

PURPOSE: To reinstate the ability of non-MSMS students to stay overnight during the weekends.

INTRODUCED BY: Daniel Hu

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE SENATE:

SECTION ONE (REASONING):

Two students requested that non-MSMS students be allowed to stay for the weekend, yet their request was denied. This is despite the policy clearly stated on page 109 under RL. 1.20, which allows non-MSMS students of the same sex and between the ages of 13 and 18 to stay overnight from Friday to Saturday. However, after consulting Ms. Latoya and Mr. Allen, they said that they had not enforced this policy since COVID. Their reasoning for this was because after COVID a lot of policies changed and there were more liabilities and safety risks that they had to manage, which led to stress on the ResLife Staff. Furthermore, they believe that the handbook's policy is outdated and does not reflect the current state of the school. Another concern is that the ResLife Staff cannot have friends or family stay the night, and Ms. Latoya was hesitant about how this would change the attitude of the ResLife Staff. This bill contains specific changes to address the concerns of the Resident Hall Directors.

SECTION TWO (SPECIFIC CHANGE):

“OVERNIGHT VISITORS Same sex friends and siblings (**that are high school students** between the ages of **13-14** and 18) of the student may stay overnight in the student's room only on Friday and/or Saturday nights. Children younger than **13-14** years old may not spend the night in an MSMS residence hall. Permission to have an overnight guest may be obtained by the student from the Residence Hall Director one week before the intended visit by completing and turning in the Overnight Guest Request Form. **The visitor must obtain their disciplinary record or a written referral from their school's guidance counselor to be referred to by the ResLife Staff to make sure that the visitor exhibits good behavior and is a model student. The visitor must also obtain their transcript and send it to appropriate ResLife Staff. The student inviting the guest must take full responsibility for the guest, and if the visitor violates school/resident hall rules, then the student will take the blame where the punishment may escalate: a level one turning into a level two.** The guest must be on the student's On/Off Visitors List. The advance notice is necessary because the school sends out

and must receive back from the guest's parents an Overnight Parent Permission Form for a visitor under the age of 18. If the visitor is 18 years old or older, the Overnight Guest Request Form must be turned in for approval 48 hours prior to the visit. No overnight guests are allowed during required on-campus or exam weekends. The Director for Student Affairs has the authority to limit or refuse overnight stays. The school is unable to provide guest rooms for parents or guardians; however, numerous hotels and B&B's may be found in Columbus and the Golden Triangle area. Please call the Office of Admissions for contact information for local lodging establishments."

SECTION THREE (APPENDIX):

Interview with Mr. Allen & Ms. LaToya

"If it were up to me, I would take this entire section out from the handbook." – Ms. LaToya

"I have brought this up to administration because we've had two requests... that's when I proposed to administration that we have a discussion amongst us... once Miss Holmes get back, or whatever else, and everybody has an availability, then I'll bring it to the forefront again, because it has been brought to the forefront for us to talk about it," — Ms. LaToya

Interview with Dr. Hummer (MSMS Class of 1995)

When asked what her experience was with her non-MSMS friends staying the night she stated,

"I loved being able to have my non-MSMS friends come and spend the weekend with me in the dorms, because it was a great way for me to introduce my MSMS friends, and my non-MSMS friends... For special occasions, like Winter Formal and prom, it was really great to have a friend from my hometown and spend the weekend in the dorms."

Interview with Raymond Yang

“I’m fully in support of this resolution. I think that non MSMS students on the weekends should be able to room in MSMS dorms because there’s little academic pressure compared to on the weekdays, and if the non-MSMS locals are accounted for, and they have signed in, and the residents life staff are aware of where they are then I think there should be no issues regarding security... There are many ways to make MSMS a more hospitable and enjoyable place for more people, and this is a way to do so while maintaining student security.”