



SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION OF STUDENTS

Background

Students who do not conform to the student code of conduct may negatively affect the school's learning environment. The Education Act grants Divisions and designated Division employees the authority to withdraw a student's privilege of attending a class, school, or riding the bus for failure to comply with the rules established by the Division or school.

The Division accepts the use of student suspensions as a disciplinary measure designed to encourage students to demonstrate self-discipline and appropriate behaviour.

The Board accepts the use of expulsion where the continued presence of a student in a school will seriously affect the safety of staff or students or the quality of the learning environment.

Procedures

1. Suspensions

1.1 Student suspensions shall conform to the statutory requirements of Section 36 of the Education Act.

2. Expulsions

2.1 Student expulsions shall conform to the statutory requirement of Section 37 of the Education Act.

2.2 Expulsion will only be used when:

2.2.1 It is deemed that other means of corrective action including consultation with parents, counselling, and suspensions have failed to achieve orderly and appropriate student behaviour; or

2.2.2 The student's continued presence in the school is deemed seriously threatening or disruptive to the orderly functioning of the school or the student's presence is deemed to be a danger to persons or property.

2.3 Expulsion procedures must ensure that the rules of natural justice and due process are followed, including a right to appeal the Board's decision to the Minister.

2.4 Notwithstanding the above, the seriousness of the misbehaviour may warrant immediate suspension or a recommendation to the Board for expulsion on the first offense.



3. Suspension From a Class

3.1 A teacher may suspend a student from a class period subject to the following procedures:

3.1.1 The teacher confers with the Principal prior to making the suspension.

3.1.2 The teacher informs the student about the suspension, its consequences, and the reason the suspension is being considered.

3.1.3 Students are given an opportunity to offer an explanation for their actions.

3.1.4 The teacher directs the student to the Principal to remain under the supervision of the school until the student's normal class dismissal time.

3.1.5 The teacher reports all of the circumstances surrounding the suspension to the Principal, in writing.

3.1.6 The teacher informs the parent(s)/guardian of the student by telephone of the suspension and the circumstances surrounding it as soon as possible.

3.1.7 The teacher recommends follow-up designed to resolve the problem that led to the suspension, e.g. counselling, etc.

3.2 The Principal, in consultation with relevant teachers and parents/guardians, may follow one (1) of the following courses of action:

3.2.1 Reinstatement the student;

3.2.2 Conditionally reinstate the student;

3.2.3 Suspend the student from school for a certain term;

3.2.4 Suspend the student from one (1) or more classes for a certain term; or

3.2.5 Recommend to the Board the expulsion of the student.

4. Suspension from School and School-Related Activities

4.1 The Principal may suspend a student from:

4.1.1 One (1) or more class periods;

4.1.2 One (1) or more courses or school programs;

4.1.3 School;



4.1.4 Riding on a school bus; or

4.1.5 Participating in an activity sponsored or approved by the Division.

4.2 When the Principal suspends a student from school, school activities or riding the school bus, the following procedures will apply:

4.2.1 The Principal will confer with affected staff to gather information about the student's misbehaviour.

4.2.2 The Principal will inform the student about the proposed suspension, its consequences and the reason the suspension is being considered.

4.2.3 The student will be given an opportunity to offer an explanation for their behaviour.

4.2.4 If a suspension is warranted, the Principal will inform the student of the reason for the suspension and length of the suspension.

4.2.5 The Principal shall inform the parent/guardian of the student by telephone of the suspension, including reasons and length, and shall immediately report in writing all the circumstances of the suspension to the parents/guardian with a copy to the Superintendent.

4.2.6 Where a student is not to be reinstated within five (5) school days of the date of the suspension, the Principal shall immediately report, in writing, all the circumstances of the suspension and his/her recommendations to the Board, through the Superintendent.

4.2.7 If the suspension is for an indefinite period, the student and or parent/guardian may request a hearing before the Board.

4.2.8 Upon receiving a report from a Principal pursuant to Section 24(5), the Board shall, within ten (10) school days from the first day of suspension, reinstate or expel the student.

5. Suspension with Recommendation for Expulsion

5.1 When the student's misbehaviour or history of misbehaviour is very serious, the Principal may suspend the student indefinitely and refer the matter to the Board, through the Superintendent, along with a recommendation for expulsion.

5.2 When a suspension is referred to the Board, the following procedures will be adhered to:



- 5.2.1 The Principal shall inform the parent/guardian of the student and the Superintendent by telephone and shall immediately report in writing all the circumstances of the suspension to the parents, with a copy to the Superintendent.
- 5.2.2 The Board shall, within ten (10) school days from the first day of the suspension, conduct a hearing into the case and render a decision to either reinstate or expel the student from school.
- 5.2.3 The Principal shall present documents and statements outlining the circumstances leading to the suspension and other relevant data that may assist the Board in making a judgement. Information will include documented instances of inappropriate student behaviour as well as administrative responses to the behaviour. The Principal will also be required to make a recommendation regarding the disposition of the case.
- 5.2.4 The procedure to be followed in conducting the hearing is outlined in Board Policy 13.

Reference: Section 8, 11, 31, 32, 33, 36, 37, 41, 42, 43, 44, 52, 53, 196, 197, 222 Education Act
Review by the Minister – Information Bulletin 3.5.1