

Students

Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process

The Bristol Board of Education is committed to creating a safe, orderly, and supportive learning environment for all students, staff, and visitors. This policy aims to balance the necessity of maintaining safety and order within our schools while adhering to progressive discipline and restorative practices, which seeks to address and correct inappropriate behavior while promoting accountability, personal growth, and the repair of harm.

Students are expected to comply with school rules and Board policies and may be disciplined for conduct on school grounds or at any school-sponsored activity that endangers persons or property, is seriously disruptive of the educational process, or that violates a publicized policy of the Board. Students may be disciplined for conduct off school grounds if such conduct is seriously disruptive to the educational process and violates Board policy.

Policy Objectives

- 1) **Ensure Safety and Order:** Maintain a secure and disciplined school environment conducive to learning and free from violence, threats, and disruptive behaviors.
- 2) **Promote Equity and Fairness:** Apply disciplinary measures in an equitable, consistent, and unbiased manner, ensuring that all students are treated with dignity and respect.
- 3) **Support Progressive Discipline:** Implement a progressive discipline model that focuses on intervention and prevention strategies to address and correct student behavior before it escalates.
- 4) **Implement Restorative Practices:** Incorporate restorative practices that emphasize accountability, reparation of harm, and the restoration of relationships within the school community.
- 5) **Encourage Personal Responsibility:** Foster a sense of personal responsibility and self-discipline in students, helping them to understand the consequences of their actions and to make better choices in the future.
- 6) **Engage Families and Communities:** Involve parents, guardians, and community members in the disciplinary process to support students in their behavioral and academic growth.

Policy Guidelines

1. Clear Expectations and Communication:

- Establish and communicate clear behavioral expectations and the consequences of violating them.
- Ensure that all students, staff, and parents/guardians are aware of the discipline policy and procedures.

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Policy Guidelines (continued)

2. Progressive Discipline Framework:

- Utilize a tiered approach to discipline that escalates in response to the severity and frequency of the behavior.
- Implement early intervention strategies such as counseling, mentoring, and behavior modification plans to address minor infractions.

3. Restorative Practices:

- Employ restorative practices such as mediation, peer counseling, and restorative circles to address conflicts and repair harm.
- Encourage students to take responsibility for their actions and to actively participate in the resolution process.

4. Consistent and Fair Application:

- Ensure that disciplinary measures are applied consistently and fairly across all student populations.
- Monitor and address any disparities in the application of disciplinary actions to prevent discrimination or bias.

5. Supportive Interventions:

- Provide support services such as counseling, social work, and mental health resources to help students address underlying issues contributing to behavioral problems.
- Develop individualized behavior plans for students with recurring or severe behavioral issues.

6. Engagement and Collaboration:

- Engage families in the disciplinary process through regular communication and involvement in restorative practices.
- Collaborate with community organizations and resources to support students and families in addressing behavioral and social-emotional needs.

7. Training and Professional Development:

- Provide ongoing training for staff on progressive discipline, restorative practices, and culturally responsive approaches to student behavior.
- Encourage staff to develop skills in conflict resolution, de-escalation techniques, and positive behavior support.

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Policy Guidelines (continued)

Review and Accountability

The Bristol Board of Education will regularly review the effectiveness of its discipline policy, incorporating feedback from students, staff, parents, and the community. Data on disciplinary actions and their outcomes will be collected and analyzed to ensure continuous improvement and the achievement of policy objectives.

By adopting this balanced approach to discipline, the Bristol Public School District aims to create a school environment where all students can learn, grow, and succeed while feeling safe and supported.

A. Definitions

1. **“Exclusion”** shall be defined as any denial of public school privileges to a student for disciplinary purposes.
2. **“Removal”** shall be defined as an exclusion from a classroom for all or a part of single class period, provided such exclusion shall not extend beyond ninety (90) minutes.
3. **“In-School Suspension”** means an exclusion from regular classroom activity for no more than five consecutive days, but not exclusion from school, provided such exclusion shall not extend beyond the end of the school year in which such in-school suspension was imposed. Such suspensions shall be served in any school building under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education.
4. **Forced Pick-Ups** means a practice requiring parents and guardians to pick up their students from school when behavioral issues occur. It is important to note that when a district asks a parent or guardian to pick up a student under such circumstances, it is considered an out-of-school suspension (OSS) and as such is subject to the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) Section 10-233c. This classification means the student is not only being removed from the school environment for the day but may also need interventions or support to address the underlying behavioral issues. Schools are required to document these cases to comply with the statute, ensure proper communication and collaboration with families about the students’ needs, and employ any resources that could help manage the behavior more effectively by the school.

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A. Definitions (continued)

5. **“Suspension”** means an exclusion from school privileges or from transportation services, provided such exclusion shall not extend beyond the end of the school year in which suspension was imposed. An out-of-school suspension for students in grades 3-12 shall not exceed ten days. An out-of-school suspension imposed for children in preschool to second grade shall not exceed five days.

All suspensions shall be in-school unless the administration determines for any student in grades three through twelve that (1) the student being suspended poses such a danger to persons or property or such a disruption of the educational process that the student (grades three to twelve) shall be excluded from school during the period of the suspension, or (2) that an out-of-school suspension is appropriate based on evidence of previous disciplinary issues that have led to suspensions or expulsion of the student and efforts by the administration to address such disciplinary issues through means other than out-of-school suspension or expulsion, including positive support strategies. A student in grades preschool to two, inclusive, may be given an out-of-school suspension if it is determined by the administration that such suspension is appropriate based on evidence that the student's conduct on school grounds is of a violent or sexual nature that endangers persons. In addition, a person's duty as a mandated reporter to report suspected child abuse or neglect is not limited by this provision.

6. **“Expulsion”** shall be defined as an exclusion from school privileges for any student in grades three to twelve, inclusive, for more than ten (10) consecutive school days and shall be deemed to include but not be limited to, exclusion from the school to which such student was assigned at the time such disciplinary action was taken, provided that assignment to a regular classroom program in a different school in the district shall not constitute a suspension or an expulsion. Such period of exclusion may extend to the school year following the school year in which the exclusion was imposed, up to one calendar year. To be expelled, the student's conduct must be found to be both violative of a Board policy and either seriously disruptive of the educational process or endangering persons or property.

Unless an emergency exists, no student shall be expelled without a formal hearing provided whenever such student is a minor, the notice shall also be given to the parents or guardians of the student at least five business days before such hearing, not including the day of such hearing. If an emergency exists, such hearing shall be held as soon after the expulsion as possible. The notice shall include information concerning the parent's or guardian's and the student's legal rights and concerning legal services provided free of charge or at a reduced rate that are available locally and how to access such services. An attorney or other advocate may represent any student subject to expulsion proceedings. The parent or guardian of the student shall have the right to have the expulsion hearing postponed for up to one week to allow time to obtain representation, except that if an emergency exists, such hearing shall be held as soon after the expulsion as possible.

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A. Definitions (continued)

7. **“Emergency”** shall be defined as a situation under which the continued presence of the student in the school imposes such a danger to persons or property or such a disruption of the educational process that a hearing may be delayed until a time as soon after the exclusion of such student as possible.
8. **“Days”** is defined as days when school is in session.
9. **“School-sponsored activity”** is defined as any activity sponsored, recognized or authorized by the Board of Education and includes activities conducted on or off school property.
10. **“Possess”** means to have physical possession or otherwise to exercise dominion or control over tangible property.
11. **“Deadly weapon”** means any weapon, whether loaded or unloaded, from which a shot may be discharged, or a switchblade knife, gravity knife, billy, blackjack, bludgeon, or metal knuckles. A weapon such as a pellet gun and/or airsoft pistol may constitute a deadly weapon if such weapon is designed for violence and is capable of inflicting death or serious bodily harm.
12. **“Firearm”** as defined in 18 U.S.C. §921, means 1) any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; 2) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; 3) any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or 4) any destructive device. Firearm does not include any antique firearm. For purposes of this definition “destructive device” means any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas, bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than 4 ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than ¼ ounce, mine, or device similar to any of the weapons described herein. A “destructive device” does not include an antique firearm; a rifle intended to be used by the owner solely for sporting, recreational, or cultural purposes; or any device which is neither designed nor redesigned for use as a weapon.
13. **“Vehicle”** means a **“motor vehicle”** as defined in Section 14-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes, snow mobile, any aircraft, or any vessel equipped for propulsion by mechanical means or sail.
14. **“Martial arts weapon”** means a nunchaku kama, Kesari-fundo, octagon sai, tonfa, or Chinese star.
15. **“Dangerous Drugs and Narcotics”** is defined as any controlled drug in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes §219-240.
16. **“Alternate education”** means a school or program maintained and operated by the Board of Education that is offered to students in a nontraditional setting and addresses their social, emotional, behavioral and academic needs. Such program must conform to SBE guidelines and conform to C.G.S. 10-15 and 16 (180 days/900 hours).

