting to cause damage to school property or another person's personal property.
13. Engaging in academic dishonesty

### **SCHOOL BEHAVIOR ACTIONS/PROCEDURES**

Within each of the Levels of Misconduct a range of dispositions is possible. The staff member handling the case will select the appropriate disposition.

#### **LEVEL III**

Social Probation	In-School Suspension
Restitution	Restorative Practices
Saturday Supervised Study Hall	Suspension
Expulsion	

### **ACTS OF MISCONDUCT - LEVEL IV**

1. Especially serious, unmodified, multiple or repeated Level I, II or III Acts of Misconduct.
2. Bomb Threats - The conveyance of threats or false information regarding bombs or the placement of any device, which could reasonably cause harm to self or others.
3. Extortion - The use of force or negative consequences or the threatened use of force or negative consequences to obtain another person's money, property or with the intent to compel someone to do something he or she would not otherwise do.
4. Fighting, assault, battery.
5. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, selling or offering for sale:
  - Any illegal drug or controlled substance, or cannabis (including medical cannabis, marijuana, and hashish).

- Alcoholic Beverages. A student who is under the influence of an alcoholic beverage is not permitted to attend school or school functions and is treated as in possession of.
  - Any prescription drug when not prescribed for the student by a physician or licensed practitioner, or when used in a manner inconsistent with the prescription or prescribing physician's or licensed practitioner's instructions.
  - "Look-alike" or counterfeit drugs, which are any: (a) that a student believes to be, or represents to be, an illegal drug, controlled substance, substance causing a physiological or psychological change in the body, or other substance that is prohibited by this policy; or (b) about which a student engages in behavior that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student expressly or impliedly believes or represents the substance to be an illegal drug, controlled substance, substance causing a physiological or psychological change in the body, or other substance that is prohibited by this policy. The prohibition in this section does not apply a substance for which the student has a prescription from a physician or licensed practitioner where the student is using the substance in a manner consistent with the prescription or prescribing physician's or licensed practitioner's instructions.
  - Any substance, regardless of whether it contains an illegal drug or is explicitly prohibited by this policy, that is inhaled, injected, smoked, consumed, or otherwise ingested or absorbed with the intention of causing a physiological or psychological change in the body, regardless of whether such change is in fact caused. This includes pure caffeine in tablet or powdered form. The prohibition in this section does not apply a substance for which the student has a prescription from a physician or licensed practitioner where the student is using the substance in a manner consistent with the prescription or prescribing physician's or licensed practitioner's instructions, including a student's use of legally prescribed asthma or other inhalant medication.
  - Drug paraphernalia, including devices that are or can be used to: (a) ingest, inhale, or inject cannabis or controlled substances into the body; and (b) grow, process, store, or conceal cannabis or controlled substances.
6. Possession or sale of stolen property.
  7. Signaling or setting off alarms or signals indicating the presence of an emergency.
  8. Stealing or theft- taking the property of others with or without the threat of violence. (Refers to items of greater value than those described in stealing under Level II)
  9. Acts of Violence against school personnel or others.
  10. Using, possessing, controlling, or transferring a "weapon" to produce bodily harm.
  11. Setting Fires.
  12. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, selling or offering for sale: explosives, firearms, knives or any other object is used as a weapon or the use of which as a weapon is threatened.

## **SCHOOL BEHAVIOR ACTIONS/PROCEDURES**

Within each of the Levels of Misconduct a range of dispositions is possible. The staff member handling the case will select the appropriate disposition.

### **LEVEL IV**

#### **Level III Consequences Plus**

In-School Suspension  
 Saturday School (JH and HS only)  
 Out of School Suspension  
 Expulsion

Before any punishment is imposed in any disciplinary setting, the student shall be given the opportunity to deny or explain his or her conduct.

