

The <u>International Baccalaureate Organization</u>'s approaches to teaching and learning include both proactive and responsive approaches to student development and discipline. Girls Global Academy is an <u>International Baccalaureate Career-related Programme</u> school and we employ Positive Behavior Systems and Restorative Practices to encourage prosocial behavior, community building, and alignment with IB principles. In general, our proactive positive

approach incorporates a shared vision of expectations. We view undesirable behavior as a teachable moment and a learning opportunity. Our discipline policy is aligned to the <u>Student Fair Access Amendment to School Act of 2018.</u>

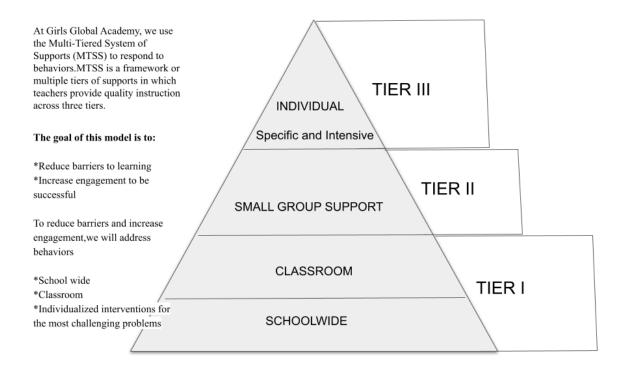
Families (parents, guardians and legal custodians) are critical partners in both creating and maintaining a safe and supportive school environment. Families have the right to and are responsible for:

- Collaborating with Girls Global to develop a shared vision of a safe and supportive school environment
- Being informed of Girls Global school-wide expectations
- Communicating in a timely and respectful manner with Girls Global staff if concerns arise
- Informing Girls Global staff about undesired behaviors that may present themselves at home and at school
- Encouraging their student to adhere to Girls Global school-wide expectations
- Supporting their student in taking responsibility for behaviors that do not adhere to Girls Global school-wide expectations
- Encouraging their student to speak up if any concerns arise

At Girls Global Academy our goal is to use a proactive, preventative and responsive restorative approach to prosocial behavior. At GGA, it is the expectation that students maintain high standards of behavior. It is the expectation that students will learn and model self-discipline and have a ready to learn conduct. If a student is not responsive to the interventions and there is an escalation in frequency, intensity and duration, our goal is to reduce behaviors, increase engagement and provide skill-building and develop SEL Competencies. All GGA staff will do this by:

- Providing structure in our settings for success schoolwide.
- Teaching trailblazers the expectations in those settings.
- Monitoring and reteaching student behavior in these settings.
- Interacting positively with students and families.
- Reteaching behavior calmly, consistently, and in the moment in the setting in which the infraction occurred.

^{*}Refers to a student's parents, guardians, and legal custodians



The Trailblazer Way

Sisterhood	 Communicates with others by using their preferred names & pronouns Cares for & supports others by using positive, affirming language. Repairs harmful behaviors by admitting fault & restoring relationships by apologizing Celebrates the accomplishments of others by giving kudos & shout outs Reflects on relationships with others by self- evaluating strengths & areas of growth
Scholarship	 Collaborates with peers by actively listening to others ideas & perspectives with an open-mind Cites and uses reliable, varied sources used in research & submits original work Takes risks by participating in class even when unsure of accuracy & correctness Uses a growth mindset to push through challenges with assignments Organizes for success by using resources & tools available
Service	 Investigates meaningful issues in the local & global context by conducting research using reliable, varied sources Plans for action by creating timelines, dividing work with the team, & developing measurements of success Acts on plans by leveraging resources, documenting experiences, & checking back on the plan & the vision Reflects on service by evaluating strengths & weaknesses, & how differences are made within

	 yourself & community Advocates for issues by sharing & celebrating highlights, impacts made, & how the project can be sustained.
Safety	 Self-manages emotions, thoughts, behaviors by using stress management strategies & techniques Makes caring & constructive choices about personal behavior by evaluating the consequences of one's actions Maintains healthy relationships by resolving conflict constructively, asking others for help, & setting boundaries Empathizes with others who are different by recognizing their strengths & listening to others perspectives. Understands one's own culture & their impact on others by evaluating how one shows up in a space.

