

## **502.3 Suspensions and Expulsions**

### **Policy**

The Board recognizes the role of discipline in creating a safe, caring and respectful learning environment. While ideally students are in regular attendance at school, the Board acknowledges that there are times when a student needs a reflective opportunity to learn from experience, needs to have support structures put in place, or there is consideration for the safety of self and/or others. As a result, a student may be suspended or expelled.

The Board acknowledges the role of suspension and expulsion of a student, in response to a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, when:

1. other means of corrective action have failed to bring about orderly or appropriate conduct on the part of the student; or
2. the student's misconduct is so severe that lesser corrective action would be insufficient.

A suspension or expulsion shall be used in response to:

1. excessive, persistent or chronic disobedience or disregard of Division or school rules;
2. conduct which endangers the safety of students and/or staff;
3. illegal possession and/or misuse of controlled substances; or
4. conduct which is injurious to the physical or mental well-being of others in the school, whether or not the conduct occurs within the school building or during the school day; or
5. The student has distributed an intimate image of another person in the circumstances described in section 1(1.1) of the Education Act.

### **Regulations**

#### **Suspension**

1. A suspension shall be defined as a temporary prohibition, instituted by a principal or a teacher under Section 36 of the *Education Act*, of a student from attending a class, course, school activity, school, or from riding on school authorized transit for a period of 5 school days or less, unless in accordance with a recommendation for expulsion made by the principal under Section 37 of the *Education Act*.
  - 1.1. A teacher may suspend a student from one class period.
  - 1.2. The principal or administrative designate may suspend a student
    - 1.2.1. from school;

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- 1.2.2. from one or more class periods, courses or education programs;
- 1.2.3. from participation in school-related activities; or
- 1.2.4. from school authorized transit.
- 1.2.5. Parents/guardians, and any student that is 16 years of age or older, or Independent Students shall be informed in writing regarding the circumstances of a suspension, and provided an opportunity to meet with the principal or administrative designate to discuss the circumstances of the suspension.
- 1.3. The principal or administrative designate may at any time reinstate a student suspended under clause 1.1 or 1.2.
- 1.4. The principal or administrative designate shall reinstate the student within 5 school days or the principal may provide a written recommendation to the Superintendent for an expulsion. The student remains suspended until a decision has been made with respect to proceeding to expulsion.

### Expulsion

1. If a student is suspended in accordance with Section 36, the principal may recommend, prior to the end of the student's suspension, that the Board expel the student if:
  - 1.1 the student has displayed an attitude of willful, blatant, and repeated refusal to comply with *Education Act* Section 31,
  - 1.2 the student has displayed an attitude of willful, blatant, and repeated refusal to comply with the Code of Conduct established under *Education Act* Section 33(2),
  - 1.3 the student's conduct, whether or not the conduct occurs within the school building or during the school day, is injurious to the physical or mental well-being of others in the school, or
  - 1.4 the student has distributed an intimate image of another person in the circumstances described in *Education Act* Section 1(1.1)
2. The Board may make the decision to expel if:
  - 2.1. the principal has recommended that the Board expel the student; and
  - 2.2. the student has been offered another education program by the Board.
3. The Board delegates to the Expulsion Committee the power to make decisions with respect to the expulsion of students.
4. An Expulsion Committee shall consist of:
  - 4.1. two Trustees, appointed by the Board as needed; and
  - 4.2. a school administrator appointed by the Associate Superintendent, Instructional Services.
5. An expulsion hearing shall be facilitated by the Associate Superintendent, Instructional Services within 10 school days after the decision to move to expulsion.

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- 5.1. Before the Expulsion Committee makes a decision to reinstate or expel the student, the student and the students' parents/guardians may make representations to the Expulsion Committee with respect to the principal's recommendation to expel the student.
6. A suspension or expulsion shall not deny a student's legal right to access an education.
  - 6.1. The Expulsion Committee may establish parameters regarding the circumstances in which an expelled student may be re-enrolled. An expulsion or any rule or condition determined by the Expulsion Committee may apply to a student beyond the school year in which the student was expelled.
7. When a student is expelled under this section, the Board shall notify, in writing, the student's parent/guardian, and the student if they are 16 years of age or older, or the student if determined an Independent Student.
  - 7.1. of the expulsion and any rules and conditions that apply to the student, and
  - 7.2. of the right to request a review under Section 43 of the *Education Act*.

The Board delegates to the Superintendent the authority to develop the procedures necessary to implement this policy.

#### References

Education Act:	31, 33, 36, 37, 42, 43, 256(d)
Division Policies:	500.1 Rights and Responsibilities, 501.1 Attendance at School, 502.1 Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environments, 505.9 Appeals, 103.1 Anti-Racism & Anti-Oppression, Pr502.3 Suspensions and Expulsions
Other:	Appendix 502.1 Student Code of Conduct