Corporal punishment is prohibited. Corporal punishment is defined as slapping, paddling, or prolonged maintenance of students in physically painful positions, or intentional infliction of bodily harm. Corporal punishment does not include reasonable force as needed to maintain safety for students, staff, or other persons, or for the purpose of self-defense or defense of property.

For Further Information, See Board Policy 7:190, Student Behavior.

### **Delegation of Authority**

Each teacher, and any other school personnel when students are under his or her charge, is authorized to impose any disciplinary measure, other than suspension or expulsion, corporal punishment or in-school suspension, which is appropriate and in accordance with the policies and rules on student discipline. Teachers, other certificated employees, and other persons (whether or not certificated) providing a related service for or with respect to a student, may use reasonable force as needed to maintain safety for other students, school personnel or persons, or for the purpose of self-defense or defense of property. Teachers may remove students from a classroom for disruptive behavior.

The Superintendent, Building Principal, Assistant Building Principal are authorized to impose the same disciplinary measures as teachers and may suspend students guilty of gross disobedience or misconduct from school (including all school functions) and from riding the school bus, up to 10 consecutive school days, provided the appropriate procedures are followed.

The School Board may suspend a student from riding the bus in excess of 10 consecutive days for safety reasons and may expel students guilty of gross disobedience or misconduct for the remainder of the school term or for a shorter period as determined by the Board.

### **Student Records**

In compliance with state and federal law, the District shall maintain two sets of student records. These shall be a permanent record, which includes basic identifying transcripts, attendance records, accident/health reports, and information pertaining to release of this record. Additionally, the permanent record may include honors/awards, and activities/athletics. No other information shall be placed in the permanent record. The permanent record shall be maintained for at least sixty (60) years after the student has graduated, withdrawn, or transferred from the District.

The District shall also maintain a temporary record which may include family background, intelligence/aptitude scores, achievement test results, psychological reports, honors/awards, athletics/activities, expulsion notices, teacher anecdotal records, information pertaining to release of this record, and other relevant information not required to be in the permanent record. Information in this record shall reference authorship and date. Temporary records are reviewed at least every four (4) years or upon a student's change in attendance centers, whichever occurs first, to verify entries and correct inaccurate information. The District shall maintain the student's temporary record during the period of usefulness to the school and the student, but in no case longer than five (5) years after the student has transferred, graduated, or permanently withdrawn from the District. The District, however, may maintain indefinitely anonymous information for authorized research and planning.

## **Student Records – Access To**

The parents/guardians of a student under eighteen (18) or a designee of such parents/guardians shall be entitled to inspect and copy information in the student's school records. A student shall have the right to inspect and copy his/her school student permanent and temporary records. When the student reaches eighteen (18) years of age, graduates from high school, marries, or enters military service, all rights and privileges accorded to a parent under the Illinois School Student Records Act shall become exclusively those of the student. The District shall notify students and the parents/guardians of such rights upon the initial enrollment or transfer of a student to the District. In cases of divorce or separation, both parents shall be permitted to inspect and copy the student's school records unless a court order indicates otherwise. At the option of the parent/s guardians, a designee of the parents/guardians, or an eligible student of the District, a qualified professional may be present to assist in the interpretation of the student's records.

A request for access to the records shall be made in writing and directed to the Superintendent or his/her designee. Access to the records shall be granted within seven (7) days of the District's receipt of such a request. All requests shall be handled pursuant to the Illinois School Students Records Act. Access shall not be granted to the parents/guardians or the student to confidential letters and statements of recommendation concerning admission to a post-secondary educational institution, applications for employment, or the receipt of an honor or award which has been placed in the records prior to January 1, 1975, provided such letters and statements are not used for purposes other than those for which they were specifically intended.

The parents/guardians or students shall be entitled to challenge the accuracy and/or relevancy of any information in the records except grades and to request a hearing pursuant thereto.