The Girls Global Academy Expectations for Students

At all times students are expected to:

- Be respectful to staff and other students;
- Treat school and personal property with respect and care;
- Follow the GGA Way by wearing school uniform;
- Respond to and follow staff instructions the first time;
- Use appropriate language in all GGA spaces;
- Model Trailblazer behaviors using the Trailblazer Way;
- Avoid behaviors that bring physical, mental, and emotional harm to others

Equitable Implementation of Behavior Policies

GGA will regularly analyze data to ensure that behavior policies and practices are implemented equitably, in particular for at-risk students and students in specialized groups such as ELs and SWD. If necessary, we will adjust our procedures and policies and hold professional development for staff.

Girls Global Academy will utilize suspension and expulsion as a disciplinary measure for repeated and/or serious incidents that fail to meet stated Girls Global expectations for a safe and supportive environment or fall under the definitions and descriptions below.

Girls Global Academy has adopted the terms outlined in <u>The District of Columbia Student</u> <u>Discipline Guide: A Guide for Students, Families, and School Staff published by the Office of the Student Advocate, the DC Office of the Ombudsman, and Every Student Every Day.</u>

Suspension is defined as the denial of the right of a student to attend Girls Global Academy,

including all classes and school activities, for a defined period of time **not to exceed ten school** days.

Girls Global Academy will ensure that students who serve suspension are accommodated in the following ways:

- The student continues to earn credit toward promotion and graduation requirements.
- The student continues to receive assignments for the duration of the suspension.
- The student communicates with school personnel about school work (as needed for the student).
- The student makes up missed school work during the suspension (including assessments).

Girls Global Academy will ensure that students are welcomed back to the school community. While family accompaniment is not required for re-admission, a conversation is highly encouraged to ensure the family that their student is welcomed back through a restorative process. This meeting would be facilitated by the Dean of Students, Restorative Intervention Specialist, and/ or the Administrative Designee.

Students with Disabilities

GGA's policy ensures that students with disabilities are disciplined in a consistent manner and adhere to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA). Parents of all special education students will be informed of their rights, including their rights regarding discipline procedures.

In cases where a student's disability impacts their behavior, we will ensure that appropriate and required interventions have been implemented prior to disciplinary action. This policy is applicable to any student who has entered the Child Find or other intervention process specifically related to behavior. For students with disabilities, Girls Global will conduct a Manifestation Determination Review (MDR) to review a student's evaluation, student observations, parent input, and the contents of an IEP or 504.

For students who have an IEP or 504 plan (or currently in the eligibility process), Girls Global Academy must determine if the behavior presented during the incident is a manifestation of a student's disability. If the behavior is determined as a manifestation, then the Special Education Coordinator will schedule a meeting with relevant staff to develop or revise a behavior intervention plan for the student.

Informing parents of rights. GGA families will be provided written notice of their rights and

procedural safeguards any time they are notified of decisions regarding the identification, evaluation or educational placement of their student with a disability under IDEA or Section 504. A Prior Written Notice will also be provided when there is intent to initiate, change, or refuse the identification, placement, or change in services of a student with an IEP. All notices will be written in a language that is understandable to the general public and in the native language of the parent or other modes of communication that are not a written language. In addition to providing copies of the procedural safeguards and the GGA Child Find policies and procedures, all documents will be available in the main office and posted to the GGA website.

Discipline Guidelines

The decision to institute discipline or a suspension at Girls Global Academy can be made by a School Administrator (Executive Director, Principal, Director of Programs and Community Engagement, Dean of Students or other Administrator Designee) without the recommendation of the student's teacher or other school employee. The administrator issuing the suspension will determine the number of days a student will serve a suspension based on the severity of the behavior and any previous behaviors of the same category. The suspension is effective immediately unless otherwise stated by the School Administrator or the Administrator Designee.

Disciplinary decisions to recommend a student for disciplinary hearing will be made by the School Administration (Executive Director, Principal, Director of Programs and Community Engagement, Dean of Students or other Administrator Designee) without the recommendation of the student's teacher or other school employee. The administrator will consider the severity of the behavior, any violation of discipline contracts and the discipline tier chart when recommending a student for disciplinary hearing. All students recommended for a disciplinary hearing will have a Discipline Hearing Conference. The Discipline Review Committee will make final decisions concerning expulsions.

