

## STUDENT SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION

### Background

The Division believes that the maintenance of an atmosphere conducive to learning and to harmonious interpersonal relationships is essential to the achievement of the purposes of its schools. Accordingly, certain behaviour, which is deemed seriously detrimental to such an atmosphere, may be cause for the removal of a student from a school bus, a class, a school function/activity or from school.

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 this behaviour cannot be accepted.

The suspension and expulsion of a student is a very serious matter and should only be taken when other measures have proven to be ineffective or when the seriousness of the offence warrants such action.

Section 12 of the School Act identifies expectations for student conduct and sections 24 and 25 deal with student suspensions and expulsions.

### Definitions

Suspension means to remove a student for a specified period of time from one or more of the following:

- One or more courses or education programs;
- One or more schools;
- Riding a school bus; or
- Participating in an activity sponsored or approved by the school for a period of ten (10) school days or less in accordance with the School Act Section 24.

Expulsion means to remove a student from:

- One or more class periods, courses or education programs;
- School;
- Riding in a school bus; or
- Participating in an activity sponsored or approved by the school for a period of more than ten (10) school days in accordance with the School Act Section 25.

### Procedures

1. The following items may be considered as reasons for student suspension, but this listing shall not be considered either complete or so prescriptive as to require that suspension follow automatically when the student commits the offence:

- 1.1 Open opposition to the authority of the principal or school staff;
  - 1.2 Wilful disobedience over a prolonged period or in a single instance where the disobedience endangers the pupils, teachers, building, or general climate of orderly behaviour;
  - 1.3 Habitual neglect to do work that is assigned to the pupil and which is within their competence to complete;
  - 1.4 Use of profane or indecent language in the presence of other students or staff;
  - 1.5 Threats or acts of physical violence against a teacher or pupil;
  - 1.6 Any act of indecency;
  - 1.7 Failure to observe and to obey any reasonable rule, regulation, or procedure established by the teacher or by the principal for maintaining a climate of behaviour conducive to learning;
  - 1.8 Wilful damage to school property or equipment; or
  - 1.9 Improper use of drugs or alcohol.
2. The Superintendent will provide a report annually to the Board with a summary of all suspensions of more than five (5) days and expulsions by date and school.

#### Suspension of Students

3. The principal and the teachers of a school shall ensure that they are familiar with section 24 of the School Act that provides the legislated framework governing student suspensions.
4. A teacher may suspend a student for one (1) class period in accordance with the following:
  - 4.1 The teacher immediately notifies the principal of the suspension;
  - 4.2 The teacher informs the student about the suspension, its consequences and the reason the suspension is being considered;
  - 4.3 The student is given an opportunity to offer an explanation for his/her action;
  - 4.4 The teacher directs the student to the principal to remain under the supervision of the school until the student's normal class dismissal time;
  - 4.5 The teacher reports all of the circumstances surrounding the suspension to the principal, in writing;
  - 4.6 The teacher informs the parents of the student by telephone of the suspension and the circumstances surrounding it as soon as possible;
  - 4.7 The teacher recommends follow-up designed to resolve the problem that led to the suspension.
5. A principal may suspend a student from class, school, riding on a school bus or participating in any school activity in accordance with the following:

- 5.1 The principal will confer with affected staff members to gather information about the student's misbehaviour.
- 5.2 The principal shall prepare a written record of all actions taken in regard to the incident and the student's behaviour;
- 5.3 The principal will inform the student about the proposed suspension, its consequences and the reason the suspension is being considered;
- 5.4 The student will be given an opportunity to offer an explanation for his/her behaviour;
- 5.5 If a suspension is warranted, the principal will inform the student of the reason for the suspension and the length of the suspension;
- 5.6 The principal shall immediately inform the parents of the student by telephone, of the suspension, including reasons for and length of, and shall immediately report in writing all the circumstances of the suspension to the parents with a copy to the Superintendent or designate;
- 5.7 The principal shall, if requested, provide an opportunity to meet with the parents, and the student if the student is 16 years of age or older, to discuss the reasonableness of the suspension;
- 5.8 If the student is not to be reinstated within five (5) school days after the date of the suspension, the principal shall immediately report in writing all the circumstances of the suspension and provide a recommendation to the Board for expulsion through the office of the Superintendent.

Reference: Section 12, 14, 24, 25, 45, 60, 61, 113, 123, 124, 125 School Act  
Review by The Minister – Information Bulletin 3.5.1  
Policy 13 – Appeals and Hearings Regarding Student Matters