Policy #:	**STU.200.0**
Policy Title:	Student Conduct & Discipline
Approval Date:	12-9-14
Review Date:	N/A
Related Documents:	C.R.S. 22-33-106 Mesa County Valley School District #51 Policies: JIC (2002) JICDA (2012) JICDD (2002) JK (2009) JK-R (2010)

Student Discipline

MVCS adopts District student conduct and discipline policies as its own. However, because MVCS students may be enrolled in a variety of learning environments, it is important to clarify lines of authority and responsibility in student behavior. MVCS will only enforce the student conduct and discipline policies when a child is on MVCS property or attending an MVCS event (e.g. field trip). MVCS will not exercise disciplinary authority when the child is in another learning environment (home, community class, etc.). If an MVCS student is enrolled in a District crossover class, both MVCS and the crossover school will coordinate their efforts and follow District student conduct and discipline policies.

Disciplinary Information

MVCS's Administrative Director or designee will communicate relevant disciplinary information concerning any student enrolled in the school to the student's Advisors and to any teacher who has direct contact with the student in a District #51 classroom setting. The purpose is to keep school personnel apprised of situations that could pose a risk to the safety and welfare of others.

For purposes of this policy, "disciplinary information" is defined as confidential records maintained by—or in possession of—the Administrative Director or designee; these records regard an individual student and indicate that the student has committed an overt and willful act which constitutes a violation of the school's code of student conduct. It is also possible that these records demonstrate reasonable cause to believe—through information provided to the Administrative Director from a credible source—that the student could pose a threat to the health and safety of other students and school personnel based on prior misbehavior. "Disciplinary information" is intended to include only information of a serious nature that is not otherwise available to Advisors and teachers as part of the education records maintained on students or other reports of disciplinary actions.

Restorative Process

Following certain disciplinary situations, restorative processes may be implemented to foster healthy relationships for all people involved. A restorative process is aimed at repairing the physical, emotional, and/or social harm done. It also allows the person who has offended to reclaim self-esteem and community acceptance through personal effort. Typical restorative procedures are:

- All parties agree on an appropriate contract for the offender to complete.
- The reparation will be relevant to the general area of the harm.
- The process will humanize the offender, nurture the victim, and provide harmony to the learning community.

It is not essential that the process meets all characteristics and guidelines entirely, but it must reflect an effort toward a healthy solution to repair the harm done. Successful restoration is characterized by a lack of criticism, guilt, anger, shame, and/or resentment, and also by the full re-integration and acceptance of the offender into the community. A sense of being heard—with restored peace, confidence, and safety—exists for the victim.

Suspension or Expulsion

The Administrative Director, at his or her discretion and on a case-by-case basis, may initiate suspension of a student if restorative processes are ineffective at improving student behavior, regardless of the incident(s). Suspension can provide time for MVCS staff and parents or guardians to plan a strategy for the student to return. It also allows the student and parent/guardian an opportunity to reflect on behaviors and develop a new relationship to the expectation of the school. MVCS will follow District policy for suspension. An MVCS student who has been suspended will not be allowed to do any of the following activities during the time of his or her suspension:

- Attend classes on MVCS property
- Attend crossover classes
- Attend MVCS events
- Access funding

The Administrative Director may also initiate the dismissal of a student for a sufficiently severe offense. MVCS will follow District policy for dismissal and notify the District, the Charter School Liaison, and the District 51 Expulsion Officer of any dismissal within two school days.