

**Minnesota State University, Mankato
University Policy**

Policy Name: Protection and Presence of Minors on Campus	Effective Date of Last Revision August 1, 2015
Custodian of Policy: Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management	Date of Last Review September 2014
Date of Adoption July 1, 2010	Date of Next Review September 2021

Policy

This policy outlines the circumstances under which it is appropriate for minors to be present on the Minnesota State University, Mankato campus or at additional University locations. The policy is intended to foster respect for the needs of all parties impacted by the presence of minors on campus, in the classroom or in the workplace.

Procedures

Definitions

Minor: anyone under the age of 18 and not enrolled as a student at Minnesota State Mankato.

Parent/Guardian: any adult who is responsible for a minor while on campus regardless of the individual's relationship to the minor.

Open Access Area: areas on the Mankato campus or at additional University locations that are open to the public and do not require a MavCard for access or use.

Behavioral expectations: knowing and adhering to Minnesota State Mankato and MnSCU policies, federal, state and local laws and the Minnesota State Mankato Statement of Student Responsibilities.

Open Access Areas

Use of University open access areas on the Mankato campus or at additional University locations by minors is encouraged as long as they meet the defined behavioral expectations.

Events

Minors are encouraged to attend university-sponsored events intended for minors and/or families, or intended for community participation as long as they meet the defined behavioral expectations.

Departments, organizations or third parties that plan events on the University campus or at additional University locations are to ensure appropriate supervision for the audience they are inviting, especially for minors. Determination of appropriate supervision standards can be obtained through the University Scheduling and Conference Services office.

General guidelines include:

- One parent/guardian for every eight (8) participants under the age of 13
- One parent/guardian for every sixteen (16) participants between the ages of 13 and 18
- Appropriate supervision includes the parent/guardian having both the presence and the ability to intervene.

Classrooms

Both instructors and students should refrain from bringing minors to class. The minor's presence has the potential to disrupt the proceedings either directly (due to behavior) or indirectly (class material is often not appropriate for a minor). Minors, even well behaved, can pose a significant distraction. An instructor may ask a student to remove a minor from any class at any time. An instructor should never ask a student to supervise a minor. Additionally, the following guidelines apply:

Minors are permitted in the classroom if:

- The instructor grants the student prior permission to bring a minor to class.
- The Chair/Dean grants the faculty member prior permission to bring a minor to class.
- Minors are the focus of the academic work.
- Minors are under direct and constant supervision of a parent/guardian.

Minors are not permitted in the classroom:

- On a regular basis.
- When the classroom environment is not safe (e.g., a laboratory).
- When the material covered is inappropriate for a minor to witness.

Workplace

Minors are welcome to visit the workplace on an occasional basis for brief visits under the following criteria:

- The employee's supervisor grants prior permission.
- The minor under the employee's direct supervision and is the sole responsibility of the employee while on campus. Employees should be aware that requesting other employees to provide supervision is unacceptable.
- Minors are expressly prohibited from entering hazardous areas such as laboratories, kitchens, and workshops.
- The presence of the minor cannot disrupt the work environment or negatively impact the productivity of employees within the workplace.

The employee bringing a minor to campus is responsible for all aspects of the minor's behavior including the minor's safety and is financially responsible for any damages caused by the minor.

Enforcement

Minors found unattended and not meeting behavioral expectations will be reported to University Security. University Security will follow their response procedures to return the minor to appropriate adult supervision.

Violations by parents/guardians will be referred to University Security to document the violation. Follow-up action will be determined by the appropriate supervisor or the Office of Student Conduct resulting from information collected while investigating the initial complaint. Any disciplinary action must conform to the procedures included in the appropriate collective bargaining agreement, personnel plan or the Statement of Student Responsibilities.

University Security response procedures may also include contacting the Mankato Department of Public Safety or child protective services, if deemed necessary for the health and welfare of the minor.

Rationale

Minnesota State University, Mankato is a diverse environment of classrooms, offices, laboratories, recreational facilities and other common areas. Visitors to campus are welcomed and encouraged. However, appropriate precautions and limitations on visitation are necessary to protect health and safety and to maintain productivity and regulatory compliance.

The University values family members, minors, and dependents attending cultural or sporting events and making authorized use of gymnasium, library or pool facilities. However, the University must consider issues of safety, confidentiality, disruption of operations and liability posed by the presence of minors on campus.

History of Revisions

8/1/2015 – Standard Policy Review

7/1/2010 – Standard Policy Review