

JOLIET TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 204

2020-2021 BEHAVIORAL GUIDELINES (page 40)

The Board of Education identifies the following offenses as unacceptable student behavior and requiring corrective action for each. However, disciplinary offenses are not limited to those listed below when, in the judgment of the administration or the dean, such offenses disrupt the school climate, or constitute gross disobedience or misconduct as determined by the Board of Education or the administration. Corrective actions provide for progressive discipline for the chronic abuser of the same rule or for varying degrees of severity of the particular offense. School rules apply to and from school.

The administration and deans are specifically empowered, on a case by case basis, to deviate from the disciplinary guidelines set forth below, when in their sole discretion, it is necessary for the proper and efficient operation of the school.

Behavior that interrupts the learning environment, but does not stop the learning process or compromise the safety of the school, may be considered mischievous. Teachers and staff will follow the Classroom/School-wide Behavior Management Plans for mischievous behavior. Severe misbehaviors include, but are not limited to: acts of violence, weapons, overt defiance, substance abuse, vandalism and other behavior that prevents the safe functioning of the school. Students will be referred immediately to the dean for severe behavior.

District 204 does not permit corporal punishment. However, faculty and staff may use reasonable force as needed to protect property, others or themselves and to remove a student from the classroom or other areas for disruptive behavior.

OFFENSE	ACTION
<u>Arson</u> Arson or attempted arson.	Warning, parent/guardian notification, parent/guardian conference, in-school suspension, 1-10 days out-of-school suspension, expulsion warning , behavioral warning or expulsion recommendation.
<u>Assault</u> Oral or written harassment, intimidation, bullying, cyberbullying or abuse or the use of obscenities or profanities toward other individuals at school or school-sponsored activities. Generally, assault occurs when one person swears at another person or when one person makes a disrespectful comment to another person or situation that puts a person in reasonable fear that a battery may occur.	Warning, parent/guardian notification, parent/guardian conference, in-school suspension, 1-10 days out-of-school suspension, expulsion warning , behavioral warning or expulsion recommendation.
Assault toward a staff member or a school board member.	Warning and parent contact, parent conference, in school suspension, out-of-school suspension, expulsion warning behavioral warning or expulsion recommendation.
<u>Attire</u> See Attire in Planner. Handbook page 25.	Warning and parent contact, parent conference, in school suspension, out-of-school suspension.
<u>Battery</u> Physical attack by one person on another person at school or at a school sponsored activity on school property or school buses.	<u>1st offense:</u> One to ten days out-of-school suspension, parent conference, expulsion warning behavioral warning or expulsion recommendation. <u>2nd offense:</u> Expulsion recommendation.
Battery toward a staff member or a school board member. Battery occurs when one person physically attacks another person.	Ten days out-of-school suspension, parent conference. Recommendation for expulsion.

Cafeteria

All students utilizing the cafeteria will be held responsible for cleaning their tables, the area under and around their tables, and the area from the serving line to their tables. No food or drink may be taken from the cafeteria without the written permission of a staff member.

Warning and parent contact, parent conference, in school suspension, out-of-school suspension.

Derogatory Language

Derogatory racial, ethnic, profane, obscene, indecent or sexual language or materials, verbal or non-verbal, which is offensive, abusive, or disrespectful.

Warning, parent/guardian notification, parent/guardian conference, in-school suspension, 1-10 days out-of-school suspension, ~~expulsion warning~~, **behavioral warning** or expulsion recommendation.

Disrespect

Disrespect includes refusal to obey a reasonable request, insubordination to teachers or others in authority, obstructing staff from dispersing groups or behavior disruptive to the educational process. Disregard for school rules at school or school-sponsored activities.

Warning, parent/guardian notification, parent/guardian conference, in-school suspension, 1-10 days out-of-school suspension, ~~expulsion warning~~, **behavioral warning** or expulsion recommendation.

Drugs: Possession of Drug Graffiti

To promote or advertise drugs through writings or drawings depicting drugs or drug paraphernalia.

Warning, parent/guardian notification, parent/guardian conference, in-school suspension, 1-10 days out-of-school suspension, ~~expulsion warning~~, **behavioral warning** or expulsion recommendation.

Drugs: Sale, Purchasing or Distribution of Illegal Drugs/Narcotics/Prescription Drugs/Over-the-Counter Drugs/or Look-a-Likes

Sale, purchasing, pretending to sell, distribution, or transfer of any controlled substance or non-controlled substance represented to be a drug, or any drug paraphernalia at school or school-sponsored activities.

Parent/guardian notification, parent/guardian conference, 1-10 days out-of-school suspension, ~~expulsion warning~~, **behavioral warning** or expulsion recommendation.

Electronic Equipment

Using an electronic device, including but not limited to, a cellular telephone, smart watch, electronic games, or other electronic device, in any manner that disrupts the educational environment, including using the device to cheat, signal others, send text messages, take photographs, or otherwise violate student conduct rules is prohibited. Electronic devices and headphones can be used with permission from a teacher or staff member. Electronic devices may be reviewed for content. Joliet Township District 204 is not responsible for damaged, lost, or stolen items. All confiscated items not picked up by June 30th of the school year will be donated/destroyed.

Warning, confiscation, parent conference, in-school suspension, or one to ten days out-of-school suspension, ~~expulsion warning~~, **behavioral warning** or expulsion recommendation. Possession of electronic equipment may be revoked. Repeated violations may result in loss of privilege to bring on campus.

Extortion

Attempting to take or to borrow money or anything of value through intimidation or threat.

Warning, parent/guardian notification, parent/guardian conference, in-school suspension, 1-10 days out-of-school suspension, ~~expulsion warning~~, **behavioral warning** or expulsion recommendation.

False Alarms/Emergency Calls

False fire alarm, bomb threat, false security threat, or emergency call.

Parent/guardian notification, parent/guardian conference, 1-10 days out-of-school suspension, ~~expulsion warning~~, **behavioral warning** or expulsion recommendation.

Fighting

Fighting on or near school property, at school-sponsored activities, or on the way to or from school. Fighting occurs when two or more individuals physically attack each other.

Parent/guardian notification, parent/guardian conference, 1-10 days out-of-school suspension, ~~expulsion warning~~, **behavioral warning** or expulsion recommendation.

Fireworks

Use or possession of firecrackers, smoke bombs and similar devices or misuse of fire extinguishers on school property.

Parent/guardian notification, parent/guardian conference, 1-10 days out-of-school suspension, ~~expulsion warning~~, **behavioral warning** or expulsion recommendation

Forgery

Forging passes or notes, field trip forms, parking permits, identification badges, or other school-related documents; altering passes; tampering with attendance sheets, or writing notes or making telephone calls pretending to be a parent/guardian.

Warning, parent/guardian notification, parent/guardian conference, in-school suspension, 1-10 days out-of-school suspension, ~~expulsion warning~~, **behavioral warning** or expulsion recommendation.

Gambling

Gambling on school premises or at school events.

Warning, parent/guardian notification, parent/guardian conference, in-school suspension, 1-10 days out-of-school suspension, ~~expulsion warning~~, **behavioral warning** or expulsion recommendation.

Gangs

Participation in any activity which serves to do the following:

- Solicit others for membership in any gang; (A "gang" is defined for this policy as any group of two or more persons whose purpose includes engaging in illegal or antisocial activities.)
- Request the payment of dues, insurance, or other forms of protection from any individual;
- Intimidate or threaten any individual;
- Incite others to participate in any form of violence or illegal activity involving persons or property;
- Advertise or promote gangs through social media, the wearing of earrings, jewelry, clothing, hats, colors, hair style/cut or tattoos, gang signs, pictures, the writing of graffiti, or the possession of anything else associated with gangs;
- Possess graffiti paraphernalia;

Disrupts or potentially disrupts the delivery of educational services to District students or otherwise deprives or may serve to deprive a student or students of the opportunity to fully participate in the District's educational program, regardless of whether

Warning, parent/guardian notification, parent/guardian conference, in-school suspension, 1-10 days out-of-school suspension, ~~expulsion warning~~, **behavioral warning** or expulsion recommendation.

the activity takes place on District property, at a District-sponsored event, or off District property or away from District-sponsored events.

Hallway/Classroom Conduct

- Yelling, horseplay, pushing, running, spitting, public display of affection, and/or any disruptive behavior, is not allowed in the hallway/classroom.

Warning, parent/guardian notification, parent/guardian conference, in-school suspension, 1-10 days out-of-school suspension, ~~expulsion-warning~~ **behavioral warning** or expulsion recommendation.

Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying means any intentionally written message or image—including those that are electronically transmitted—verbal, or physical act, including but not limited to one shown to be motivated by race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, including gender expression or identity, mental or physical disability or other distinguishing characteristics, when an act:

Warning, parent/guardian notification, parent/guardian conference, in-school suspension, 1-10 days out-of-school suspension, ~~expulsion-warning~~ **behavioral warning** or expulsion recommendation.

- Physically harms a student or damages the student's property or
- Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education or
- Is so severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment or
- Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

Bullying – Repeated, persistent and aggressive behavior intended to cause fear, distress, or harm to another person's body, emotions, self-esteem or reputation, and a power imbalance.

Hazing/Initiation

Administering physical punishment to an individual, directing verbal abuse at an individual, or requiring an individual to perform an immoral act as requirement to gaining membership into any club or organization.

Parent/guardian notification, parent/guardian conference, in-school suspension, 1-10 days out-of-school suspension, ~~expulsion-warning~~ **behavioral warning** or expulsion recommendation.

Identification

- Refusal to Identify Self (Refusal to produce identification card or identify self.)
 - Identification Card Misuse
- (Misuse of an identification card on District property, in the cafeteria, media center, bus, or textbook center is prohibited.)

Warning, parent/guardian notification, parent/guardian conference, in-school suspension, 1-10 days out-of-school suspension, ~~expulsion-warning~~ **behavioral warning** or expulsion recommendation.

Instigation/Mob Action

Behavior disruptive to the educational process and safety of others. This includes, but is not limited to, obstruction of staff from dispersing groups, instigation of fights/verbal confrontations, attending and/or recording of fights and verbal confrontations, and mob action.

Warning, parent/guardian notification, parent/guardian conference, in-school suspension, 1-10 days out-of-school suspension, ~~expulsion-warning~~ **behavioral warning** or expulsion recommendation.

Negligent Driving

Any person who drives any vehicle with disregard for the safety of a person on school property or in transit to any school activity or school related event.

Warning, parent/guardian contact, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, temporary or permanent loss of parking permit to expulsion recommendation, restoration or restitution for damaged property.

Pass Misuse

Use of pass for an unattended purpose or alteration of a pass.

In-school suspension, one to ten days out-of-school suspension, parent conference, and may be placed on the no-pass list.

Sexual Harassment

See *Harassment of Students Prohibited* policy.

Warning, parent/guardian notification, parent/guardian conference, in-school suspension, 1-10 days out-of-school suspension, ~~expulsion warning~~ **behavioral warning** or expulsion recommendation.

Stalking

A person commits stalking when he or she transmits to another person a threat with the intent to place that person in reasonable apprehension of death, bodily harm, sexual assault, confinement or restraint, and in furtherance of the threat knowingly does any one or more of the following acts on at least two separate occasions:

- Follows the person, other than within the residence of the defendant;

Places the person under surveillance by remaining present outside his or her school, place of employment, vehicle, other place occupied by the person, or residence other than the residence of the defendant.

Warning, parent/guardian notification, parent/guardian conference, in-school suspension, 1-10 days out-of-school suspension, ~~expulsion warning~~ **behavioral warning** or expulsion recommendation.

Student Violence

Student violence and/or threats of student violence on District 204 campuses or at any District 204 sponsored activities will not be tolerated. Additionally, violence or threats of violence against any student, school official or employee will not be allowed anytime. Students are strictly prohibited from engaging in conduct which creates circumstances which may cause disruption at school, or at school sponsored activities. Types of conduct which are in violation of this policy include, but are not limited to, those described below:

- Any acts of physical violence other than what is deemed reasonable by school officials for self-defense, and protection of other persons or property;
- Placing others in danger of imminent physical harm;
- Threatening, planning, or conspiring with others to engage in violent acts; and
- Joking about engaging in violent acts against others, or otherwise making any statements, threats, or intimidating remarks which might reasonably be interpreted by others as indicating a threat or plan to engage in some type of violent activity (i.e. threatening,

Warning, parent/guardian notification, parent/guardian conference, in-school-suspension, 1-10 days out of-school suspension, ~~expulsion warning~~ **behavioral warning** or expulsion recommendation.

bullying, hazing, harassing, intimidating, etc.).

- Further, all students are obliged to report to responsible school officials, knowledge of any violations or potential violations of this policy by fellow students. No student may retaliate against another for making such a report. However, any student who deliberately makes a false or misleading report will also be subject to disciplinary action. Students violating any provision of this policy shall be subject to appropriate discipline, up to and including suspension and expulsion. Students who need to communicate concerns or seek advice on personal or school related matters may contact any member of the school staff for assistance. Appropriate anonymity will be respected.

Substance Abuse

Use of, possession of, or being under the influence of alcohol at school or school-sponsored event, influence of alcohol or any controlled substance represented to be a drug, or any substance which, if inhaled, ingested, or otherwise introduced into the body, is capable of causing intoxication, hallucination, or excitement or dulling of brain or central nervous system functions and the student's behavior would lead a reasonable person to conclude that the student intended for the substance to be used by the student or others to cause intoxication, hallucination, or excitement or dulling of brain or central nervous system functions, or possession of drug paraphernalia at school or at school-sponsored activities.

One to ten days out-of-school suspension, parent conference, ~~expulsion warning~~, **behavioral warning**, completion of a school-approved assessment, **or expulsion recommendation**, ~~and a meeting with the Student Assistance Program Coordinator~~. In addition, if the agency performing the assessment recommends enrollment in a substance abuse program, the student must attend and successfully complete the program at parental expense. Once admitted into the program, the student may return to school if recommended by the program. If the student does not satisfy the recommendation of the agency performing the assessment, the student will be recommended for expulsion.

If a parent chooses to withdraw a student prior to assessment program and then attempts to re-enroll the student in school, proof of completion must be presented prior to re-enrollment.

Tardy (Unexcused)

Warning, parent/guardian notification, parent/guardian conference, in-school suspension, 1-10 days out-of-school suspension.

Theft

Theft or possession of stolen property.

Warning, parent/guardian notification, parent/guardian conference, in-school suspension, 1-10 days out-of-school suspension, ~~expulsion warning~~, **behavioral warning** or expulsion recommendation.

Tobacco/Smoking Devices

Sale, use, possession, distribution, transfer of any smoking device, tobacco products or paraphernalia, which may include, but is not limited to, matches and lighters at school or at school-sponsored activities.

Warning, parent/guardian notification, parent/guardian conference, in-school suspension, 1-10 days out-of-school suspension, ~~expulsion warning~~, **behavioral warning** or expulsion recommendation.

Section I: Section 21-12 subsection (d) of the Code of The Code of Ordinances of the City of Joliet states; "No minor under 18 years of age shall possess any cigar, cigarette, smokeless tobacco, or tobacco in any of its forms."