The District shall grant access to information included in student records under the following guidelines:

1. The District or any employee of the District shall not release, disclose, or grant access to information found in **any** student record except under the conditions set forth in the *Illinois School Student Records Act (ISSRA)* and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Regulations.
2. The release of records to parents and students for inspection and copying shall be in accordance with District policy and with the ISSRA and ISBE Regulations. The District may charge the actual cost, as stipulated in the *Illinois Freedom of Information Act*, for copying information in the student's records. However, no individual shall be precluded from copying information because of financial hardship.
3. The District shall grant access to, or release information from, student records without parental/guardian consent or notification to employees or officials of the District or the Illinois State Board of Education provided a **current**, demonstrable, educational, or administrative need is shown. No employee or official is allowed to make copies of these records unless a specific need for such copies is shown.
4. The District shall grant access to, or release information from, student records without parental/guardian consent or notification to any person for the purpose of research and statistical reporting or planning provided that no student or parent/guardian can be identified from the information released, the person to whom the information is released signs an affidavit agreeing to comply with all applicable statutes and rules pertaining to school student records, and the Board of Education approves of the research design and purpose.
5. The District shall grant access to or release information from a student's records pursuant to a valid Court order.
6. The District shall grant access to or release information from any student record to persons

authorized or required to gain access to such records under federal or state statute.

7. The District shall grant access to or release information from student records to any person possessing a written, dated consent, signed by the parents/guardians or eligible student with particularity to whom the records may be released, the information or record to be released, and the reason for release.
8. The District may release student records to the Superintendent or his/her designee of other schools in which the student has enrolled or intends to enroll upon written request from such official.
9. Prior to the release of any records or information under items 5, 6, 7, and 8 above, the District shall provide prompt, written notice to the parents/guardians or eligible student of this intended action. This notification shall include a statement concerning the nature and substance of the records to be released and the right to inspect, copy, and challenge the records as well as the right to submit written statements into the record prior to release. If the release of records or information is pursuant to item 5, the notification shall include, in addition to the foregoing, a statement of the terms of the court order.
10. The District may release student records or information under certain emergency situations without parental consent if the knowledge of such information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other persons. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall make this decision taking into consideration the nature of the emergency, the seriousness of the threat to health or safety of the student or other persons, the need for such records to meet the emergency, and whether the persons to whom such records are released are in a position to deal with the emergency. The District shall notify the parents/guardians or eligible student as soon as possible of the information released.
11. The District may release "directory" information regarding any student unless the parents/guardians or eligible student requests in writing that any or all such information not be released. Directory information shall be released to United States military recruiters and college/university recruiters. Directory information shall not be made available to for-profit institutions. Indicate your choice during online registration.
12. A record of all release of information from student records shall be kept as part of such records. This record shall be maintained for the life of the student record and shall be accessible only to the parent/s guardians or eligible student and the Superintendent or designee.
13. The District shall provide a written statement of the confidentiality requirements of Illinois and federal statutes and regulations concerning student records to any person to whom such records are released or made accessible (except parents/guardians or students).

## **Substance Abuse**

The Board of Education believes substance abuse to be a community health problem that is preventable through appropriate health, disciplinary, education, and counseling interaction. Any Mahomet-Seymour School District student suspected of violating this substance abuse policy will be referred to the appropriate administrator within his/her school for evaluation and action.

Mahomet-Seymour Schools are not, nor ever should be, a sanctuary from the laws of the federal, state, or local government. Therefore, consistent with existing laws governing the sale or delivery, possession, or use of alcohol, drugs, drug paraphernalia, "look-alikes," or marijuana, any student found to be in violation of these laws will be immediately reported to the appropriate law enforcement official for possible investigation and action.

## **Technology – Acceptable Use Agreement**

\*\*Students in grades K-5 will have regular access to technology during the school day.