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A. Definitions (continued)

17. **“Dangerous Instrument”** means any instrument, article, or substance which, under the circumstances in which it is used or attempted or threatened to be used, is capable of causing death or serious physical injury, and includes a “vehicle” or a dog that has been commanded to attack.
18. **“Seriously disruptive of the educational process”** means, as applied to off-campus conduct, any conduct that markedly interrupts or severely impedes the day-to-day operation of a school.

B. Removal from Class

1. All teachers are hereby authorized to remove a student from class when such student causes a serious disruption of the educational process within the classroom.
2. Such teacher shall send the student to a designated area and shall immediately inform the building Principal or his/her designee as to the name of the student and the reason for removal.
3. No student shall be removed from class more than six (6) times in any year nor more than twice in one week, unless such student is referred to the Building Principal or his/her designee and granted an informal hearing in accordance with the provisions of this policy.
4. A school principal or other school administrator shall notify a parent or guardian of a student whose behavior has caused a serious disruption to the instruction of other students, caused self-harm or caused physical harm to a teacher, another student or other school employee not later than twenty-four hours after such behavior occurs. Such notice shall include, but not be limited to, informing such parent or guardian that the teacher of record in the classroom in which such behavior occurred may request a behavior intervention meeting.

Any teacher of record in a classroom may request a behavior intervention meeting with the crisis intervention team for the school, for any student whose behavior has caused a serious disruption to the instruction of other students, or caused self-harm or physical harm to such teacher or another student or staff member in such teacher’s classroom. The crisis intervention team shall, upon the request of such teacher and notifying such student’s parent or guardian, convene a behavior intervention meeting regarding such student. The participants of such behavior intervention meeting shall identify resources and support to address such student’s social, emotional and instructional needs. Not later than seven days after the behavior intervention meeting, the crisis intervention team shall submit to the parent or guardian of such student, in the dominant language of such parent or guardian, a written summary of such meeting, including, but not limited to, the resources and supports identified.

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C. Exclusion from Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Activities

Participation in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities is a privilege and not an entitlement. Students involved in such programs are expected to follow all school rules and demonstrate good citizenship. Failure to do so may result in partial or complete exclusion from said activities and programs. Activities include, but are not limited to, athletic programs, musical or drama productions, clubs, field trips, and school trips out-of-state and abroad.

D. Actions Leading to Disciplinary Action, including Removal from Class, Suspension and/or Expulsion

Conduct which may lead to disciplinary action (including, but not limited to, removal from class, suspension and/or expulsion in accordance with this policy) includes conduct on school grounds or at a school-sponsored activity (including on a school bus), and conduct off school grounds, as set forth above. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Striking or assaulting a student, members of the school staff or other persons.
2. Theft.
3. The use of obscene or profane language or gestures, the possession and/or display of obscenity or pornographic images or the unauthorized or inappropriate possession and/or display of images, pictures or photographs depicting nudity.
4. Violation of smoking, dress, transportation regulations, or other regulations and/or policies governing student conduct.
5. Refusal to obey a member of the school staff, law enforcement authorities, or school volunteers, or disruptive classroom behavior.
6. Any act of harassment based on an individual's sex, sexual orientation, race, color, religion, disability, national origin or ancestry.
7. Refusal by a student to identify himself/herself to a staff member when asked, misidentification of oneself to such person(s), lying to school officials or otherwise engaging in dishonest behavior.
8. Inappropriate displays of public affection of a sexual nature and/or sexual activity on school grounds or at a school-sponsored activity.
9. A walk-out from or sit-in within a classroom or school building or school grounds.
10. Blackmailing, threatening or intimidating school staff or students (or acting in a manner that could be construed to constitute blackmail, a threat, or intimidation, regardless of whether intended as a joke).
11. Possession of any weapon, weapon facsimile, deadly weapon, martial arts weapon, electronic defense weapon, pistol, knife, blackjack, bludgeon, box cutter, metal knuckles, pellet gun, air pistol, explosive device, firearm, whether loaded or unloaded, whether functional or not, or any other dangerous object or instrument. The possession and/or use of any object or device that has been converted or

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D. Actions Leading to Disciplinary Action, including Removal from Class, Suspension and/or Expulsion (continued)

12. modified for use as a weapon.
13. Possession of any ammunition for any weapon described above in paragraph 11.
14. Unauthorized entrance into any school facility or portion of a school facility or aiding or abetting an unauthorized entrance.
15. Possession or ignition of any fireworks, combustible or other explosive materials, or ignition of any material causing a fire. Possession of any materials designed to be used in the ignition of combustible materials, including matches and lighters.
16. Unlawful possession, sale, distribution, use, or consumption of tobacco, electronic nicotine delivery systems (e.g. e-cigarettes), vapor products, drugs, narcotics or alcoholic beverages (or any facsimile of tobacco, drugs, narcotics or alcoholic beverages), including being under the influence of any such substances or aiding in the procurement of any such substances. For the purposes of this Paragraph 15, the term “electronic nicotine delivery system” shall mean an electronic device that may be used to simulate smoking in the delivery of nicotine or other substance to a person inhaling from the device and includes, but is not limited to, an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, electronic pipe or electronic hookah and any related device and any cartridge or other component of such device. For the purposes of Paragraph 15, the term “vapor product” shall mean any product that employs a heating element, power source, electronic circuit or other electronic, chemical or mechanical means, regardless of shape or size, to produce a vapor that may or may not include nicotine that is inhaled by the user of such product. For the purposes of this Paragraph 15, the term “drugs” shall include, but shall not be limited to, any medicinal preparation (prescription and non-prescription) and any controlled substance whose possession, sale, distribution, use or consumption is illegal under state and/or federal law.
17. Sale, distribution, or consumption of substances contained in household items; including, but not limited to glue, paint, accelerants/propellants for aerosol canisters, and/or items such as the aerators for whipped cream; if sold, distributed or consumed for the purpose of inducing a stimulant, depressant, hallucinogenic or mind-altering effect.
18. Unlawful possession of paraphernalia used or designed to be used in the consumption, sale or distribution of drugs, alcohol or tobacco, as described in subparagraph (15) above. For purposes of this policy, drug paraphernalia includes any equipment, products and materials of any kind which are used, intended for use or designed for use in growing, harvesting, manufacturing, producing, preparing, packaging, storing, containing or concealing, or injecting, ingesting, inhaling or otherwise introducing controlled drugs or controlled substances into the human body, including but not limited to items such as “bongs,” pipes, “roach clips,” vials, tobacco rolling papers, and any object or container used, intended or designed for use in storing, concealing, possessing, distributing or selling controlled drugs or controlled substances.

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D. Actions Leading to Disciplinary Action, including Removal from Class, Suspension and/or Expulsion (continued)

19. The destruction of real, personal or school property, such as, cutting, defacing or otherwise damaging property in any way.
20. Accumulation of offenses such as school and class tardiness, class or study hall cutting, or failure to attend detention.
21. Trespassing on school grounds while on out-of-school suspension or expulsion.
22. Making false bomb threats or other threats to the safety of students, staff members, and/or other persons.
23. Defiance of school rules and the valid authority of teachers, supervisors, administrators, other staff members and/or law enforcement authorities.
24. Throwing snowballs, rocks, sticks and/or similar objects, except as specifically authorized by school staff.
25. Unauthorized and/or reckless and/or improper operation of a motor vehicle on school grounds or at any school-sponsored activity.
26. Leaving school grounds, school transportation or a school-sponsored activity without authorization.
27. Use of or copying of the academic work of another individual and presenting it as the student's own work, without proper attribution; or any other form of academic dishonesty, cheating or plagiarism.
28. Possession and/or use of a personal electronic device—including but not limited to cellular phones, smartphones, smartwatches, tablets, headphones/earbuds, portable media players, wearable or concealed recording devices, or any similar communication or digital device—on school grounds or at school-sponsored activities
29. Unauthorized use of any school computer, computer system, computer software, Internet connection or similar school property or system, or the use of such property or system for inappropriate purposes.
30. Possession and/or use of a laser pointer, unless the student possesses the laser pointer temporarily for an educational purpose while under the direct supervision of a responsible adult.
31. Hazing.
32. **“Bullying”** is defined as unwanted and aggressive behavior among children in grades kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, that involves a real or perceived power imbalance.
33. Cyberbullying, defined as any act of bullying through the use of the Internet, interactive and digital technologies, cellular mobile telephone or other mobile electronic devices or any electronic communications.

