

REVISED POLICY - VOL. 21, NO. 2

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION OF NONDISABLED STUDENTS

The Board of Education recognizes that exclusion from the educational programs of the District, whether by suspension or expulsion, is a serious sanction. Prior to any suspension or expulsion, the District will provide appropriate due process as required by State and Federal law.

For purposes of this policy, "suspension" shall be the short-term removal (not more than ten (10) school days) of a student from a regular District program and loss of access to any school activity, whether conducted on or off District property, or to school property during the period of suspension.

"Expulsion" shall be the long-term exclusion or permanent exclusion by the Board of a student from the schools of this District for a period not to exceed two (2) calendar years as determined on a case-by-case basis. Such exclusion includes access to any school activity, whether conducted on or off District property, and to any District property. A student may be expelled for gross misconduct or disobedience as defined and described in school disciplinary rules, including gross disobedience or misconduct perpetuated by electronic means, or for misconduct that is gross by any standard.

A student who is determined to have brought one of the following objects to school, any school-sponsored activity or event, or any activity or event which bears a reasonable relationship to school shall be expelled for a period of of not less than one (1) year:

- A. A firearm, defined as any gun, rifle, shotgun, weapon as defined by Section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code, firearm as defined in Section 1.1 of the Firearm Owners Identification Card Act, or firearm as defined in Section 24-1 of the Illinois Criminal Code of 1961.
- B. A knife, brass knuckles or other knuckle weapon regardless of its composition, a billy club, or any object is used or attempted to be used to cause bodily harm, including: look likes" of any firearm as defined in paragraph (A) above.

The expulsion periods in paragraphs A. and B. above may be modified by the Superintendent, and the Superintendent's, **or designee's**, determination may be modified by the Board on a case-by-case basis. Any such modification by the Superintendent **(or designee)** or the Board shall be in writing.

The Board authorizes the () Superintendent **(X)** principal **(X)** assistant principal **(X)** dean of students **or other administrator** to suspend a student for a period not to exceed ten (10) school days, or the Board may expel a student for a definite period of time not to exceed two (2) calendar years, as determined on a case-by-case basis, if (i) that student has been determined to have made an explicit threat on an Internet website against a school employee, a student, or any school-related personnel, (ii) the Internet website through which the threat was made is a site that was accessible within the school at the time the threat was made or was available to third parties who worked or studied within the school grounds at the time the threat was made, and (iii) the threat could be reasonably interpreted as threatening to the safety and security of the threatened individual because of his/her duties or employment status or status as a student within the school.

Expulsion or suspension shall be construed in a manner consistent with the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. A student who is subject to suspension or expulsion **(X)** may () shall be eligible for a transfer to an alternative school program in accordance with Article 13A of the School Code. A student who is suspended in excess of twenty (20) school days may be immediately transferred to an alternative school program unless the transfer is deemed to cause a threat to the safety of students or staff in the alternative program.

The Superintendent **or designee** shall, as required by the applicable provisions of the School Code and Federal law, report all firearms related incidents occurring in a school or on school grounds to the local law enforcement authorities and to the Department of State Police in a form, manner, and frequency as prescribed by the Department of State Police. The Superintendent, **or designee**, shall also refer any student who brings a firearm or weapon (as defined by 18 U.S.C. 921(a)) to school to the criminal justice or juvenile delinquency system.

~~No student, otherwise eligible for attendance, shall be excluded from school unless that student has substantially interfered with the maintenance of good order, been found guilty of gross disobedience or misconduct as set forth in the Student Code of Conduct or unless it is necessary to protect that student's or other students' physical safety or emotional safety and well being.~~

School officials shall limit the number and duration of out-of-school suspensions and expulsions to the greatest extent practicable, and only use them if other appropriate and available behavioral and disciplinary interventions have been exhausted, as determined by school officials. School officials shall also determine in their judgment whether the student's continuing presence in school would either: 1) pose a threat to the safety of other students, staff, or members of the school community or 2) substantially disrupt, impede, or interfere with the operation of the school. This determination will be made on a case-by-case basis. School officials shall make all reasonable efforts to resolve such threats, address such disruptions, and minimize the length or suspensions to the greatest extent practicable.

School personnel shall not advise or encourage students to drop out voluntarily due to behavioral or academic difficulties.

A student may be given a short-term suspension of up to ten (10) school days by the Superintendent ***(or designee)***, principal, assistant principal, or dean of students. If the Superintendent ***(or designee)***, principal, assistant principal, or dean of students suspends a student, this shall be reported immediately to the ***student's parents or guardians along with a full statement of the specific gross disobedience or misconduct involved resulting in the suspension and the notice of their right to review the suspension. The notice shall also include information about how to make up work missed during the suspension for equivalent academic credit. A copy of the notice shall be provided to the Board.*** ~~parents or guardians along with a statement of reasons for the suspension and the notice of their right to review the suspension. The Board shall be provided a summary of the notice provided to the students parents or guardians, which shall include the reason the student was suspended to the Board.~~

The Superintendent, ***or designee***, may recommend and the Board may expel a student from school for gross disobedience or misconduct. In all cases, appropriate due process rights described in Policy 5611 will be observed.

The Superintendent or designated person shall facilitate re-engagement of students who are returning from an out-of-school suspension, expulsion or an alternative school setting. This shall include the opportunity for students who were suspended to make up work according to the class syllabus for equivalent academic credit.

In the event that a transfer student was suspended or expelled from any other public or private school, the District **(X)** may **()** shall require the student to complete the entire term of the suspension or expulsion in an alternative school program under Article 13A of the School Code prior to being admitted if there is no threat to the safety of students or staff in the alternative program.

As a condition of enrollment, the parents or guardian **(X)** may **()** shall be required to sign a release that provides the District with relevant student discipline information from the prior school. Based on this information, the District **(X)** may **()** shall require the student to complete the remainder of an existing suspension or expulsion.

The Superintendent, **or designee**, shall develop administrative guidelines to implement this policy which shall include:

- (X)** strategies for providing special assistance to students who are in danger of being expelled and are not achieving the academic outcomes of the District's core curriculum;
- (X)** promulgation of standards of behavior and student disciplinary rules to all students in accordance with Board policy on student discipline;
- (X)** procedures that ensure due process;
- (X)** provision for make-up work at home, when appropriate.

105 ILCS 5/10-20.14, 5/10-22.6, 5/2-3.13a
18 U.S.C. 921(a)
20 U.S.C. 7151

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To Board 1st Reading 9/12/16
To Board 2nd Reading 9/26/16