\*\*Students in grades 6-12 will be issued a Chromebook

Mahomet-Seymour is deeply committed to technology as a vital tool for its students, teachers, and parents. The District has determined that as a tool, technology will be integrated into our district curriculum in a way that enhances the learning of our students. As a tool, responsibilities fall on both the District and the student to ensure that the tools are effective, safe and appropriate to support our overall goal of teaching and building responsible, well balanced, contributors to our environment. As a user of technology, I understand that it is my responsibility to honor the Responsible Use Policy and uphold these Mahomet-Seymour Core Values both online, offline, at school and at home. I understand that my actions can affect others and that I will be accountable for my behavior.

### **Mahomet-Seymour CUSD #3 Core Value, Responsibilities and Restrictions**

We value communication; therefore, I will: use language that is pertinent and appropriate when submitting academic work, participating in online forums, and working collaboratively. I will use thoughtful and appropriate language for social postings. I will be mindful of how my words are interpreted by others.

We value privacy; therefore, I will: be aware of the privacy settings on any website to which I subscribe. I understand that anything I do online that may be interpreted as dangerous to myself or others or inappropriate for learning or the intended curriculum, may not be considered private and may be monitored. I understand that anything I do online or electronically is not private and can be monitored. I will not share personal information about myself, family, friends, or faculty.

We value honesty and safety; therefore, I will: not engage in behavior that puts myself or others at risk. I will represent myself honestly. I will seek help if I feel unsafe, bullied, or witness unkind behavior. I will communicate only with people I know. I will follow safety guidelines posted by sites to which I subscribe. The District will provide a mechanism for reporting any bullying or behavior that a student(s) may perceive as harmful to themselves or others.

We value learning; therefore, I will: apply existing knowledge to generate new ideas, products or processes. I will evaluate the validity of information presented online. I will ask questions and seek help when using school technology. I will have a positive attitude and be willing to explore different or new technologies. The district and its staff will provide as part of its curriculum, instruction and examples on how to appropriately evaluate online resources and information and integrate that into a student's work and learning.

We value respect for self and others; therefore, I will: not upload or post personal information, private communications, or photos of other people without permission. I will respond thoughtfully to the opinions, ideas, and values of others. I will not send or share mean or inappropriate electronic communications.

We value respect for school and personal property; therefore I will take proper care of all equipment. I will report misuse and/or inappropriate content to my teachers or adults.

RESPONSIBILITIES: The student will:

1. Adhere to these guidelines each time the device is used at home and school.
2. Ensure their device is charged and ready for use. The District will provide charging opportunities during the school day.
3. Use appropriate language in all communications avoiding profanity, obscenity and offensive or inflammatory speech. Cyberbullying, including personal attacks or threats toward anyone made while using either district owned or personally owned technology, is to be reported to responsible school personnel. Communication should be conducted in a responsible, ethical and polite manner.
4. Respect the Internet filtering and security measures included on all district devices and student accounts. All student 1:1 computing devices provided by the District are configured so that Internet content is filtered both when the student is at school and when on any other public or private network.
5. Use technology only for school-related purposes during the instructional day while refraining from use related to personal, commercial, or political purposes. Teachers and staff have the right to confiscate a device that is not being used appropriately in a class. Students will be held responsible for any missed work while the device is confiscated.
6. Follow copyright laws and fair use guidelines. Students should only download music, video or other content which is related to classroom assignments and which students are authorized or legally permitted to use.
7. The District uses software designed to restrict access to unacceptable content in order to protect students from harm or danger. If the District has credible reason to believe a student may be accessing dangerous or unacceptable content, the District will take steps to intervene. These steps will include: parental/guardian notification which includes the suspected danger or violation and a procedural plan to remedy the activity. This plan may include monitoring of district technology, student files, and student activity for the sole purposes of protection of the student and others; where the information is gathered is specifically used as examples and as a part of a plan for corrective measures. You must make your 1:1 device available for inspection if requested by any administrator or teacher.

