

Grades PK-12 Matrix

Drafted 2025 – using Iowa Department of Education Problem Behavior Definitions Updated April 2021

Problem Behavior Definitions			
Code	Behavior	Definition	Level of Referral:
1	Abusive or inappropriate language, profanity	Student delivers verbal messages that include swearing, name calling, or use of words in an inappropriate way. Note: Includes gestures	Major: Directed at an individual or specifically referencing/targeted at someone Minor: Profanity not directed at others
2	Alcohol related	Student is in possession of or is using alcohol	Major
3	Arson	Student plans and/or participates in malicious burning of property.	Major
4	Communication of a Threat	Communication of a verifiable threat through any means to endanger students and/or staff en masse	Major
5	Bullying	Electronic, written, verbal, or physical act or conduct toward a student. The behavior is repeated over time. It creates an objectively hostile school environment that meets one or more of the following conditions: (1) Places the student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or property. (2) Has a substantially detrimental effect on the student's physical or mental health. (3) Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's academic performance. (4) Has the effect of substantially interfering with the student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school. <i>From Iowa Code 280.28</i>	Major
6	Combustible related	Student is in possession of substances/objects readily capable of causing bodily harm and/or property damage (matches, lighters, firecrackers, gasoline, lighter fluid).	Major: Use of Minor: Possession of
7	Defiance, insubordination, or non-compliance	Student engages in refusal to follow directions or talks back to teachers/staff in response to a specific demand or direction.	Major: (Active such as arguing or walking out) Creates a disruption in the learning

			environment/interrupts the learning of others Minor: (Passive such as head on desk, silent, alternative task) Does not disrupt the learning environment/ interrupt the learning of others
8	Disrespect	Student delivers socially rude or dismissive messages to adults or students <u>(not following commonly held expectations)</u>	Major: Creates a disruption in the learning environment/ interrupts the learning of others Minor: Does not disrupt the learning environment/interrupt the learning of others
9	Disruption	Student engages in behavior causing an interruption in a class or activity including sustained loud talk, yelling, or screaming; noise with materials; horseplay or roughhousing; and/or sustained out-of-seat behavior.	Major: Sustained, extended disruptive behavior that prevents instruction from occurring Minor: Repeated, lower intensity/duration that interrupts instruction
10	Dress code violation	Student wears clothing that does not fit within the dress code guidelines practiced by the school/district.	Refer student to the office
11	Drug related	Student is in possession of or is using illegal drugs/substances or imitations	Major
12	Forgery, plagiarism	Student signs a person's name without that person's permission or claims someone else's work as their own.	Major
13	Gang affiliation display	Student uses gesture, dress, and/or speech to display affiliation with a gang.	Major
14	Harassment	Electronic, written, verbal, or physical act or conduct toward a student. It creates an objectively hostile school environment that meets one or more of the following conditions: (1) Places the student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or property. (2) Has a substantially detrimental effect on the student's physical or mental health. (3) Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's academic performance. (4) Has the effect of substantially interfering with the student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.	Major

		<i>From Iowa Code 280.28</i>	
15	Inappropriate display of affection	Student engages in inappropriate, consensual verbal and/or physical gestures or contact of a sexual nature with another student/adult.	Refer student to the office
16	Inappropriate location	Student is in an area that is outside of school boundaries (as defined by school).	Major
17	Cheating	Student deliberately violates rules about cheating.	Major
18	Physical aggression with injury	Student engages in actions involving serious physical contact (e.g., hitting, punching, hitting with an object, kicking, hair pulling, scratching, etc.) where either the offender(s) or victim(s) require professional medical attention . Does not include bullying or harassment.	Major:
19	Physical aggression with serious bodily injury	Student engages in actions involving serious physical contact (e.g., hitting, punching, hitting with an object, kicking, hair pulling, scratching, etc.) where <u>either the offender(s) or victim(s) require off-site professional medical attention</u> for extreme physical pain, protracted and obvious disfigurement, protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or faculty, or substantial risk of death.	Major:
20	Physical aggression without injury	Student engages in actions involving serious physical contact (e.g., hitting, punching, hitting with an object, kicking, hair pulling, scratching, etc.) where the offender(s) or victim(s) do not require professional medical attention. Do not include bullying or harassment.	Major: Determined by frequency & severity Minor:
21	Physical fighting with injury	Student engages in a mutual physical fight where the offender(s) or victim(s) require professional medical attention. Does not include bullying or harassment.	Major:
22	Physical fighting with serious bodily injury	Student engages in a mutual physical fight where <u>either the offender(s) or victim(s) require off-site professional medical attention</u> for extreme physical pain, protracted and obvious disfigurement, protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or faculty, or substantial risk of death.	Major:
23	Physical fighting without injury	Student engages in a mutual physical fight where the offender(s) or victim(s) do not require professional medical attention. Does not include bullying or harassment.	Major:
24	Property damage/vandalism/misuse	Student participates in an activity that results in damage, destruction, or misuse of property.	Major: Intentional, permanent, and involving property of significant monetary value or significant non monetary importance Minor: All other

25	Skip class	Student leaves or misses class without permission.	Major
26	Special education administrative law judge decision	Problem behavior involving a special education administrative law judge mandate due to threat of injury. This does not apply to decision by the school board, juvenile court officer, juvenile court judge, or district court judge.	Major
27	Tardy	Student is late to class or the start of the school day.	Minor: Up to 15 minutes (beyond 15 min. is considered absence/skipping)
28	Technology violation	Student engages in inappropriate use of cell phone, pager, music/video players, camera, and/or electronic devices. This includes coming to class without the device being charged <u>and</u> no charging cord.	Major: AUP policies Minor: Violates cell phone policy or all other violations
29	Theft	Student is responsible for possessing or passing on someone else's property.	Major: Entering individual's personal space (such as bag, locker, desk) to take an item of value Minor: Other violations
30	Tobacco related	Student is in possession of or is using tobacco	Major
31	Truancy	Student receives an 'unexcused absence' for ½ day or more.	Major
32	Weapon related	Student is in possession of weapons, dangerous objects or look-alikes (per Board policy 502.09)	Major
33	Other	<i>Any behavior that does not fit those defined in #1-32</i>	Major: Minor: