

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

The Superintendent shall recommend policies and develop procedures for the discipline of students that comply with A.R.S. 15-843. These policies and procedures will apply to all students traveling to, attending, and returning from school, and while visiting another school or at a school-sanctioned activity and may be imposed if the student's behavior affects the school order. When suspension or expulsion is involved, notice, hearing, and appeal procedures shall conform to applicable legal requirements.

The discipline, suspension and expulsion of students shall not be based on race, color, religion/religious beliefs, gender, age, national origin, sexual orientation, creed, citizenship status, marital status, political beliefs/affiliation, disability, home language, family, social or cultural background. A substantial or deliberate failure to comply with the prohibition against race, color, religion, sex, national origin or ancestry may subject the District to the loss of funds imposed by A.R.S. 15-843.

The principal of each District school shall ensure that a copy of all rules pertaining to discipline, suspension, and expulsion are distributed to each student's parents at the time the student enrolls in school each year.

Behavior Management and Discipline of Students with Special Needs

The Superintendent shall oversee a collaborative process for the identification, description, and monitoring of best practices for behavioral management and discipline of special needs students. The practices shall include, but not be limited to:

- authorized and prohibited disciplinary methods,
- recommended and required training for special education program teachers and aides, and
- requirements for conveying notice of disciplinary measures taken.

The Superintendent shall, by administrative regulation, prescribe procedures for implementation of the best practices, subject to Governing Board approval.

Temporary Removal

Teachers are authorized to temporarily remove a student from a class. A teacher may temporarily remove a student to the principal, or to a person designated by the school administrator, in accord with:

- Rules established for the referral of students.

- The conditions of A.R.S. 15-841, when applicable.

The Superintendent shall establish such rules as are necessary to implement the temporary removal procedure.

Restraint and Seclusion

The use of restraint or seclusion is not to be limited, by policy or practice, to students with disabilities.

A school may permit the use of restraint or seclusion techniques on any student if both of the following apply:

1. The student's behavior presents an imminent danger of bodily harm to the student or others.
2. Less restrictive interventions appear insufficient to mitigate the imminent danger of bodily harm.

If a restraint or seclusion technique is used on a student:

1. School personnel shall maintain continuous visual observation and monitoring of the student while the restraint or seclusion technique is in use.
2. The restraint or seclusion technique shall end when the student's behavior no longer presents an imminent danger to the student or others.
3. The restraint or seclusion technique shall be used only by school personnel who are trained in the safe and effective use of restraint and seclusion techniques unless an emergency situation does not allow sufficient time to summon trained personnel.
4. The restraint technique employed may not impede the student's ability to breathe.
5. The restraint technique may not be out of proportion to the student's age or physical condition.

Schools may establish policies and procedures for the use of restraint or seclusion techniques in a school safety or crisis intervention plan if the plan is not specific to any individual student.

Schools shall establish reporting and documentation procedures to be followed when a restraint or seclusion technique has been used on a student. The procedures shall include the following requirements:

1. School personnel shall provide the student's parent or guardian with written or oral notice on the same day that the incident occurred, unless circumstances prevent same-day notification. If the notice is not provided on the same day of the incident, notice shall be given within twenty-four hours after the incident.
2. Within a reasonable time following the incident, school personnel shall provide the student's parent or guardian with written documentation that includes information about any persons, locations or activities that may have triggered the behavior, if known, and specific information about the behavior and its precursors, the type of restraint or seclusion technique used and the duration of its use.
3. Schools shall review strategies used to address a student's dangerous behavior if there has been repeated use of restraint or seclusion techniques for the student during a school year. The review shall include a review of the incidents in which restraint or seclusion technique were used and an analysis of how future incidents may be avoided, including whether the student requires a functional behavioral assessment.

If a school district or charter school summons law enforcement instead of using a restraint or seclusion technique on a student, the school shall comply with the reporting, documentation and review procedures established under the paragraph above. School resource officers are authorized to respond to situations that present the imminent danger of bodily harm according to protocols established by their law enforcement agency.

Schools are not prohibited from adopting policies which include procedures for the reasonable use of physical force by certificated or support staff personnel in self-defense, defense of others and defense of property (A.R.S. 15-843, subsection b, paragraph 3.)

The District authorizes the use of these Definitions which are included in A.R.S. 15-105:

1. "Restraint" means any method or device that immobilizes or reduces the ability of a student to move the student's torso, arms, legs or head freely, including physical force or mechanical devices. Restraint does not include any of the following:
 - (a) Methods or devices implemented by trained school personnel or used by a student for the specific and approved therapeutic or safety purposes for which the method or device is designed and, if applicable, prescribed.
 - (b) The temporary touching or holding of the hand, wrist, arm, shoulder or back for the purpose of inducing a student to comply with a reasonable request or to go to a safe location.

or (c) The brief holding of a student by one adult for the purpose of calming or comforting the student.

(d) Physical force used to take a weapon away from a student or to separate and remove a student from another person when the student is engaged in a physical assault on another person.

2. "School" means a school district, a charter school, a public or private special education school that provides services to students placed by a public school, the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind and a private school.

3. "Seclusion" means the involuntary confinement of a student alone in a room from which egress is prevented. Seclusion does not include the use of a voluntary behavior management technique, including a timeout location, as part of a student's education plan, individual safety plan, behavioral plan or individualized education program that involves the student's separation from a larger group for purposes of calming.

Threatened an Educational Institution

Threatened an educational institution means to interfere with or disrupt an educational institution as found in A.R.S. 15-841 and 13-2911. A student who is determined to have threatened an educational institution shall be expelled from school for at least one (1) year except that the District may modify this expulsion requirement for a student on a case-by-case basis and may reassign a student subject to expulsion to an alternative education program if the student participates in mediation, community service, restitution or other programs in which the student takes responsibility for the results of the threat. The District may require the student's parent(s) to participate in mediation, community service, restitution or other programs with the student as a condition to the reassignment of the student to an alternative education program.

Information concerning a student's disciplinary record will be held in the strictest confidence.

Disciplinary actions taken will be recorded in an administrative log, and all types of suspensions or expulsions will be recorded in a separate file for each student.

Adopted: date of Manual adoption
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LEGAL REF.: A.R.S. 13-403 *et seq.*
13-2911
15-341
15-342
15-841

15-842
15-843
15-844

CROSS REF.: GBEB - Staff Conduct
JIC - Student Conduct
JKA - Corporal Punishment
JKD - Student Suspension
JKE - Expulsion of Students