In order to provide equitable and transparent attention to suspensions, all families have the right to initiate a challenge for discipline that is recorded in the students official school records and the family or student follows the process for challenging information that is a part of the students official school record. If the appeal is successful then the suspension or expulsion is expunged from the students school records.

Scope of disciplinary action:

GGA reserves the right to hold students accountable for actions that take place during the school day and on the way to and from school. GGA also reserves the right to hold students accountable for actions that directly impact the teaching, learning and safety in the building, including but not limited to, social media incidents.

Girls Global Academy Discipline Response Levels

Level 1: Classroom supports, interventions, or minor consequences

Level 2: Minor consequences up to suspension for maximum of three days

Level 3: Suspension between four and five days

Level 4: Suspension between six to 10 days

Level 5: Suspension for more than 10 consecutive days (Discipline Hearing Required)

Level 6: Recommendation for expulsion

Disciplinary Responses

Our school wide policies and procedures are developed and implemented to maintain a learning environment that is optimum for learning. Our Multi-Tiered Support System (MTSS) Framework will provide students and staff with the structure to proactively and responsively support students. When there are infractions we will rely on our MTSS system and procedures accompanying our discipline chart to provide the best restorative consequences. The behavior tiers, levels and categories were developed to support identifying the behavior of the school community and to provide responses that ecompasses and promote social-emotional competencies.

Suspensions

Short-term suspension (5 days or less) decisions are made by the Dean of Students or other Administrative Designee without the recommendation of the student's teacher or other school employee. The Dean of Students or the Administrative Designee will determine the number of days a student will serve a suspension based on the severity of the behavior and any previous behaviors of the same category. The suspension is effective immediately unless otherwise stated by the Dean of Students or the Administrative Designee.

Disciplinary action that removes the student from their usual education setting. A suspension cannot exceed 10 consecutive days. Short term (5 days or less) and long term (6 or more days) suspension decisions are appropriate when tiered interventions are unsuccessful, previous behavior of the same category, or when the severity of the behavior warrants temporary removal from Girls Global Academy campus. All students being considered for a suspension or expulsion have the right to be informed of the infraction and the opportunity to be heard before a final decision for a suspension or expulsion is made.

Suspension Cap at 20 Days

Girls Global Academy recognizes that a student cannot be suspended from school for more than 20 cumulative school days in a school year unless the Executive Director provides written justification to the student and their family or if the student's behavior resulted in an emergency removal.

Due Process for Suspensions (6 days or more)

Suspension

- Prior to a suspension, the Dean of Students or other School Administrator, 1) meets with the student; 2) informs student, verbally or in writing, what they are accused of, 3) provides all information that the school has that the student engaged in the behavior; 4) gives student the opportunity to be heard, to give their account of the incident and to explain their behavior before a final decision is made about issuing a suspension
- The Dean of Students or other school administrator will review all information and promptly provide in writing a notice of discipline action detailing the reason for the suspension and the length of the out-of-school suspension. If the student has a disability defined in IDEA or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act the school will conduct a Manifestation Determination Review
- The Dean of Students or other school administration can notify the family of the student under 18 years old, via a call or email in addition to the written notification of a suspension. The family of the suspended student will pick up the student from the school
- A notice will be given directly to the student if they are an emancipated youth or over 18 years old

Long-term suspension or Expulsion

- Prior to a suspension, the Dean of Students or other School Administrator, 1) meets with the student; 2) informs student, verbally or in writing, what they are accused of, 3) provides all information that the school has that the student engaged in the behavior; 4) gives student the opportunity to be heard, to give their account of the incident and to explain their behavior before a final decision is made about issuing a suspension
- The Dean of Students or other school administrator will review all information and promptly provide in writing a notice of discipline action detailing the reason for the suspension, the length of the suspension or pending expulsion. If the student has a disability defined in IDEA or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act the school will conduct a Manifestation Determination Review
- Only the Principal may make the decision for suspensions exceeding ten days or disciplinary hearing which could result in an expulsion