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D. Actions Leading to Disciplinary Action, including Removal from Class, Suspension and/or Expulsion (continued)

34. Acting in any manner that creates a health and/or safety hazard for staff members, students, or the public, regardless of whether the conduct is intended as a joke.
35. Engaging in a plan to stage or create a violent situation for the purposes of recording it by electronic means; or recording by electronic means acts of violence for purposes of later publication.
36. Engaging in a plan to stage sexual activity for the purposes of recording it by electronic means; or recording by electronic means sexual acts for purposes of later publication.
37. Using computer systems, including email, instant messaging, text messaging, blogging or the use of social networking websites, or other forms of electronic communications, to engage in any conduct prohibited by this policy.
38. Use of a privately owned electronic or technological device in violation of school rules, including the unauthorized recording (photographic or audio) of another individual without permission of the individual or a school staff member.

E. Scope of the Student Discipline Policy

a. Conduct on School Grounds or at a School-Sponsored Activity

Students may be disciplined for conduct on school grounds or at any school-sponsored activity that endangers persons or property, is seriously disruptive of the educational process, or violates a publicized policy of the Board.

b. Conduct off School Grounds

Students may be disciplined for conduct off school grounds if such conduct is seriously disruptive of the educational process and violates a publicized policy of the Board.

In determining whether such conduct is seriously disruptive of the educational process, the Administration and the Board of Education may consider, but such consideration shall not be limited to, the following factors:

1. whether the incident occurred within close proximity of a school;
2. whether other students from the school were involved or whether there was any gang involvement;
3. whether the conduct involved violence, threats of violence, or the unlawful use of a weapon, as defined in section Conn. Gen. Stat. § 29-38, and whether any injuries occurred; and
4. whether the conduct involved the use of alcohol.
5. In making a determination as to whether such conduct is seriously disruptive of the educational process, the Administration and/or the Board of Education may also consider whether such off-campus conduct involved the illegal use of drugs.

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Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (continued)

F. Mandatory Expulsion

It shall be the policy of the Board to expel a student, grades preschool, and kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, for one full calendar year if:

1. The student, on grounds or at a school-sponsored activity, was in possession of a firearm, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921*, as amended from time to time, or deadly weapon, dangerous instrument or martial arts weapon, as defined in C.G.S. 53A-3; or the student, off school grounds, did possess such firearm in violation of C.G.S. 29-35 or did possess and use such a firearm, instrument or weapon in the commission of a crime; or the student, on or off school grounds offered for sale or distribution a controlled substance, as defined in subdivision (9) of C.G.S. 21a-240, whose manufacture, distribution, sale, prescription, dispensing, transporting or possessing with intent to sell or dispense, offering or administering is subject to criminal penalties under C.G.S. 21-277 and 21a-278.
2. Such a student shall be expelled for one calendar year if the Board of Education or impartial hearing officer finds that the student did so possess or so possess and use, as appropriate, such a weapon or firearm, instrument or weapon or did so offer for sale or distribution such a controlled substance.
3. The Board may modify the period of a mandatory expulsion on a case-by-case basis.
4. A firearm, as defined by C.G.S. 53a-3 includes any sawed-off shotgun, machine gun, rifle, shotgun, pistol, revolver, or other weapon, whether loaded or unloaded from which a shot may be discharged, or a switchblade knife, a gravity knife, billy, black jack, bludgeon or metal knuckles.
5. A student enrolled in a preschool program provided by the Board of Education, state or local charter school or interdistrict magnet school shall not be expelled from such school except that a student shall be expelled for one calendar year from such preschool program pursuant to the mandatory expulsion requirement in compliance with the Gun-Free School Act, as described in this section.

G. Suspension Procedure

Unless an emergency exists, as that term is defined in paragraph A, no student shall be suspended without an informal hearing by the administration, at which such student shall be informed of the reasons for the disciplinary action and given an opportunity to explain the situation, provided nothing herein shall be construed to prevent a more formal hearing from being held if the circumstances surrounding the incident so require. The administration shall then determine whether or not suspension or in-school suspension is warranted.

If an emergency situation exists, the hearing outlined above shall be held as soon as possible after the exclusion of the student.

Prior to conducting any hearing regarding the suspension of a student, an administrator, school counselor or school social worker at the school in which the student is enrolled, shall contact the local homeless education liaison designated by the local or regional board of education for the school district, pursuant to Subtitle B of Title VII of the McKinney-

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Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process

G. Suspension Procedure(continued)

Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 USC 11431 et seq., as amended from time to time, to make a determination whether such student is a homeless child or youth, as defined in 42 USC 11343a, as amended from time to time. If it is determined that such student is a homeless child or youth, the administration shall consider the impact of homelessness on the behavior of the student during the hearing.

In the case of suspension, the administration shall notify the student's parents and the Superintendent of Schools not later than twenty-four (24) hours of the suspension as to the name of the student who has been suspended and the reason therefore. Any student who is suspended shall be given an opportunity to complete any class work including, but not limited to, examinations which such student missed during the period of his/her suspension.

The administration shall also have the authority to suspend a student from transportation services whose conduct while awaiting or receiving transportation violates the standards set forth in paragraph D, above. The administration shall have the authority to immediately suspend from school any student when an emergency exists as that term is defined in paragraph A, above.

Out-of-School Suspensions

All suspensions shall be in-school suspensions, except the Board of Education may authorize the administration of schools under its direction to impose an out-of-school suspension on any student ~~in~~:

1. Grades preschool to two, if during the informal hearing outlined above, the administration:
 - a. Determines that an out-of-school suspension is appropriate for such student based on evidence that such student's conduct on school grounds is behavior that causes **serious** physical harm;
 - b. Requires that such student receives services that are trauma-informed and developmentally appropriate and align with any behavioral intervention plan, individualized education program, or plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended from time to time, for such student upon such student's return to school immediately following the out-of-school suspension; and
 - c. Considers whether to convene a planning and placement team meeting for the purposes of conducting an evaluation to determine whether such student may require special education or related services.
2. Grades three to twelve, inclusive, if, resulting from a due process hearing:
 - a. The administration determines that the student being suspended poses such a danger to persons or property or such a disruption of the educational process (as defined above in section E) that the student shall be excluded from school during the period of suspension.

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G. Suspension Procedure

Out-of-School Suspensions (continued)

- b. The administration determines that an out-of-school suspension is appropriate for such student based on evidence of:
 - i. previous disciplinary problems that have led to suspensions or expulsion of such student; and
 - ii. efforts by the administration to address such disciplinary problems through means other than out-of-school suspension or expulsion, including positive behavioral support strategies. An in-school suspension may be served in the student's school or any school building under the jurisdiction of the local or regional board of education, as determined by such board.

Length of Suspension Period:

In determining the length of a suspension period, the administration may receive and consider evidence of past disciplinary problems which have led to removal from a classroom, in-school suspension, or expulsion.

An out-of-school suspension shall not exceed ten school days for students in grades 3-12.

An out-of-school suspension shall not exceed five school days for children in preschool through 2 grade.

For any student who is suspended for the first time and who has never been expelled, the school administration may shorten the length of or waive the suspension period if the student successfully completes an administration-specified program and meets any other administration-required conditions. Such program shall be at no expense to the student or his/her parents/guardians.

General provisions:

No student shall be suspended more than ten times or a total of fifty (50) days in one school year, whichever results in fewer days of exclusion, unless such student is granted a formal hearing pursuant to sub sections 4-176e to 4-180a, inclusive, section 4-181a, and as outlined in in section I below is first granted.

No student shall be placed on in-school suspension more than fifteen times or a total of fifty (50) days in one school year, whichever results in fewer days of exclusion, unless such student is granted a formal hearing pursuant to sub sections 4-176e to 4-180a, inclusive, section 4-181a, and as outlined in in section I below is first granted.

