

Dr. Lena Edwards Academic Charter School

Merit & Demerit System

In order to help students make positive choices and to create a positive climate for learning, (Dr. Lena Edwards Academic Charter School) DLEACS will use a merit and demerit system to address behavior. The system below will provide rewards for positive behaviors and consequences for negative behaviors.

This system is intended to assist students in making good choices thus producing well-behaved students. Our ultimate goal is to develop students who are self-disciplined and good citizens.

Teachers and administrators are expected to handle minor discipline incidents in the classroom as well as in common areas of the school such as the hallways, cafeteria and during assemblies. While verbal reprimands are usually appropriate and sufficient to correct minor misbehavior, some incidents may be disruptive enough or persistent enough to warrant interventions such as losing privileges, staying after class, or receiving demerits.

Major infractions may result in disciplinary action that is not addressed through the use of demerits.

The merit/demerit system is a school-wide discipline plan that should be focused on behavior and is not connected to academics. Any staff member can issue merits and demerits.

Students who demonstrate the following POSITIVE BEHAVIORS can earn MERITS:

- Demonstrating **Trustworthiness** (honesty, returning lost items)
- Demonstrating **Respect** (value other's opinions & property, listen to peers & superiors alike)
- Demonstrating **Responsibility** (returning important documents, reporting incidents)
- Demonstrating **Fairness** (be accountable, cooperate, be willing to do what is best for everyone)
- Demonstrating **Citizenship** (pride in school)
- Demonstrating **Caring** (holding the door, saying please and thank you, assisting a classmate)
- Random Merits (school spirit, fire drill and assembly behavior)

Every student has an opportunity to earn merits over time. To earn merits, students must exhibit positive behaviors on a **CONSISTENT BASIS**.

Some of the following have examples, but are not limited to them:

E.G.: A **week's** worth of recognized healthy eating as laid out by our Health Lifestyles initiative is worth _____ point(s).

+point totals subject to change

The demerits are designed to document and track repeated minor discipline infractions. Accumulation of demerits by students who consistently disrupt the learning environment will eventually result in administrative discipline.

Demerits will be documented through "Classroom Dojo"* and parent contact will be made accordingly.

Students who demonstrate the following NEGATIVE BEHAVIORS CONSISTENTLY will earn DEMERITS:

Violations Value and Consequences

Level I Offenses

1-3 Demerits

1.

- Dress code violation
- Late to class
- In unauthorized area
- Other minor offenses

2.

- Misuse of hall pass or privilege
- Inappropriate public displays of affection
- Horseplay in common areas or classroom
- Unprepared for class
- Malicious remarks
- Misrepresenting facts

3.

- Forgery
- Cutting assemblies or lunch
- Inappropriate conduct/horseplay
- Vulgar literature / Drawings / Items
- Profanity / Vulgarity / Obscene gestures
- Arguing / Rudeness
- Class disruption
- Failure to report to office when requested

Level II Offenses

4-5 Demerits

4.

- Leaving class without permission
- Misuse of school technology (inappropriate searches, password sharing, pornography)

5.

- Vandalism/Minor damages to school property/misuse of school equipment and supplies
- Disrespect for authority
- Cutting class

Level III Offenses

6-10 Demerits

6.

- Leaving school building or property without permission
- Violation of Tobacco Use Policy
- Truancy (class cut = 5 demerits)
- Refusing to leave area when instructed to do so
- Reckless Horseplay

8.

- Open defiance and contempt for authority
- Disruptive behavior which causes an interruption or disruption to the school and education environment and process
- Peer harassment (verbal)
- Reckless horseplay

10.

- Truancy (whole day cut)

Level IV Offenses

15-20 Demerits

15.

- Peer harassment (physical) - also includes suspension
- Intentional entrance without consent from the principal into restricted non-educational area(s) such as electrical rooms/maintenance rooms, ceiling, roof, and storage areas

20.

- Willful destruction of school property (extreme cases may lead directly to expulsion)

Level V Offenses

30 Demerits – Will be considered for IMMEDIATE Expulsion

30.