RESTRICTIONS: The student will not:

1. Mark, deface, or place stickers on the Chromebook, or related accessories.
2. Reveal or post identifying personal information, files or communications to unknown persons through email or the Internet.
3. Attempt to override, bypass or otherwise change the Internet filtering software, device settings, or network configurations.
4. Attempt access to networks and other technologies beyond their authorized access. This includes attempts to use another person's account and/or password or access secured wireless networks.
5. Share passwords or attempt to discover passwords. Sharing a password is not permitted and doing so may subject the student to disciplinary action and they may be liable for the actions of others if problems arise from that unauthorized use.
6. Download and/or install any programs or games from the Internet or other sources onto any district owned technology. This includes the intentional introduction of computer viruses and other malicious software.
7. Tamper with computer hardware or software, attempt unauthorized entry into computers, and/or vandalize or destroy the computer or computer files. Intentional or negligent damage to computers or software may result in criminal charges.

8. Attempt to locate, view, share, or store any materials that are unacceptable in a school setting. This includes but is not limited to pornographic, obscene, graphically violent, or vulgar images, sounds, music, language, video, or other materials. The criteria for acceptability is demonstrated in the types of material made available to students by administrators, teachers, and the school media center.

In addition to the specific values, responsibilities and restrictions detailed above, it is expected that students and families will apply common sense to the care and maintenance of district-provided 1:1 technology is in their possession and under their control. In order to keep Chromebooks secure and damage-free, please follow these additional guidelines:

- Do not loan your 1:1 device or charger and cords to anyone else.
- Avoid having the device in any extreme temperatures.
- Do not leave the 1:1 device in a vehicle or leave it unattended at any time.
- Do not eat or drink while using the 1:1 device or have food or drinks in close proximity.
- Keep your 1:1 device away from locations like table edges, floors, seats, or pets.
- Do not stack objects on top of your 1:1 device, leave it outside, or use near water.

Despite these safeguards, we understand there is always a risk that district-provided 1:1 technology may be damaged, lost or stolen. If it is determined that a good faith effort or willful failure to protect District property has occurred, the student and their family may be responsible for repair or replacement of the Chromebook. As with any district issued resource, students are financially responsible for loss/theft, or damage of the 1:1 device, per the Chromebook damage and replacement plan.

Mahomet-Seymour CUSD #3 is not responsible for any loss resulting from use of district-issued technology and makes no guarantees that the technology or the district network systems that support student use will be available at all times. If the district network is unavailable and restricts a student's ability to complete schoolwork, the District and staff will make accommodations for the completion of the work. By signing this policy you agree to abide by the conditions listed above and assume responsibility for the care and proper use of MSCUSD #3 district- issued technology. You understand that should you fail to honor all the terms of this Policy, access to 1:1 technology, the Internet, and other electronic media may be denied in the future. Furthermore, students may be subject to disciplinary action outlined in the Mahomet-Seymour CUSD #3 Student Handbook.

As the parent/guardian, my signature indicates I have read and understand this policy and give my permission for my child to have access to and use a district-issued Chromebook.

Parent/Guardian (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

As the student, my signature indicates I have read or had explained to me and understand this policy, and accept responsibility for abiding by the terms and conditions outlined and using these resources for educational purposes.

Student (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Teen Dating Violence**

- **Teen Dating Violence Definition**

Teen dating violence is defined as, “a pattern of behavior in which a person uses or threatens to use physical, mental or emotional abuse to control another person who is in a dating relationship with the other person, where one or both persons are 13-19 years of age, or behavior by which a person uses or threatens to use sexual violence against another person who is in a dating relationship with the person, where one or both persons are 13-19 years of age.”

- **Teen Dating Violence Prohibited**

All students have the right to a safe learning environment. Therefore, teen dating violence is unacceptable and prohibited.

- **Education**

Students in grades 7-12 will receive developmentally benchmarked and appropriate education regarding teen dating violence.