H. Expulsion Procedures

The Board of Education may, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, expel any student for one or more of the reasons stated in this policy if, after holding a formal hearing, it is in the judgment of the Board of Education that such disciplinary action is in the best interest of the school system.

A special education student's handicapping conditions shall be considered before making a decision to expel. A Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meeting must be held to determine whether the behavior or student actions violative of Board of Education standards set forth in policy governing suspension and expulsion are the result of the student's handicapping condition.

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H. Expulsion Procedures (continued)

For any student expelled for the first time and who has never been suspended, except for a student who has been expelled based on possession of a firearm or deadly weapon, the Board of Education may shorten the length of or waive the expulsion period if the student successfully completes a Board specified program and meets any other conditions required by the Board. Such a Board specified program shall not require the student or the parent/guardian of such student to pay for participation in the program.

Prior to conducting formal hearing, as required by PA 25-93 Section 38 subsection 3, an administrator, school counselor or school social worker at the school in which the student is enrolled shall contact the local homeless education liaison designated by the local or regional board of education for the school district, pursuant to Subtitle B of Title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 USC 11431 et seq., as amended from time to time, to make a determination whether such student is a homeless child or youth, as defined in 42 USC 11343a, as amended from time to time.

If it is determined that such student is a homeless child or youth:

- a. The local or regional board of education, or the impartial hearing board established pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, shall consider the impact of homelessness on the behavior of the student during the hearing.
- b. No such student may be expelled without a plan of interventions and supports to mitigate the impact of homelessness on the behavior of the student.
- c. If such child or youth and has been expelled for a second time shall be provided a meeting with the local homeless education liaison by the local or regional board of education.

Upon receipt of a recommendation for expulsion from the Superintendent of Schools the Board shall, after giving written notice as detailed below in section K Notification, conduct a hearing prior to taking any action on the expulsion of said student, provided however, that in the event of an emergency as defined in this policy, the student may be expelled prior to the hearing but in such case even a hearing shall be held as soon after the expulsion as possible.

An attorney or other advocate may represent any student subject to expulsion proceedings. The parent/guardian of the student has the right to have the expulsion hearing postponed for up to one week to allow time to obtain representation, except that if an emergency exists, such hearing shall be held as soon after the expulsion as possible.

Expulsion hearings (formal hearings) conducted by the Board will be heard by any three or more Board members. A decision to expel a student must be supported by a majority of the Board members present, provided that no less than three (3) affirmative votes to expel are cast. Alternatively, the Board may appoint an impartial hearing officer composed of one (1) or more persons to hear and decide the expulsion matter, provided that no member of the Board may serve on such panel.

An attorney or other advocate may represent any student subject to expulsion proceedings. The parent/guardian of the student has the right to have the expulsion hearing postponed for up to one week to allow time to obtain representation, except that if an emergency exists, such hearing shall be held as soon after the expulsion as possible.

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I. Formal Hearings/Due Process

1. Any hearing conducted under this paragraph shall at least include the right to:
 - a. Notice prior to the date of the proposed hearing which shall include a statement of the time, place and nature of the hearing and a statement of the legal jurisdiction under which the hearing is to be held and a statement that students under sixteen years old who are expelled and students between sixteen and eighteen who have been expelled for the first or second time and who comply with conditions set by the Board of Education, must be offered an alternative educational opportunity;
 - b. A short and plain statement of the matters asserted, if such matters have not already been provided in a statement of reasons requested by the student;
 - c. The opportunity to be heard in the student's own defense;
 - d. The opportunity to present witnesses and evidence in the student's defense;
 - e. The opportunity to cross-examine adverse witnesses;
 - f. The opportunity to be represented by counsel at the parents'/student's own expense; and
 - g. Information concerning legal services provided free of charge or at a reduced rate that are available locally and how to access such services;
 - h. The opportunity to have the services of a translator, to be provided by the Board of Education whenever the student or his/her parent or legal guardian do not speak the English language;
 - i. The prompt notification of the decision of the Board of Education, which decision shall be in writing if adverse to the student concerned.

2. Record keeping:

The record of the hearing held in any expulsion case shall include the following:

- a. All evidence received and considered by the Board of Education;
- b. Questions and offers of proof, objections and ruling on such objections;
- c. The decision of the Board of Education rendered after such hearing; and
- d. A copy of the initial letter of notice of proposed expulsion, a copy of any statement of reasons provided upon request, a statement of the notice of hearing and the official transcript, if any or if not transcribed, any recording or stenographic record of the hearing.

3. Rules of evidence at hearings:

Rules of evidence at expulsion hearings shall assure fairness, but shall not be controlled by the formal rules of evidence, and shall include the following:

- a. Any oral or documentary evidence may be received by the Board of Education but, as a matter of policy, irrelevant, immaterial or unduly repetitious evidence may be excluded. In addition, other evidence of past disciplinary problems which have led to removal from a classroom, in-school suspension, suspension, or expulsion may be received for considering the length of an expulsion and the nature of the alternative educational opportunity, if any, to be offered;

Students

Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process

I. Formal Hearings/Due Process (continued)

3. Rules of evidence at hearings: (continued)

- b. The Board of Education shall give effect to the rules of privilege by law;
- c. In order to expedite a hearing, evidence may be received in written form, provided the interest of any party is not substantially prejudiced thereby;
- d. Documentary evidence may be received in the form of copies or excerpts;
- e. A party to an expulsion hearing may conduct cross-examination of witnesses where examination is required for a full and accurate disclosure of the facts;
- f. The Board of Education may take notice of judicially cognizable facts in addition to facts within the Board's specialized knowledge provided, however, the parties shall be notified either before or during the hearing of the material noticed, including any staff memoranda or data, and an opportunity shall be afforded to any party to contest the material so noticed;
- g. A stenographic record or tape-recording of any oral proceedings before the Board of Education at an expulsion hearing shall be made provided, however, that a transcript of such proceedings shall be furnished upon request of a party with the cost of such transcript to be paid by the requesting party. Findings of fact made by the Board after an expulsion hearing shall be based exclusively upon the evidence adduced at the hearing.

J. Expunging Records

Suspension:

Whenever a student is suspended pursuant to the provisions of this section, notice of the suspension and the conduct for which the student was suspended shall be included on the student's cumulative educational record.

Such notice shall be expunged from the cumulative educational record by the local or regional board of education if a student graduates from high school, or in the case of a suspension of a student for which the length of the suspension period is shortened or the suspension period is waived pursuant to subsection (e) of this section, such notice shall be expunged from the cumulative educational record by the local or regional board of education (1) if the student graduates from high school, or (2) if the administration so chooses, at the time the student completes the administration-specified program and meets any other conditions required by the administration pursuant to subsection (e) of Sec. 10-233d., whichever is earlier.

Students

Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process

J. Expunging Records (continued)

Expulsion:

Whenever a student is expelled, notice of the expulsion and the conduct for which the student was expelled shall be included on the student's cumulative educational record. Such notice, except for notice of an expulsion of a student in grades nine to twelve, inclusive, based on possession of a firearm or deadly weapon as described in Sec. 29-38 of the general statutes.

1. shall be expunged from the cumulative educational record by the board of education if a student graduates from high school, or
2. may be expunged from the cumulative educational record by the board of education before a student graduates from high school if:
 - a. in the case of a student for which the length of the expulsion period is shortened or the expulsion period is waived pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (c) Sec. 10-233d., such board determines that an expungement is warranted at the time such student completes the board-specified program and meets any other conditions required by such board pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of Sec. 10-233d. , or
 - b. such student has demonstrated to such board that the conduct and behavior of such student in the years following such expulsion warrants an expungement. The board of education, in determining whether to expunge such notice, may receive and consider evidence of any subsequent disciplinary problems that have led to removal from a classroom, suspension or expulsion of such student.

