

6-8

COMMON PRACTICES FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL

Lincoln Public Schools | Lincoln, Nebraska

Rev. 6/2026

The following are middle school common practices that have been extracted from the Lincoln Public Schools Important Information Booklet. This sheet is meant to be a quick-reference guide for common practices that are for middle school families only. A complete LPS Important Information Booklet is available online at LPS.org.

District Dress Code Guidelines For Middle Schools

Clothing must be appropriate for school settings in order to provide a safe and orderly environment for all students to learn. The responsibility for the dress and grooming of a student rests primarily with the student and his or her parents or guardians, although, the school administration maintains the right to determine the appropriateness or suitability of any student attire.

Allowable Dress and Grooming

- Students must wear clothing including both a shirt with pants or skirt, or the equivalent and shoes.
- Shirts and dresses must have fabric in the front, back, and on the sides. Fabric covering all private parts must not be see through.
- Clothing must cover undergarments and all private parts.
 - All tops must have straps
 - All tops must meet the top of the pants
 - Wearing pants below the waistline is not allowed.
- Clothing must be suitable for all scheduled classroom activities including physical education, science labs, wood shop, and other activities where unique hazards exist.
- Head wear is allowable as long as it follows other areas of the dress code and the student is easily identifiable.
- Specialized courses may require specialized attire, such as sports uniforms or safety gear.

Non-Allowable Dress and Grooming

- Clothing may not depict, advertise or advocate the use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana or other controlled substances.
- Students may wear hoodies, but must keep the hood off their heads. Considerations will be made for students who wear special clothing as required by religious beliefs, disability, or convey a particular message protected by law.
- Dressing, grooming, or engaging in speech that is lewd or indecent, vulgar, or plainly offensive.
- Clothing may not use or depict hate speech targeting groups based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious affiliation or any other protected groups.
- Clothing, including gang identifiers, must not threaten the health or safety of any other student or staff (examples include bandanas, gang signs).
- If the student's attire or grooming threatens the health or safety of any other person, then discipline for dress or grooming violations should be consistent with discipline policies for similar violations.

- Clothing with words, pictures, or phrases that depicts violence or intimidation may not be worn (examples include images of guns, knives and any other items generally considered to be a weapon).

Students who are in violation of the school dress code will:

1. Be educated on the reason this clothing is not allowed in a school setting, and when possible be given the opportunity to remove the item(s).
2. Be given the opportunity to change into school-issued clothing in order to find items that are appropriate to wear.
3. When the first two are not viable options, the student's parent will be contacted to bring appropriate clothing for the student to change into.
4. Repeated violations could result in school consequences.
5. Students will not be allowed to return to classes until they are in compliance with the school dress code.

NOTE: Schools may communicate additional information on dress code expectations to students and parents/guardians.

Bikes, E-Bikes, Motorcycles, Skateboards, Scooters, E-Scooters, Hoverboards, Etc.

All students are expected to follow proper safety practices and to walk all bikes, e-bikes, scooters, e-scooters, skateboards, etc... while on school grounds.

*Nebraska State Law for E-Bikes: In accordance with Nebraska Revised Statutes, Class 3 e-bikes (assistance up to 28 mph) are restricted to riders 16 years of age or older. Middle school students are prohibited from operating Class 3 e-bikes on school grounds.

Licensed students with a valid school parking permit may ride motorcycles to campus. Motorcycles must be parked in designated motorized vehicle stalls in the student lot and are not permitted in bicycle rack areas.

Due to fire safety regulations regarding lithium-ion batteries, e-bikes, e-scooters, one-wheel electric scooters, etc., and their batteries are not allowed inside school buildings, which includes classrooms and lockers. Charging of any personal transportation device on school property is strictly prohibited.

Helmets should be worn and may be taken to the student's locker/coat hook during the school day. Per Nebraska law, helmets are mandatory for Class 3 e-bike operators.

Reference: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1k6xcWq-Ulgr9WGmx7P2fyfLHlfjWRle7/view?usp=sharing>

Cell Phone Guidelines for Middle Schools

Cell phones, earbuds, smart watches, smart glasses and other personal electronic devices are not allowed during the instructional day. If personal electronic devices are brought to school, they should be kept in their backpack, locker, or location designated by school staff during the school day. Smart watches can be worn as long as they are used as a standard watch. If smart watches are used for any other function, they will be treated the same as other personal electronic devices, and the student will be asked to keep the device in a backpack, locker, or other location designated by school staff. The school is not responsible for damaged, lost, or stolen devices. Please note that it is unlawful, and therefore prohibited on school grounds, to take a picture or record audio or video of another person without their consent.

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support For Behavior (MTSS-B) in the Lincoln Public Schools

Lincoln Public Schools uses a multi-tiered system of support for behavior (MTSS-B) for teaching procedures and techniques designed to help improve behavior. It involves procedures at the school-wide, classroom, and individual student levels.

The purpose of a district-wide MTSS-B is to establish a climate in which appropriate behavior is the norm. Introducing, modeling, and reinforcing positive social behavior is an important step of a student's educational experience. Teaching behavioral expectations and then recognizing students for following our expectations is a core component of MTSS-B.

School Community Intervention Program (SCIP)

SCIP is a student assistance program that works with families, schools and the community to support student behavioral, mental and emotional health. When schools, parents and the community build a collaborative relationship of support around students, they are more capable of reaching their full potential. SCIP can assist parents in identifying behaviors or concerns that may be interfering in a student's ability to learn, seek solutions, and explore options, which will increase student's opportunities to be successful in school. In addition to in-school supports, SCIP collaborates with community behavioral health agencies to offer another layer of support to students and families. To refer your student to SCIP or to find out more about the program please contact your school's SCIP Team Leader or the Lincoln/Lancaster County SCIP Coordinator at 402-327-6841.

Middle School Student Report Cards

The marks used for reporting academic performance, work/study habits and social behavioral skills in middle school are as follows:

Academic Performance	Work Habits & Conduct
A = 4.0 – Superior B+ = 3.5 B = 3.0 C+ = 2.5 C = 2.0 D+ = 1.5 D = 1.0 – Passing F = 0.0 – Failing	Incomplete = Inc Commendable = Com Satisfactory = S Needs Improvement = N

The preceding marks are expected to be used according to the following guidelines:

1. No other marks than those shown above are to be used on official records or reports.
2. The mark given at the end of each reporting period is considered an evaluation of the pupil's status at the time (for example, the final mark in a semester course is an evaluation of the pupil's status as of the close of the semester; not an average of two nine-week marks).
3. Teachers may exercise professional judgment in distributing marks. Marks are not expected to be distributed on a normal curve.
4. Math intervention, reading courses, work/study habits, and social behavioral skills receive the marks of Commendable (Com), Satisfactory (S), and Needs Improvement (N) instead of letter grades.

Extra/Intramural Athletics

LPS middle schools offer a full-year of after-school extra/intramurals for 7th and 8th grade students.

Fall sports include: Cross Country, Soccer, Girls Volleyball; winter sports include: Girls/Boys Basketball and Wrestling; Track is held in the spring. All students are expected to follow assigned guidelines for conduct and academics for participation. Activity specific guidelines will be shared at the start of each season.

Practices are for athletes only. Friends and/or family members may not observe practices. People waiting to give students rides home from school should wait in their vehicles in the parking lot. Parents waiting to walk home with students after school should wait in the assigned area. Other LPS students cannot wait on campus for students while they are practicing.