

Administrative Procedure 335

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION OF STUDENTS

Background

To ensure a satisfactory climate for learning, school rules and regulations must be observed by students, and teachers must be empowered to enforce those rules and regulations. Students who do not conform to the student code of conduct may negatively affect the school's learning environment and their behavior may need to be addressed by invoking the measures of suspension and expulsion. Section 12 of the School Act identifies expectations for student conduct and sections 24 and 25 deal with student suspensions and expulsions.

This Administrative Procedure is intended to support the school staff in maintaining a safe, caring and effective learning environment, and to assist students in developing self-discipline and behaviors that contribute to such an environment. The suspension or expulsion of a student from school is a very serious matter and should only be taken when other measures have proven to be ineffective or when the seriousness of the misbehavior warrants such action. Schools are encouraged to develop suspension policies which incorporate in-school suspension alternatives wherever possible.

Procedures

1. In all matters pertaining to the suspension/expulsion of students, the provisions of Section 24 of the School Act shall be rigorously followed. Principals and teachers are expected to be fully conversant with the provisions of this section before initiating action.
2. Parents and students 16 years of age or older shall be advised of their right to have expulsions reviewed by the Minister of Education [Section 25 (3)].
3. Expulsion may apply to attendance at one or more schools in the District and involvement in any or all school related activities. The length of an expulsion is limited to the school year in which the expulsion takes place.
4. Suspensions are limited to five school days without the Principal's recommendation for expulsion (Section 24 of the School Act).

Reasons for Suspension and/or Expulsion

1. The School Act requires that all students conduct themselves so as to reasonably comply with the following code of conduct (Section 12 of the School Act):
 - 1.1 A student shall conduct himself or herself so as to reasonably comply with the following code of conduct:
 - (a) be diligent in pursuing the student's studies;

- (b) attend school regularly and punctually;
 - (c) co-operate fully with everyone authorized by the board to provide education programs and other services;
 - (d) comply with the rules of the school;
 - (e) account to the student's teachers for the student's conduct;
 - (f) respect the rights of others;
 - (g) ensure that the student's conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging;
 - (h) refrain from, report and not tolerate bullying or bullying behaviour directed toward others in the school, whether or not it occurs within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means;
 - i) positively contribute to the student's school and community.
2. Failure to comply with the code of conduct may result in suspension/expulsion (Section 24).
 3. Suspension and expulsion procedures may apply to student conduct at all school-related activities including, but not limited to, conduct at school sports events and conduct on school buses.
 4. Fighting or other activity off school grounds that can be said to reflect back into the school or a progression of an activity originating in the school and leading to fighting or other activity off school grounds will be considered school business for the purposes of this policy. Such actions may have a deleterious effect on the atmosphere of the school and will be dealt with accordingly.
 5. Before determining whether suspension or expulsion measures are warranted, Principals are to explore the following possibilities:
 - 5.1 Support provided to correct behavior;
 - 5.2 Measures taken to correct behavior;
 - 5.3 Meeting with parents to discuss solutions to behavior;
 - 5.4 Alterations in the program to meet identified needs through consultation with parents; and
 - 5.5 Offers to arrange for behavior counseling.
 6. In extreme cases, Principals may find it necessary to proceed directly to suspension or expulsion. In such cases, all provisions of Section 24 of the School Act are to be followed by the Principal.
 7. Upon receiving a recommendation from the Principal that a suspended student not be reinstated with five (5) school days, the Superintendent will refer the matter to the Student

Review Committee pursuant to Board Policy 13 – Appeals and Hearings Regarding Student Matters.

Reference: Section 12, 13, 24, 25, 60, 124, School Act

Cross-Reference: Administrative Procedure 330 – Student Conduct and Consequences
Board Policy 13 – Appeals and Hearings Regarding Student Matters