K. Notification

1. All students and parents within the jurisdiction of the Board of Education shall be informed, annually, of Board Policy governing student conduct by the delivery to each said student of a written copy of said Board Policy.
2. The parents or guardian of any minor student either expelled or suspended shall be given notice of such disciplinary action no later than 24 hours of the time of the institution of the period of expulsion or suspension.
3. The notice of an expulsion hearing shall be given at least five (5) business days before such hearing to the student and his/her parents or guardians, if said student is less than 18 years of age shall include information concerning the parent's/guardian's and the student's legal rights and concerning legal services that are provided free of charge or at a reduced rate that are available (CT legal services as a source of such services) and how to access such services. The notification shall reference the maximum number of suspension days before the expulsion days proceed. 5 consecutive days for students in pre-school to second grade, 10 consecutive days for students in grades 3-12, a statement that an attorney or other advocate may represent any student subject to expulsion proceedings. The parent/guardian of the student shall be notified of the right to have the expulsion hearing postponed for up to one week to allow time to obtain representation, except that if an emergency exists, such hearing shall be held as soon after the expulsion as possible.

Students

Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (continued)

L. Stipulated Agreements

In lieu of the procedures used in this section, the Administration and the parents (or legal guardians) of a student facing expulsion may choose to enter into a Joint Stipulation of the Facts and a Joint Recommendation to the Board concerning the length and conditions of expulsion. Such Joint Stipulation and Recommendation shall include language indicating that the parents (or legal guardians) understand their right to have an expulsion hearing held pursuant to these procedures, and language indicating that the Board, in its discretion, has the right to accept or reject the Joint Stipulation of Facts and Recommendation.

If the Board rejects either the Joint Stipulation of Facts or the Recommendation, an expulsion hearing shall be held pursuant to the procedures outlined herein. If the Student is eighteen years of age or older, the student shall have the authority to enter into a Joint Stipulation and Recommendation on his or her own behalf.

If the parties agree on the facts, but not on the disciplinary recommendation, the Administration and the parents (or legal guardians) of a student facing expulsion may also choose to enter into a Joint Stipulation of the Facts and submit only the Stipulation of the Facts to the Board in lieu of holding the first part of the hearing, as described above. Such Joint Stipulation shall include language indicating that the parents understand their right to have a hearing to determine whether the student engaged in the alleged misconduct and that the Board, in its discretion, has the right to accept or reject the Joint Stipulation of Facts. If the Board rejects the Joint Stipulation of Facts, a full expulsion hearing shall be held pursuant to the procedures outlined herein.

M. Students identified as eligible for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (“IDEA”)

If the Board of Education expels a student who has been identified as eligible for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (“IDEA”), it shall off an alternative educational opportunity to such student in accordance with the requirements of IDEA, as it may be amended from time to time.

N. Procedures Governing Suspension and Expulsion of Students Identified as Eligible for Services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (“IDEA”)

A. Suspension of IDEA students

Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the Administration suspends a student identified as eligible for services under the IDEA (an “IDEA student”) who has violated any rule or code of conduct of the school district that applies to all students, the following procedures shall apply:

1. The administration shall make reasonable attempts to immediately notify the parents of the student of the decision to suspend on the date on which the decision to suspend was made, and a copy of the special education procedural safeguards must either be hand-delivered or sent by mail to the parents on the date that the decision to suspend was made.
2. During the period of suspension, the school district is not required to provide any educational services to the IDEA student beyond that which is provided to all students suspended by the school district.

Students

Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (continued)

N. Procedures Governing Suspension and Expulsion of Students Identified as Eligible for Services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (“IDEA”) (cont.)

B. Expulsion and Suspensions that Constitute Changes in Placement for IDEA Students

Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, if the administration recommends for expulsion an IDEA student who has violated any rule or code of conduct of the school district that applies to all students, the procedures described in this section shall apply. The procedures described in this section shall also apply for students whom the administration has suspended in a manner that is considered under the IDEA, as it may be amended from time to time, to be a change in placement:

1. The parents of the student must be notified of the decision to recommend for expulsion (or to suspend if a change in placement) on the date on which the decision to suspend was made, and a copy of the special education procedural safeguards must either be hand-delivered or sent by mail to the parents on the date that the decision to recommend for expulsion (or to suspend if a change in placement) was made.
2. The school district shall immediately convene the student’s planning and placement team (“PPT”), but in no case later than ten (10) school days after the recommendation for expulsion or the suspension that constitutes a change in placement was made.

The student’s PPT shall consider the relationship between the student’s disability and the behavior that led to the recommendation for expulsion or the suspension which constitutes a change in placement, in order to determine whether the student’s behavior was a manifestation of his/her disability.

3. If the student’s PPT finds that the behavior was a manifestation of the student’s disability, the Administration shall not proceed with the recommendation for expulsion or the suspension that constitutes a change in placement.
4. If the student’s PPT finds that the behavior was not a manifestation of the student’s disability, the Administration may proceed with the recommended expulsion or suspension that constitutes a change in placement.
5. During any period of expulsion, or suspension of greater than ten (10) days per school year, the Administration shall provide the student with an alternative education program in accordance with the provisions of the IDEA.
6. When determining whether to recommend an expulsion or a suspension that constitutes a change in placement, the building administrator (or his or her designee) should consider the nature of the misconduct and any relevant educational records of the student.

Students

Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process

N. **Procedures Governing Suspension and Expulsion of Students Identified as Eligible for Services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (“IDEA”)** (continued)

C. **Transfer of IDEA Students for Certain Offenses:**

School personnel may transfer an IDEA student to an appropriate interim alternative educational setting for not more than forty-five (45) school days if the student:

1. Was in possession of a dangerous weapon, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 930(g)(2), as amended from time to time, on school grounds or at a school-sponsored activity, or
2. Knowingly possessed or used illegal drugs or sold or solicited the sale of a controlled substance while at school or at a school-sponsored activity; or
3. Has inflicted serious bodily injury upon another person while at school, on school premises, or at a school function.

The following definitions shall be used for this subsection XII. C.

1. **Dangerous weapon** means a weapon, device, instrument, material, or substance, animate or inanimate, that is used for, or is readily capable of, causing death or serious bodily injury, except that such term does not include a pocket knife with a blade of less than 2.5 inches in length.
2. **Controlled substance** means a drug or other substance identified under schedules I, II, III, IV, or V in section 202(c) of the Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. 812(c).
3. **Illegal drug** means a controlled substance but does not include a substance that is legally possessed or used under the supervision of a licensed health-care professional or that is legally possessed or used under any other authority under the Controlled Substances Act or under any other provision of federal law.
4. **Serious bodily injury** means a bodily injury which involves: (A) a substantial risk of death; (B) extreme physical pain; (C) protracted and obvious disfigurement; or (D) protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty.

O. **Procedures Governing Expulsions for Students Identified as Eligible under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (“Section 504”)**

- A. Except as provided in subsection B below, notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, if the Administration recommends for expulsion a student identified as eligible for educational accommodations under Section 504 who has violated any rule or code of conduct of the school district that applies to all students, the following procedures shall apply:
 1. The parents of the student must be notified of the decision to recommend the student for expulsion.

Students

Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process

O. Procedures Governing Expulsions for Students Identified as Eligible under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (“Section 504”) (continued)

2. The district shall immediately convene the student’s Section 504 team (“504 team”) for the purpose of reviewing the relationship between the student’s disability and the behavior that led to the recommendation for expulsion. The 504 team will determine whether the student’s behavior was a manifestation of his/her disability.
 3. If the 504 team finds that the behavior was a manifestation of the student’s disability, the Administration shall not proceed with the recommended expulsion.
 4. If the 504 team finds that the behavior was not a manifestation of the student’s disability, the Administration may proceed with the recommended expulsion.
- B. The Board may take disciplinary action for violations pertaining to the use or possession of illegal drugs or alcohol against any student with a disability who currently is engaging in the illegal use of drugs or alcohol to the same extent that such disciplinary action is taken against nondisabled students. Thus, when a student with a disability is recommended for expulsion based solely on the illegal use or possession of drugs or alcohol, the 504 team shall not be required to meet to review the relationship between the student’s disability and the behavior that led to the recommendation for expulsion.

P. Procedures Governing Expulsions for Students Committed to a Juvenile Detention Center

- A. Any student who commits an expellable offense and is subsequently committed to a juvenile detention center, the Connecticut Juvenile Training School or any other residential placement for such offense may be expelled by the Board in accordance with the provisions of this section. The period of expulsion shall run concurrently with the period of commitment to a juvenile detention center, the Connecticut Juvenile Training School or any other residential placement.
- B. If a student who committed an expellable offense seeks to return to a school district after participating in a diversionary program or having been detained in a juvenile detention center, the Connecticut Juvenile Training School or any other residential placement and such student has not been expelled by the board of education for such offense under subdivision (A) of this subsection, the Board shall allow such student to return and may not expel the student for additional time for such offense.

Students

Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (continued)

Q. Alternative Educational Opportunity

The Board of Education recognizes its obligation to offer any student under the age of sixteen (16) who is expelled, an alternative educational opportunity which shall be equivalent to alternative education, as defined, by C.G.S. 10-74j with an individualized learning plan, (1) if the Board provides such alternative education, or (2) in accordance with the standards adopted by the State Board of Education (by 8/15/17), which includes the kind of instruction to be provided and the number of hours to be provided, during the period of expulsion.

Any parent or guardian of such student who does not choose to have his or her child enrolled in an alternative educational opportunity shall not be subject to the provision of Section 10-184 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Any expelled student who is between the ages of sixteen (16) and eighteen (18) not previously expelled and who wishes to continue his or her education shall be offered such an alternative educational opportunity if he or she complies with conditions established by the Board of Education. other than the one from which the student has been excluded.

Such alternative educational opportunity may include, but shall not be limited to, the assignment of a student (who is seventeen (17) years of age or older) to any such adult education program or placement of such student in a regular classroom program of a school

Any student participating in an adult education program during a period of expulsion shall not be required to withdraw from school under C.G.S. 10-184. In determining the nature of the alternative education opportunity to be offered under this Section, the Board of Education may receive and consider evidence of past disciplinary issues which have led to removal from a classroom, suspension, or expulsion.

The Board of Education is not obligated to provide such alternative educational opportunity to any student eighteen years of age or older. The Board of Education is also required to offer such alternative educational opportunity, as defined, to any student between the ages of sixteen and eighteen who is expelled because of conduct which endangers persons, and involved the following, on school grounds or at a school-sponsored event:

1. Possession of a firearm, deadly weapon, dangerous instrument or martial arts weapon, or
2. Offering an illegal drug for sale or distribution.
3. If the Board expels a student for the sale or distribution of a controlled substance, the Board shall refer the student to an appropriate state or local agency for rehabilitation, intervention or job training, or any combination thereof, and inform the agency of its action. If a student is expelled for possession of a firearm, deadly weapon, dangerous instruments (those that can be used to cause death or serious injury) or martial arts weapons the Board shall report the violation to the local police department.
4. This provision shall not apply to students requiring special education who are described in subdivision (1) of sub-section (e) of C.G.S. 10-76a. The alternative educational opportunity for any such student shall be established by the IEP team (PPT) in accordance with the procedures described above.

Students

Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process

R. Other Considerations

1. If a student is expelled, notice of the expulsion and the conduct for which the student was expelled shall be included on the student's cumulative educational record. Such notice, except for the notice of an expulsion of a student in grades nine through twelve, inclusive, based on possession of a firearm or deadly weapon, shall be expunged from the cumulative educational record by the Board if the Board determines that the student's conduct and behavior in the years following such expulsion warrants an expungement or if the student graduates from high school.
2. If a student's expulsion is shortened or the expulsion period waived based upon the fact that the student was expelled for the first time, had never been suspended, and successfully completed a Board specified program and/or met other conditions required by the Board, the notice of expulsion shall be expunged from the cumulative educational record if the student graduates from high school or, if the Board so chooses, at the time the student completes the Board specified program and meets any other conditions required by the Board.
3. If a student in grades preschool to eight, is expelled based on possession of a firearm or deadly weapon, the Board may expunge from the students' cumulative education record the notice of the expulsion and the conduct for which the student was expelled if the Board determines that the conduct and behavior of the student in the years following such expulsion warrants an expungement.
4. The Board may adopt the decision of a student expulsion hearing conducted by another school district provided such Board of Education held a hearing pursuant to C.G.S.10-233d(a). Adoption of such a decision shall be limited to a determination of whether the conduct which was the basis for the expulsion would also warrant expulsion under the policies of this Board. The student shall be excluded from school pending such hearing. The excluded student shall be offered an alternative education opportunity in accordance with item K above.
5. Whenever a student against whom an expulsion hearing is pending withdraws from school and after notification of such hearing but before the hearing is completed and a decision rendered, (1) notice of the pending expulsion hearing shall be included on the student's cumulative educational record and (2) the Board shall complete the expulsion hearing and render a decision.
6. A student expelled for possession of a firearm, deadly weapon, dangerous instrument or martial arts weapon shall have the violation reported to the local police department.
7. The period of expulsion shall not extend beyond a period of one calendar year. A period of exclusion may extend into the next school year.
8. An expelled student may apply for early readmission to school. Such readmission shall be at the discretion of the Board of Education/Superintendent of Schools (choose which). Readmission decisions shall not be subject to appeal to Superior Court. The Board or Superintendent, as appropriate, may condition such readmission on specified criteria.

Students

Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process

R. Other Considerations (continued)

9. Any student who commits an expellable offense and is subsequently committed to a juvenile detention center, The Connecticut Juvenile Training School or any other residential placement for such offense may be expelled by the local Board of Education. The period of expulsion shall run concurrently with the period of commitment to a juvenile detention center, the Connecticut Juvenile Training School or any other residential placement.
10. Prior to placing any student in an out-of-district placement due to the challenging behavior of such student, the board of education shall conduct a functional behavior assessment of such student and develop or update a behavioral intervention plan for such student.

A functional behavior assessment and a behavioral intervention plan shall not be required if the time required to conduct such assessment or develop or update such plan would put the safety of such student, any other student or any staff at such student's school at risk.

Not later than two business days following the decision to not conduct such assessment or develop or update such plan for such student, the local or regional board of education shall file a notice with the Department of Education of the reasons that such assessment was not conducted or such plan was not developed or updated.

S. Change of Residence During Expulsion Proceedings

A. Student moving into the school district

1. If a student enrolls in the district while an expulsion hearing is pending in another district, such student shall not be excluded from school pending completion of the expulsion hearing unless an emergency exists, as defined above. The Board shall retain the authority to suspend the student or to conduct its own expulsion hearing.
2. Where a student enrolls in the district during the period of expulsion from another public school district, the Board may adopt the decision of the student expulsion hearing conducted by such other school district. The student shall be excluded from school pending such hearing. The excluded student shall be offered an alternative educational opportunity in accordance with statutory requirements. The Board shall make its determination based upon a hearing held by the Board, which hearing shall be limited to a determination of whether the conduct which was the basis of the previous public school district's expulsion would also warrant expulsion by the Board.

Students

Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process

S. Change of Residence During Expulsion Proceedings (continued)

B. Student moving out of the school district:

Where a student withdraws from school after having been notified that an expulsion hearing is pending, but before a decision has been rendered by the Board, the notice of the pending expulsion hearing shall be included on the student's cumulative record and the Board shall complete the expulsion hearing and render a decision. If the Board subsequently renders a decision to expel the student, a notice of the expulsion shall be included on the student's cumulative record.

T. Compliance with Documentation and Reporting Requirements

- A. The Board of Education shall include on all disciplinary reports the individual student's state-assigned student identifier (SASID).
- B. The Board of Education shall report all suspensions and expulsions to the State Department of Education.
- C. If the Board of Education expels a student for sale or distribution of a controlled substance, the Board shall refer such student to an appropriate state or local agency for rehabilitation, intervention or job training and inform the agency of its action.
- D. If the Board of Education expels a student for possession of a deadly weapon or firearm, as defined in Conn. Gen. Stat. §53a-3, the violation shall be reported to the local police.

Readmission of Student from a Residential Placement

A District student who has committed an expellable offense who seeks to return to a District school, after participating in a diversionary program or having been detained in a juvenile detention center, the Connecticut Juvenile Training School or any other residential placement, for one year or more, in lieu of expulsion from the District, shall be permitted to return to the appropriate school setting within the District. Further, the District shall not expel the student for any additional time for the offense(s).

Students and parents shall be notified of this policy annually.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

4-176e through 4-180a. Contested Cases. Notice. Record, as amended
10-74j Alternative education (PA 15-133)
10-222d Safe school climate plans. Definitions. Safe school climate assessments.

10-233a through 10-233f Suspension, removal and expulsion of students, as amended by PA 95-304, PA 96-244, PA 98-139, PA 07-66, PA 07-122, PA 08-160, PA 09-82, PA 09-6 (September Special Session), PA 10-111, PA 11-126, PA 14-229, PA 15-96, PA 16-147, PA 17-220, PA 19-91 and PA 25-67 and PA 25-93.

Students

Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-233I Expulsion and suspension of children in preschool programs
19a-342a Use of electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product prohibited.
29-38 Weapons in vehicles
53a-3 Definitions.
53a-217b Possession of Firearms and Deadly Weapons on School Grounds.
53-344b Sale and delivery of electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor products to minors.
53-206 Carrying of dangerous weapons prohibited.
PA 15-96 An Act Prohibiting Out-of-School Suspensions and Expulsions for Students in Preschool and Grades Kindergarten to Two.
GOALS 2000: Educate America Act, Pub. L. 103-227.
Title III - Amendments to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Sec. 314 (Local Control Over Violence)
Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965 as amended by the Gun Free Schools Act of 1994
P.L. 105-17 The Individuals with Disabilities Act, Amendments of 1997.
Kyle P. Packer PPA Jane Packer v. Thomaston Board of Education.
P.L. 108-446 The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004, 20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.
18 U.S.C. §921 – Definitions of “firearms”
18 U.S.C. §930(g)(2) – Definition of “dangerous weapon”
18 U.S.C. §1365(h)(3) – Identifying “serious bodily injury”
21 U.S.C. §812(c) – Identifying “controlled substances”
Public Act 24-45 An Act Concerning Education Mandate Relief, School Discipline and Disconnected Youth, Sections 13-14
Public Act 24-93 An Act Concerning Various and Assorted Revisions to the Education Statutes, Section 11 and Section 12
Public Act 25-67 An Act Concerning the Quality and Delivery of Special Education Services in Connecticut (Section 13)
Public Act 25-93 An Act Increasing Resources for Students, Schools and Special Education (Sections 38 & 39)
[Public Act 26-1 An Act Concerning the Reallocation of Certain State Funds and Various Provisions Relating to Education, Public Safety, General Government, Elections, Intermediate Care Facilities and Warehouse Distribution Centers](#)

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Policy Revised : May 20, 2026

BRISTOL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Bristol, Connecticut

Students

Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process

Suspension

When the Principal or designee has determined that there is cause for suspension of a student, the following procedures shall be observed:

1. The student shall be given a hearing before the Principal or designee, at which time the charges against the student will be stated and the student will be given an opportunity to respond to the charge. This hearing must be granted except when an emergency situation exists, in which case the hearing must be held as soon after the suspension as possible. Nothing in the informal hearing shall be taken to prevent a more formal hearing from being held if the circumstances warrant. An out-of-school suspension shall not exceed ten days for students in grades 3-12 and not exceed five days for children in pre-school to 2nd grade.
2. The Principal or designee may receive and consider evidence of past disciplinary problems which have led to removal from a classroom, suspension or expulsion of the student.
3. The Principal or designee shall make every possible attempt to reach the parent or guardian of the student stating the charges against the student and the terms and conditions of the suspension.
4. Whether the telephone contact is made or not the Principal or designee shall forward a letter to the parent or guardian at the last known address according to school records (unless a newer address is determined) not later than twenty-four hours of the suspension, and offering the parent or guardian the opportunity for a conference to discuss the suspension.
5. Notice of the suspension shall be transmitted by the Principal to the Superintendent of Schools by the close of the school day following the commencement of the suspension, but no later than twenty-four hours of the commencement of the suspension.
6. Following a conference with the Principal or designee the parent or guardian may request the Superintendent to review the Principal's decision. Such review shall be completed and a written report issued to the student and parent or guardian, and to the Board of Education, within three (3) days of the receipt of such request. In examining the Principal's decision to suspend, the Superintendent shall obtain oral or written statements from the Principal or designee, the student, and the person(s) who witnessed and reported the incident(s) which resulted in the suspension. The Superintendent may call all concerned parties together for a conference, and take whatever other action is needed to determine the true facts of the matter.
7. If a student is eighteen or older, any notice required by Board policy and this regulation shall be given to the student.

Students

Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (continued)

Suspension (continued)

8. Textbooks and homework are to be provided each student for the duration of the suspension period and the student shall be allowed to complete any classwork, including examinations, without penalty, which was missed during suspension.
9. The Superintendent shall report any unusually serious cases of student suspension to the Board of Education at the first meeting following such action.
10. Notice of a suspension for conduct endangering persons or property or seriously disruptive of the educational process and a description of the conduct leading to such suspension shall be included on the student's cumulative educational record. Such notice shall be expunged from the cumulative record by the Board if the student graduates from high school, except if such notice of expulsion is based on possession of a firearm or deadly weapon.
11. All suspensions shall be in-school suspensions unless the administration (1) determines that the student, in grades three through twelve, inclusive, being suspended poses such a danger to persons or property or such a disruption of the educational process that the student shall be excluded from school during the period of suspension or (2) that an out-of-school suspension is appropriate based on evidence of previous disciplinary problems that have led to suspensions or expulsion of the student and efforts by the administration to address such disciplinary problems through means other than out-of-school suspension or expulsion, including positive support strategies.

A student in grades preschool through grade two, inclusive, may be given an out-of-school suspension if it is determined by the administration that such suspension is appropriate based on evidence that the student's conduct on school grounds is of a violent or sexual nature that endangers persons.

12. The administration will use the guidelines developed and promulgated by the Commissioner of Education to help determine whether a student should receive an in-school or out-of-school suspension.
13. In-school suspension will be served in the school attended by the student. (or: In-school suspensions will be served by assigning the suspended student to one of the following schools: _____.)
14. For any student who is suspended for the first time and who has never been expelled, the school administration may shorten the length of or waive the suspension period if the student successfully completes an administration-specified program and meets any other administration-required conditions. Such program shall be at no expense to the student or his/her parents/guardians.

Students

Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (continued)

Suspension (continued)

The foregoing procedure will be followed unless the student has had a total of ten (10) suspensions during the current school year, or has been suspended for a total of fifty (50) days during the current school year. If the student's proposed suspension would exceed either figure the suspension shall not take effect until so ordered by the Board of Education after a formal hearing such as that required for expulsion. If the Principal has reason to believe that the student's conduct endangers persons or property, is seriously disruptive of the educational process or is in violation of a Board policy, expulsion may be recommended.

Expulsion

The Board of Education or an impartial hearing officer, as defined in C.G.S. 10-233d, may expel any student in grades three through twelve, inclusive, whose conduct on school grounds or at a school sponsored activity has been found to be both violative of a Board policy and either seriously disruptive of the educational process or endangers persons or property.

In making a determination as to whether conduct is “seriously disruptive of the educational process,” the administration, Board of Education or impartial hearing officer may consider, but such consideration shall not be limited to: (1) whether the incident occurred within close proximity of a school; (2) whether other students from the school were involved or whether there was any gang involvement; (3) whether the conduct involved violence, threats of violence or the unlawful use of a weapon as defined in Section 29-38 and whether any injuries occurred, and (4) whether the conduct involved the use of alcohol.

The procedures leading to expulsion are as follows:

1. Requests for expulsion are to be directed to the Board of Education through the Superintendent of Schools.
2. Upon receipt of an expulsion request the Superintendent will conduct an inquiry within two (2) school days.
3. If after the inquiry the Superintendent or designee determines the student should be expelled, the Superintendent shall forward such request to the Board of Education within five days, (for pre-school – grade 2), after receipt of the request to expel.
4. Except in an emergency situation requiring the student's immediate removal, the Board shall conduct a hearing to be governed by the following procedures:
 - A. The student and parent or legal guardian must be given notice at least five business days prior to the date of the hearing.

Students

Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (continued)

Expulsion (continued)

- B. The notice shall contain:

The date, time and place of the scheduled hearing.

The details of the grounds for the expulsion, including a narrative of the events leading to the expulsion, the names of any witnesses against the student, copies of any statements or affidavits of those witnesses, a detailed summary of any other information to be used in support of expulsion, including any record of past offenses or misbehavior, and whether any prior warnings or suspensions have been given, and the proposed penalty.

A statement of the student's, parent's/guardian's rights.

A statement that the Board is not required to offer an alternative educational opportunity to any student between 16 and 18 who ~~has been expelled three or more times~~ ~~was previously expelled~~. A student between the ages of 16 and 18 who is expelled for the first ~~or second~~ time and who complies with conditions set by the Board will be offered an alternative educational opportunity that is equivalent to "Alternative Education" as defined in Section 10-74, with an individualized learning plan.