- The Dean of Student or other school administration can notify the family of the student under 18 years old, via a call or email in addition to the written notification of a suspension. The family of the suspended student will pick up the student from the school
- If there is a pending expulsion, the student will be assigned a 10 day suspension pending the results of the investigation
- As needed, the Dean of Students or other School Administrator will conduct an
 investigation within 3 business days of the incident and account for the student behavior
 and gather any pertinent information. A School Administrator will issue a written notice
 to the family with the explanation for a long-term suspension or expulsion
- After completion of the investigation, if needed, the date and location for the Discipline Hearing Conference will be set within 10 days
- Notices and procedures will be translated into the family primary language

Discipline Hearing Committee

Any student involved in a very serious discipline incident (outlined in the Girls Global Academy Discipline Chart below) may be eligible for long-term suspension or expulsion. IDEA discipline provisions are observed in cases regarding students with disabilities. The Girls Global Academy Judiciary Committee meeting will be held prior to a long-term suspension or expulsion determination. The Committee comprises at least three school faculty, relevant staff members, the student and the family. Students may be represented by counsel or other persons.

If a student is recommended for a Discipline Hearing Conference, the student and the student's family are invited to share all pertinent information about their experience at Girls Global Academy. All School Discipline Hearing Conference meetings will be led by the Principal or Designee. Decisions involving long-term suspensions and/or expulsions will be made in writing within ten days of the School Discipline Hearing conference. All Discipline Hearing Committee meetings will follow the same process and are closed to the public.

- A clear outline of the agenda and meeting expectations sent to the family within 48 hours
 of the scheduled meeting.
- A presentation of statements and evidence concerning the behavior and the incident by Girls Global Academy staff.
- An opportunity for the student, their family (and their representation) to share evidence concerning the incident.
- An opportunity for Girls Global Academy staff, the student, and family to share statements of support on behalf of the student.
- Review the Girls Global Academy Discipline Chart

- Notify the student and family of the decision within two days and a written notice will be delivered via mail within three school days of the decision.
- Expulsion decisions are applied from the designated date for the remaining school year
- Expelled students are ineligible for re-enrollment for the following school year and ineligible to re-enroll in Girls Global Academy

Appeal

Families have the right to appeal a suspension or expulsion decision to the Executive Director. The family will have 5 school days of receiving the notice of suspension or expulsion to appeal the decision. The family will call the school at 202-600-4822 to request an appeal meeting with the Executive Director. After the meeting with the student and family, the Executive Director will determine to uphold the suspension or expulsion.

Girls Global Academy Discipline Response Chart

Category	Behavior Description	Schools Response	Tier Level of
Tier'd Infraction	(not limited to)		Support
A Behaviors that impedes on learning	 Excessive disruption and noise in the classroom Interfering with learning in the classroom Interfering with learning outside of the classroom Academic Dishonesty Verbal altercation that does not result in a physical altercation Direct profanity at peers or adults in the classroom or common areas Running in the classroom that can cause harm to students or teacher Refusal to comply with reasonable instructions in a calm and polite way (Level 1 response only) 	Level 1: Classroom supports, interventions, or minor consequences with family contact Level 2:Minor consequences up to suspension for maximum of three days with referral	Tier I Tier II Assigned task PBIS/Deanslist Class meetings Student Accountability Reflection Restorative Circle- Micro Circle CARE services/ Counseling- Push In Mindful Minute

Category Tier'd Infraction	Behavior Description (not limited to)	Schools Response	Tier Level of Support
B Behaviors that impedes with the daily operations of school procedures	 Continued inappropriate cell phone violation Horseplay Unauthorized use of a building elevator or accessibility device Vandalism, graffiti or damage to school 	Level 1: Classroom supports, interventions, or minor consequences Level 2:Minor consequences up Family engagement and "Improvement	Tier I Tier II • Detention • Short term out of school suspension (1-3days • In-school suspension(1-2days) • Student check in/out • Mediation

