



Making Milwood Middle School a **Safer Place for Students & Staff**

Discover how Milwood, a key turnaround school in Michigan, used digital hall passes to transform student behavior and create a positive learning environment.



Minga Champion:
Aaron Sauter, Assistant Principal



STUDENTS

600+

GRADES

6–8



Student ID



Community



Hall Pass



Behavior



KEY PROBLEM AREAS

- Lack of student safety in hallways
- Frequent fights and nefarious activities
- Low teacher morale due to safety concerns
- Difficulty in securing the building with multiple exit doors
- Negative impact on teachers' day-to-day work

THE CHALLENGE

Addressing **Safety and Security** at a School With Behavioral Challenges



Milwood Middle School, located in a high-poverty area of Kalamazoo, Michigan, was designated as a key turnaround school for the district due to its patterns of underachievement. The school struggled to create a positive environment that was conducive to learning. The main issue was keeping students safe within the building, as kids often wandered and hid in hallways, leading to frequent fights and other disruptive activities.

In addition, the numerous exit doors made it tricky to secure the building and the chaotic hallway activity impacted teachers' day-to-day work. Educators felt unsafe, which affected their ability to maintain order and focus on teaching—the environment called for a solution to boost safety and order to create a positive learning atmosphere.

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“The main challenge was that kids were out and about all the time. We would have upwards of 20 to 30 kids just wandering the building. I surveyed my staff at the beginning of the year and asked, ‘What do you want? Where are we going to start?’ And the number one thing they said was, ‘The hallways are out of control. I don’t feel safe.’”



Aaron Sauter

Assistant Principal
Milwood Middle School

THE SOLUTION

Transforming School Safety to Inspire Better Behavior

To tackle the pressing hallway safety issues, Milwood Middle School adopted Minga, excited by its robust hall pass capabilities. During the initial 6-week launch, Assistant Principal Aaron Sauter guided his admin team in rolling out digital hall passes. Carefully listening to staff questions and feedback played a crucial role in ensuring the successful adoption of the new digital tools.

Milwood uses Minga daily for hall pass management, allowing students to self-select passes for restrooms, water fountains, lockers, and other essential needs — reducing unnecessary hallway traffic and conflicts. The platform has also helped to facilitate smoother interactions with parents. Now that Milwood has successfully adopted digital hall passes, they are excited to expand their usage with the Behavior module and start rewarding positive student conduct.



WHAT MINGA OFFERED:

- A digital hall pass system that ensures orderly movement
- Better hallway monitoring and reports
- Live countdown timers on hall passes that get kids back to class promptly
- A tool to help teachers feel safer in their classrooms
- Clear data that allows for easier conversations with parents
- Seamless integration with a Behavior module that tracks and promotes positive student conduct

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I got it to a point where there were only 8 kids out at a time in the entire building. And I'll never forget it, I was standing in the hallway with my Principal and I pulled up the app and said to a kid, 'Hey, you've only got 27 seconds to get back to class,' and the kid just took off! My Principal looks at me and goes, "How do you know?" So I showed him the app and he was like, 'All right, that's great!'



Aaron Sauter

Assistant Principal
Milwood Middle School

THE OUTCOMES

A Safer and More Organized Learning Environment, for Both Students & Teachers

Increased Safety and Order

The implementation of Minga led to a 22% increase in feelings of school safety and order*. 85% of Milwood staff now feel that the school is safe*, fostering a more secure atmosphere for both teaching and learning. In addition, 88% of teachers said that ‘I feel physically safe at my school’*, an increase of 17% from the previous year.

Consistent Enforcement of Rules

Milwood now has consistent enforcement of student behavior rules, reducing the possibility of students avoiding consequences. This consistency has helped younger, newer teachers reduce their fear of conflict with students and resulted in a 27% increase in the consistent enforcement of rules* compared to the previous year, highlighting the reliability of the system.

Fair and Effective Disciplinary Practices

Minga helps ensure that all students are treated equally and fairly — the kids who could use a charming personality and a smile to get out of things couldn’t do this anymore. The school has seen a 36% rise in the fair application of disciplinary practices*, significantly enhancing students’ sense of safety.

Empowering Teachers and Enhancing Relationships

Digital hall passes empower teachers by providing a clear system for students to request permission to leave class, allowing educators to set expectations without fear of conflict. As a result, teachers enjoy improved relationships with students and feel more supported and confident.

Reduction in Referrals for Unauthorized Areas

Using a centralized digital hall pass system, Milwood has dramatically reduced the number of referrals for unauthorized areas from 158 to 43 in one year. 28/43 were written in trimester one and only 15/43 were written during trimester two and three. This 73% reduction signifies a major decrease in negative student behavior and hallway disruptions.

Improved Cleanliness and Maintenance of the School Building

The school building is now noticeably cleaner and better maintained, with a 27% improvement in cleanliness* compared to the previous year. With fewer kids running around, hanging out, and eating in the hallways, there’s significantly less litter, like bags of chips, scattered around. This has created a cleaner and more orderly environment.



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“Minga has changed the climate of the building, you can step outside of your doorway and it doesn’t feel chaotic. There used to be times when it was madness. I’d turn a corner and there’d be six kids and they just turn around and run. They weren’t being held accountable before.”



Aaron Sauter

Assistant Principal
Milwood Middle School

KEY RESULTS



88%

of teachers 'feel physically
safe at school'



%

73%

decrease in referrals for
unauthorized areas



22%

increase in safety
and order



27%

increase in the consistent
enforcement of rules



36%

increase in the fair
application of discipline



27%

increase in feelings of
school cleanliness

Build a Thriving School Community That Runs Like Clockwork

All Minga modules seamlessly integrate to offer a complete Campus Management Platform – in one convenient place.

-  Student ID
-  Hall Pass
-  Community
-  Check-in
-  Behavior & Rewards
-  FlexTime

[Book A Demo](#)