- C. At the hearing the student shall have the right to testify and produce witnesses and other evidence in his/her defense and shall have the right to demand that any witnesses against him/her appear in person to answer questions.

In exceptional circumstances the Board or the impartial hearing panel may refuse to allow a witness against the accused student to appear, when the Board or panel believes that fear on the part of the witness would prevent the giving of accurate testimony. In such cases a verbatim statement of the witness's testimony must be given to the student.

A witness's unsubstantiated desire to remain anonymous is not such an exceptional circumstance as to justify dispensing with confrontation and questioning by the student.

- D. A student may be represented by any third party of his/her choice, including an attorney. The parent/guardian of the student have the right to have the expulsion hearing postponed for up to one week to allow time to obtain representation, except that if an emergency exists, such hearing shall be held as soon after the expulsion as possible.
- E. A student is entitled to the services of a translator, to be provided by the Board of Education, whenever the student or his/her parent or legal guardian do not speak the English language.

Students

Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (continued)

Expulsion (continued)

- F. The Board or impartial hearing officer shall keep verbatim record of the hearing and the student or his/her parent or legal guardian shall be entitled to a copy of that record at his/her own expense.
 - G. The Board or impartial hearing officer shall report its final decision in writing to the student, stating the reasons on which the decision is based, and the penalty to be imposed. Said decision shall be based on evidence produced and derived at the hearing.
 - H. Except under unusual circumstances the parent or a minor student shall be notified of the Board action within twenty-four hours.
 - I. Whenever an emergency exists, the hearing provided for the above procedure shall be held as soon as possible after the expulsion.
5. Whenever the Board of Education or impartial hearing officer expels a student it shall offer an alternative education opportunity to students under the age of sixteen which shall be (1) alternative education* as defined by C.G.S. 10-74j with an individualized learning plan if the Board provides such alternative education or in accordance with State Board of Education standards indicating the kind of instruction and number of hours to be provided by a student enrolled in an alternative educational opportunity. The parent or guardian of such student has the legal right to reject such a program without being subject to the truancy law. The Board of Education shall make provisions for an alternative educational opportunity to expelled students between the ages of sixteen and eighteen, conditional upon the desire of the student to continue his/her education and compliance with conditions established by the Board. A student age 17 or older may be placed in an adult education program as an alternative educational opportunity. Any student participating in an adult education program during a period of expulsion shall not be required to withdraw from school under C.G.S. 10-184. Any special education student expelled for a misconduct not caused by the student's disability must be offered an alternative educational opportunity consistent with the student's needs during the period of expulsion.
6. If the Board expels a student for the sale or distribution of a controlled substance, the Board shall refer the student to an appropriate state or local agency for rehabilitation, intervention or job training, or any combination thereof, and shall inform the agency of its action.

**Alternative education is a school or program maintained and operated by a school board that is offered to students in a non-traditional setting and addresses their social, emotional, and behavioral and academic needs. (C.G.S. 10-74j)*

Students

Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (continued)

Expulsion (continued)

7. Notice of the expulsion and the conduct for which the student was expelled shall be included on the student's cumulative educational record. Such notice, except for the notices of an expulsion of a student in grades nine through 12, inclusive, based on possession of a firearm or deadly weapon, shall be expunged from the cumulative educational record by the Board if the Board determines that the student's conduct or behavior in the years following such expulsion warrant an expungement or if the student graduates from high school.
8. If a student in grades kindergarten to eight, is expelled based on possession of a firearm or deadly weapon, the Board may expunge from the students' cumulative education record the notice of the expulsion and the conduct for which the student was expelled if the Board determines that the conduct and behavior of the student in the years following such expulsion warrants an expungement.
9. The Board may adopt the decision of a student expulsion hearing conducted by another school district provided such Board of Education held a hearing pursuant to C.G.S. 10-233d(a). Adoption of such a decision shall be limited to a determination of whether the conduct which was the basis for the expulsion would also warrant expulsion under the policies of this Board. The student shall be excluded from school pending such hearing. The excluded student shall be offered an alternative education opportunity in accordance with the provisions of 5 and 6 above.
10. Whenever a student against whom an expulsion hearing is pending withdraws from school and after notification of such hearing but before the hearing is completed and a decision rendered, (1) notice of the pending expulsion hearing shall be included on the student's cumulative educational record and (2) the Board shall complete the expulsion hearing and render a decision.
11. The Superintendent shall recommend an expulsion hearing if there is reason to believe a student possessed a firearm or other dangerous instrument in or on real property, comprising any public school or at any school activity as defined in C.G.S. 10-233a or in conduct displayed off school grounds.
12. If a student enrolled in grades preschool through grade twelve, inclusive, is found to have possessed a firearm, dangerous instrument, dangerous weapon or martial arts weapon in or on the real property or a school or at any school function as defined in Section 10-233a, or on or off school property offered for sale or distribution a dangerous drug, he or she must be expelled for one calendar year. The expulsion period may be modified on a case by case basis by the Board of Education or hearing officer.
13. A student expelled for possession of a firearm, deadly weapon, dangerous instrument or martial arts weapon shall have the violation reported to the local police department or State Police if the student is enrolled in a regional vocational-technical school.

Students

Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (continued)

Expulsion (continued)

14. The Board will report annually to the Commission of Education, as prescribed, information pertaining to expulsions for weapons and/or dangerous instruments.
15. An expelled student may apply for early readmission to school. Such readmission shall be at the discretion of the Board of Education (*alternative language - “at the discretion of the Superintendent of Schools”*) Readmission decisions shall not be subject to appeal to Superior Court. The Board or Superintendent, as appropriate, may condition such readmission on specified criteria.
16. For any student expelled for the first time and who has never been suspended, the Board of Education may shorten the length of or waive the expulsion period if the student successfully completes a Board specified program and meets any other conditions required by the Board. Such a Board specified program shall not require the student or the parent/guardian of such student to pay for participation in the program.
17. If a student’s expulsion is shortened or the expulsion period waived based upon the fact that the student was expelled for the first time, had never been suspended, and successfully completed a Board specified program and/or met other conditions required by the Board, the notice of expulsion shall be expunged from the cumulative educational record if the student graduates from high school or, if the Board so chooses, at the time the student completes the Board specified program and meets any other conditions required by the Board.
18. The record of a student, grades 9 to 12 inclusive, expelled for possession of a firearm or deadly weapon, shall not be expunged.
19. The Board may expunge an expulsion in the years following the expulsion if the student has demonstrated conduct warranting an expungement.
20. A student in grades K-8 inclusive, shall have any expulsion, including for possession of a firearm or deadly weapon expunged from the record upon graduation.

Prior Notice

The Superintendent shall provide for an effective means of informing all students and their parents or guardians of the Board's policy and this regulation at the beginning of each school year, or when the student enrolls or transfers during the school year.

Students

Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
4-176e through 4-185 Uniform Administrative Procedure Act, as amended.
10-74j Alternative education (PA 15-133)
10-233a through 10-233f Suspension, removal and expulsion of students, as amended by PA 95-304, PA 96-244, PA 98-139, PA 07-66, PA 07-122, PA 08-160, PA 09-82, PA 09-6 (September Special Session), PA 10-111, PA 11-126, PA 14-229, PA 15-96n, PA 16-147, PA 17-220 and PA 19-91.
53a-3 Firearm and deadly weapons
53a - 217b Possession of firearm and deadly weapons on school grounds.
PA 94-221 An Act Concerning School Discipline and Security.
PA 15-96 An Act Concerning Out-of-School Suspensions and Expulsions for Students in Preschool and Grades Kindergarten to Two
GOALS 2000: Educate America Act Pub. L. 103-227.
18 U.S.C. 921 Definitions.
Title III - Amendments to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Sec. 314 (Local Control Over Violence)
Elementary and Secondary, Education Act of 1965 as amended by the Gun Free Schools Act of 1994.
Kyle P. Packer PPA Jane Packer v. Thomaston Board of Education.
Public Act 24-45 An Act Concerning Education Mandate Relief, School Discipline and Disconnected Youth, (Sections 13-14)
[Public Act 26-1 An Act Concerning the Reallocation of Certain State Funds and Various Provisions Relating to Education, Public Safety, General Government, Elections, Intermediate Care Facilities and Warehouse Distribution Centers \(Section 35\)](#)

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BRISTOL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Bristol, Connecticut