	 Failure to report to assign classes or disciplinary settings while on school property Inappropriate use of technology/internet policy Leaving the building without permission Body parts that are exposed: lewd or indecent shown purposely Trespassing including "No Student Zones" Setting off alarms Drugs: Possession drug paraphernalia or look-alike drugs Any threat of physical injury or attempt to bomb or the building Engaging and creating risk to injury to others (inciting a fight) Bullying/Cyberbullying (that impacts the student's engagement in school or attendance)- 1st incident Throwing an object that can cause a disturbance, injury or property damage Other 	Plan"days (repeated behavior - ex: more than 3x per week)	 Mandated to attend a club, workshop, sisterhood event-Targeted Sister Circle Dean Classroom Support Mentoring Referral to Care Team (from Teacher) School-Community service projects (individual)
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Category Tier'd Infraction	Behavior Description (not limited to)	Schools Response	Tier Level of Support
C Behaviors that create negative relationships between two or	 Bullying/Cyberbullying (that impacts the student's engagement in school or attendance) Teasing, taunting, engaging in a verbal confrontation, verbally inciting a fight Inappropriate physical contact that is 	Level 1: Classroom supports, interventions, or minor consequences Level 2: Minor consequences up to suspension	Tier I Tier II Tier III • Conduct Functional Behavior Assessment and Behavior Intervention Plan • Further disciplinary

more people that does not result in a physical altercation. sexual in nature

- Posting, distributing, displaying or sharing material, including electronically
- Committing sexual, racial, or any form of harassment or intimidation verbal or on social media
- Using vulgar language or gestures
- Drugs:Possession /Being under the influence/using/distributing
- Possession, using, or distributing of unlawful drugs including (marijuana, prescription pills, paraphernalia, etc)
- Using slurs based on race, ethnicity, color, national origin, citizenship/immigration status, weight,gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, disability or another basis prohibited by law
- Hazing
- Fighting/rioting:

Physical violence between students or another person with no injury Group Fight (more than 6 students)

• Weapon:

Possession of a firearm/destructive device

Using any weapon to threaten or attempt to inure a student, staff, or others in the school building

- Bullying/cyberbully: After intervention increased intervention increased actions after Agreements and Support Plan
- Stealing property or money with or without using force and weapons

Level 3: Suspension between four and five days

Level 4: Suspension between six to 10 days

Level 5:Suspension for more than 10 consecutive days (Discipline Hearing Required)

Level 6: Recommendation for expulsion

- action (long term suspension or recommendation for expulsion) by GGA
- Non-participation in school-sponsored activities
- Nontraditional education placement
- No-trespassing order
- Out-of-school suspension (OSS)
- Referral to appropriate community-based agency, mental health service, substance abuse counseling services etc...

Electronics and Technology Policy

Girls Global Academy is committed to providing a safe learning environment. Students are responsible for participating in behaviors that promote safety in all learning environments including but not limited to face-to-face and virtual. Repeated misconduct and escalated behaviors may result in additional responses according to the Girls Global Academy Code of Student Conduct.

Technology Expectations

- Students know, use, and keep private their GGA username and password.
- Follow the Girls Global Academy Technology Policy.
- Use technology for accessing academic content as assigned.
- Take care of the technology assigned, keeping it free from damage.
- Be respectful to students and adults.

Electronic Devices

All electronic devices (including but not limited to cell phones, iPads, speakers, headsets, air pods, headphones, smart watches or any portable electronic devices) must be monitored by the student and will be the student's responsibility as students enter the building. *All electronic devices* will be collected, marked, bagged and put away in a safe location before students transition to advisory, and will be redistributed at the end of the day. Girls Global Academy in no way accepts any responsibility for and *will not* replace any damaged, lost, or stolen devices *and will not investigate* theft or lost devices that were not collected by a Girls Global staff at the beginning of the day. *Students are prohibited* from use of headphones in the building unless it is authorized by the Dean of Students. We encourage students to leave any Apple or smartwatches at home.

Technology can be a resourceful tool for learning, engagement, and communication; however, personal technology can also be a distraction from learning. While at Girls Global Academy, students will learn how to engage with technology appropriately and improve their digital literacy skills. This means being able to monitor technology use and ensure that it is used only for academic and professional purposes while at school. *Students will not, at any time, be allowed to have their phones in classes for any reason.* Phones and any other personal devices outside of The Girls Global Academy laptop will be collected, marked, bagged and put away in a safe location before students transition to advisory, and will be redistributed at the end of the day. If a phone is found on the student's person the dean will confiscate the phone and return it at the end of the day, and contact the parent. If it becomes a pattern, the Dean will confiscate the phone,

return it at the end of the day, and contact the parent to schedule a meeting with the student and parent to make a technology plan. These meetings must be scheduled before 5:00pm Monday through Friday.

