As a student teacher in the Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS), you are required to display appropriate professional behavior and follow District policies and procedures which include but are not limited to the following. The District’s policies can be found at the Policy page of the District’s website (http://policy.mpls.k12.mn.us/).

Student Teachers must always serve as role models and adhere to appropriate professional boundaries. When serving in MPS, an individual must refrain from inappropriate behaviors including, but not limited to, the following:

- Use of profanity
- Use of drugs or alcohol
- Carrying weapons
- Discussion of inappropriate topics
- Making ‘sexual or emotional advances’ to a student
- Selling merchandise or actively promoting his or her business
- Proselytizing (persuading to a way of thinking or acting)
- Giving or receiving gifts or money

All student teachers are required to complete a criminal background check, which must be completed and processed before beginning.

Student Teacher’s attire must comply with the school’s dress code.

Student Teachers are expected to comply with all school rules regarding the use of personal electronic devices (PEDs). Turn off or silence your PEDs and store them for the duration of time that you are at a site.

Student Teachers must be familiar with and implement the rules for the classroom as set by the classroom teacher. Any discipline of students must follow the District’s Behavior Standards policy. A student’s Individualized Education Plan (IEP), Behavior Plans, and/or 504 Plans may impact discipline of students. All questions regarding discipline should be directed to the classroom teacher.

Student Teachers must protect legitimate educational privacy of the students and students’ families by not talking about a student’s academic progress, behavior, or a school-related incident without permission from the student (if emancipated or 18+) or student’s parents/guardians. Any discussion of a student (other than the student teacher’s own child) is restricted to the student’s parent or guardian, the student’s teacher, the guidance counselor or another school employee or volunteer who has a need to know. When in doubt about whether information can be shared, check first with the student’s teacher. Remember that this includes that student teachers may not discuss and/or post information pertaining to individual students, staff, parents, or school situations on social media sites. Educational data is protected by state and federal laws.

As you build trust with your students, you may become aware of abuse in their lives. This abuse may be sexual, physical, or emotional. By law, you are required to report any suspected abuse. You can report such suspicions to the teacher, principal, or school social worker. You CANNOT promise secrecy to your student, but you must maintain his/her confidentiality by not telling other students or your own friends.

Do not ask students for their home or cell phone number, address, email address or social media information; do not give them yours. Do not socialize with your student(s) outside of school. Do not give your student(s) gifts. Do not interact with students on social media. Chances of misunderstanding are high and you do not want to be second-guessed. While MPS does not monitor use of social media, it may take appropriate responsive action when it becomes aware of, or reasonably suspects, conduct or communication on a public online media site that adversely affects the workplace or violates applicable professional codes of ethics or other laws.

The use of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, by staff, students, visitors (such as student teachers), or contractors is prohibited on school district property. School district property includes, but is not limited to; buildings, grounds, and vehicles owned, leased or contracted by the school district and school sponsored functions.

We strongly urge you not to initiate physical contact with your students. You may be working with young people who may not be aware of appropriate boundaries. Keep in mind that your student(s) may see your physical contact as a sign of preferential treatment.

The school principal has the right to dismiss any student teacher who is deemed to have engaged in inappropriate behavior including, but not limited to, that described above. If a student teacher is dismissed, the MPS district and the office of Human Capital reserve the right not to reassign the student teacher at another school.