- Deliberate physical attack on school personnel
- Fighting – two (2) or more individuals engaged in harmful and/or offensive contact
- Assault and Battery – the application of force to another resulting in harmful or offensive contact
- Violation of Weapons Policy
- Violation of Drug Abuse Policy
- Violation of the Sexual Harassment Policy
- Violent criminal offenses

Penalties For Accumulated Demerits

DLEACS believes that a Progressive discipline plan that best allows students the opportunity for positive behavior change. Teachers can also use other interventions for dealing with inappropriate behaviors in their classroom.

The Following CONSEQUENCE Will Be Assigned When Amount of Demerits Are Earned For Negative Behavior:

Demerit Totals And Consequences

Demerit Total	Consequence
3 Dress Code Violations	One (1) Tuesday or Thursday Detention* (30 Minutes minimum)
3.5 Demerits	Teacher Written Warning (at the discretion of the school administrator handling the infraction) and Student Written Reflection
5 Demerits	One (1) Tuesday or Thursday Detention* OR One (1) Hour Community service, Parental Phone Call
10 Demerits	Student conference with the teacher(s), Parental Phone Call, One (1) Tuesday or Thursday Detention* AND One (1) Hour Community Service
15 Demerits	One (1) In School Suspension (ISS), Parental Phone Call
20 Demerits	Parental Intervention / Conference, (2) Tuesday or Thursday Detention* AND One (1) Hour Community service, and up to 2 In School Suspension days. (Any student who is subject to school suspension for a second time or has more than twenty (20) demerits during the school year will be ineligible to attend or participate in interscholastic athletics, or attend and participate in student activities for the remainder of that school year. This includes all school activities, during the day, after-school programming, evening, including commencement and commencement activities.)
25 Demerits	Up to <u>2</u> Days Out of School Suspension
30+Demerits	Eligible for IMMEDIATE Expulsion

+point totals subject to change

**teachers have discretion to administer class based and individual student detention aside from demerit based consequence*

Administrative Consequences May Result in the Following:

- *Lunch Detention
- *ASD-After School Detention
- *ISS-In School Suspension
- *OSS- Out of School Suspension

Additional Sanctions

1. A student who has been placed on In School Suspension (ISS) WILL NOT be permitted to participate or attend any school-sponsored curricular or extracurricular activities or student activities conducted on or off school premises for the duration of the suspension.

2. In addition to the consequences listed, privileges that relate to a specific offense can also be revoked.
3. Any student whom exceeds 20 demerits in violation of the following infraction(s) during the school day or while attending or participating in school-sponsored curricular or extracurricular activities, conducted on or off school premises, ***shall be ineligible to seek election or serve as a class officer or member of student government, participate in interscholastic athletics, or participate in student activities.***

Earning Merits / Demerit Removal

Any student may have merits assigned to help to facilitate the importance of good behavior and to reward positive changes in behavior. A student who goes through a thirty (30) school day attendance period free of any demerits will receive 2 merits. In addition, the following are also ways for students to earn merits.

- Demonstrating Leadership to Peers = 3 merits
- Volunteered Community Service = 2 merits
- Promptness - no tardies to any classes = 2 merits; only 1 tardy = 1 merit (in a period of 30 school days)
- Attendance - perfect attendance = 2 merits; 1 absence = 1 merit (in a period of 30 school days)
- Superior Academic Performance - a GPA of 4.0+ = 4 merits; 3.5-3.99 = 3 merits; 3.0-3.49 = 2 merits; 2.5-2.99 = 1 merit (per grading period)
- Significant Academic Improvement - a GPA that increases by 2.0 points from one grading period to the next = 4 merits; an improvement of 1.5 = 3 merits; an improvement of 1.0 = 2 merits; an improvement of 0.5 = 1 merit (per grading period)
- Appropriately Handling/Walking Away from Conflict and/or Confrontation – 2-4 merits
- Consistent Recognized Class Participation – 1-2 merits

*Additional merits can be earned for other appropriate behaviors and can be assigned by the staff at DLEACS.

Earned merits can remove demerits and/or be used for Merit Rewards.