- **Filing a Complaint**

Students are encouraged to report claims or incidents of teen dating violence to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Building Principal, Assistant Principal or a Complaint Manager. Complaints will be kept confidential to the extent possible, given the need to investigate the complaint. Students who make good faith complaints will not be disciplined.

## **Title 1**

Mahomet-Seymour CUSD #3 currently receives federal Title I funds. Middletown Prairie and Lincoln Trail are School-wide, meaning all students benefit from the Title I programs and services. MSJH and MSHS are Title I Targeted Assistance schools, meaning funds are targeted towards programs and services for at-risk students. Students can be identified as at-risk based on socio-economic status or academic performance. Under the Title I Program Guidelines, parents have the following rights:

- To be provided information on the Title I Programs and Services
- To be involved in the planning of Title I Program and Services
- To request the professional qualifications of both teachers and paraprofessionals
- To be notified if their student is assigned to work with a non-highly qualified teacher for more than four consecutive weeks
- To be provided volunteer opportunities within the school

You will be notified, if at any time your child has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher not highly qualified.

## **Transportation – Bus**

Bus transportation is provided at no cost for students living 1.5 miles or more from their designated school. All students will abide by the following rules of conduct while on Unit 3 buses. Failure to do so may result in a suspension of bus privileges.

The driver of the bus is in complete charge of students and shall be accorded the same respect as a teacher.

- Students will enter and exit the bus in an orderly manner.
- Students will remain seated at all times while the bus is in motion.
- Students are expected to be ready, both at home and at school, for the bus.
- Loud talking, whistling, shouting, or boisterous conduct will not be permitted

- All talking shall cease while approaching and crossing railroad tracks.
- No eating or drinking will be permitted inside the bus.
- Windows will not be lowered below the line, and nothing shall be extended out of the window.
- Animals will not be transported under any circumstances.
- Parents are not permitted to board buses at the bus stops unless requested to do so by the bus driver.

### **Videotaping/Photographing of Students**

From time to time, students and classrooms may be videotaped for school district use, student teacher requirements and media use. Please indicate your preference in the Skyward Parent Portal.

### **Visitors**

Visitors must register in the school office before entering the classrooms. For further information, see Board Policy 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property).

### **Volunteers**

Volunteers play an integral role in the education process at Unit 3. Volunteers do everything from tutoring children in reading to checking out books in the library to planning dances and special programs. If you would like to volunteer in the schools, talk with the building principal or contact the PTO building representative. All volunteers will undergo the appropriate screening based on the school activity(ies) for which he/she volunteers

### **Weather – Related School Closings**

When weather conditions are threatening due to winter storms, heat, etc., please tune into local radio, TV stations and social media outlets for updated information on Unit 3 bus transportation, early dismissals, and school closings. Since weather conditions may change once students are in school, parents are advised to continually monitor the media. Any decision Unit 3 makes will be based on the safety of the students. Parents, who wish to do so, may come to school to check their child(ren) out in the main office and take them home.

**Closing of All Schools** When winter weather conditions are extremely severe, Unit 3 will announce the closings of all schools by 7:00 a.m. on radio, TV, social media outlets and utilizing the District's Emergency Notification System. The following are a few of the stations which will be notified in the case of the closing of all school or an emergency early dismissal: WDWS 1400 AM, WIXY 100.3 FM, WLRW 94.5 FM, WCIA CH 3, WICD CH 15, or WAND CH 17.

**Early Dismissal of All Students** Unit 3 generally does not utilize early dismissal of all students due to weather conditions. However, if the situation should occur, either due to heat or winter storms, every effort will be made to provide at least one hour's notice using the District's Emergency Notification System and announcements on TV, radio and social media outlets. ***Please do not call the Transportation Department, District Offices, or individual school buildings unless it is an emergency.***

**Parents and children should discuss what to do ahead of time in case of an emergency such as this.** (Example: Children should have access to their homes if the parents will not be there, or should know to go to a neighbor's house.)