GGA may decide to collect cell phones at any time during the school year.

Phone Collection: Morning Routine

- Trailblazers swipe in the lobby.
- Come into the cafeteria.
- Place their phones/technology in their cases
- Place in the correct bin by last name.

At 8:30AM all phone storage cabinets will be locked and rolled into designated area.

Students who are tardy will have their phones collected by the office. The main office will ensure that the students phone is placed in the correct bin.

Phone Collection: Afternoon Routine

- The storage cabinets are rolled back in the same locations from the morning routine.
- As students are being dismissed they will be picking up their phones from the correct last name bin.
- Students put their bins back in the correct last name bin for the next day.
- Once all phones have been redistributed the storage bin will be reorganized and ready for the next day.

Girls Global Academy School Norms

Every Trailblazer is expected to begin conducting themselves in a way that is appropriate for college and the professional world. In order to uphold an orderly learning environment, Trailblazers will be held to the following expectations every day at Girls Global Academy:

Classroom Norms:

- Arrive on time, prepared to begin on time.
- Enter the room in an orderly manner, be seated, and begin on the assigned task.
- Be respectful of yourself, your classmates and your teacher.
- Be engaged and on-task throughout the class period.
- All assignments should be completed and submitted on time.

- If you are asked to leave the classroom, do so calmly and follow the direction of the teacher; any questions about the situation may be directed to the Dean of Students or administrators in the building.
- Clean up your work space and exit the classroom calmly after the teacher dismisses you.
- Adhere to all COVID-19 safety guidelines, if applicable.
- We value celebration of all members of our community.

Hallways and Stairwells Norms:

- Move calmly. Do not run as it may endanger yourself or others
- Report to all assigned classes
- Quiet conversation is acceptable; loud, boisterous conversation is not.
- Discard trash in containers provided
- Be aware of traffic flow. Do not stand in groups as hallways are narrow and social distancing is required
- We engage in appropriate physical manners in the halls. Horseplay, altercations, and public displays of affection (PDA is not permitted).
- We use language that is appropriate for school.
- Adhere to all COVID-19 safety guidelines, if applicable

Cafeteria Norms

Breakfast and lunch are served at designated times in the cafeteria. Trailblazers who use the cafeteria must abide by the guidelines listed below.

- Treat all food service staff, cafeteria supervisors, and fellow trailblazers with courtesy and respect. Trailblazers are to walk in the cafeteria.
- The line in the cafeteria must be orderly at all times.
- Do not order food from outside the cafeteria.
- Consume all food and drink in the cafeteria
- Keep dining spaces clean and neat upon scholar exit.
- Remain seated after they have received their lunch. They should only move around to throw away their lunch trays or to use the restroom. Trailblazers must exit the cafeteria in an orderly manner.
- Adhere to all COVID-19 safety guidelines, if applicable

Field Trip Dress Code

Trailblazers must adhere to the Girls Global Academy Dress Code when attending field trips unless otherwise specified by the Director of Programs and Community Engagement.

Jewelry and make-up

- Earrings are permitted
- If body piercings are either distracting or potentially hazardous to school activities, trailblazers will be required to remove them during school hours.
- Any distracting or potentially offensive wrist wear is prohibited.

Distracting Clothing

 Clothing or jewelry that is determined by any teacher or staff member as being a disruption from the learning progression is not permitted.

Search & Seizure Policy

Girls Global Academy may use metal detectors or other detection devices to ensure school safety. Girls Global school personnel may search anything on school property such as lockers, and personal belongings. **Unauthorized items and/or items that threaten the safety of others will be seized and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.** Personal property of a random group of trailblazers can be searched with reasonable suspicion or if the group of trailblazer searched is chosen at random. Searches of a trailblazer themselves may also be done with reasonable suspicion. The search must be done by a staff member who is the same sex as the trailblazer and there must always be a second staff member present as a witness. Trailblazers and parents are responsible for checking clothing, book bags, purses and all trailblazer personal possessions for illegal and unauthorized items before entering the school safety zone.

As a community of love and learning we will work together to ensure that every trailblazer is successful.