Unauthorized Parking

Warning, fine, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, parent conference, permit revoked, car towed, and/or assigned restitution for any vandalism.

Unauthorized Presence Inside or Outside of Building

Unauthorized presence is defined as finding any student in a campus location without authorization or engaging in behavior that compromises the safety of others, or allowing others to enter without authorization, on District property, or attending any District activity while on behavioral warning.

Warning, parent/guardian notification, parent/guardian conference, in-school suspension, 1-10 days out-of-school suspension, ~~expulsion warning~~, **behavioral warning** or expulsion recommendation.

Unexcused Absence or Truancy (Partial)

- Unexcused Absence or Truancy
(An unexcused absence or truancy is defined as being absent without valid cause from a class or study hall, or leaving school without following proper checkout procedures.)

Period absences will result in an unexcused absence or truancy for that period missed, parent notification, parent conference, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, ~~expulsion warning~~, **behavioral warning**, and/or expulsion recommendation.

When the teacher, dean, and counselor conclude that a student's absence is affecting class/school performance, Pupil Personnel Services may be initiated. Eleven full day absences (excused or unexcused) may result in being dropped from regular day school or recommended to another District program.

Chronic Unexcused Absence or Truancy

If a student becomes a chronic truant and all regular Pupil Personnel services have been exhausted, possible educational alternatives may be explored.

Unexcused Absence or Truancy (Full Day)

- Unexcused Absence or Truancy

- Chronic Unexcused Absence or Truancy

Students who are absent from school (absent without valid cause) will receive an unexcused absence or truancy for day(s) missed, parent notification, parent conference and/or assigned in-building suspension. When a teacher, dean and counselor conclude that a student's unexcused truancy is affecting class performance, Pupil Personnel Services may be initiated. When a student's full-day absences exceed the limit stated in the excessive absence policy, the student may be dropped from the regular day school program and transferred to an alternative education program.

If a student becomes a chronic truant and all regular Pupil Personnel Services have been exhausted, educational alternatives may be explored.

Vandalism

Vandalism or destruction of school property, including computer sabotage.

Warning, parent/guardian notification, parent/guardian conference, in-school suspension, 1-10 days out-of-school suspension, ~~expulsion warning~~, **behavioral warning** or expulsion recommendation.

Vandalism or destruction of school property, including computer sabotage.

Warning, parent/guardian notification, parent/guardian conference, in-school suspension, 1-10 days out-of-school suspension, ~~expulsion warning~~, **behavioral warning** or expulsion recommendation.

The board will seek restitution from students and their parents/guardians for vandalism or other student acts that cause damage to school property.

Commented [SL1]: Committee felt that parents/guardians need to pay for damage school property. Per Board Policy.

Policy 7.170

Verbal Confrontation

An argument between students in which there is no threat of a physical fight or battery.

Warning, parent/guardian notification, parent/guardian conference, in-school suspension, 1-10 days out-of-school suspension.

Violation of Electronic Networks – Authorization for Access

See Electronic Networks – Authorization for Access policy.

Warning, parent/guardian notification, parent/guardian conference, in-school suspension, 1-10 days out-of-school suspension, **expulsion warning, behavioral warning** or expulsion recommendation.

Weapon (Object Construed to be a Weapon)

Possession of ammunition or a weapon or the use of any object as a weapon at school or at school-sponsored activities. A weapon is defined as an instrument of combat and includes, but is not limited to, guns, knives, bludgeons, nunchuks, bows and arrows, metal knuckles, pepper spray/mace, stun gun, taser and any other devices or objects listed as weapons in the Illinois Compiled Statutes Chapter 720.

Parent/guardian notification, parent/guardian conference, 1-10 days out-of-school suspension, expulsion warning or expulsion recommendation.

Possession of any object that can be construed to be a weapon or is used as a weapon at school or at school-sponsored activities. The term "weapon" may be defined by reference to either federal, state or local law.

Weapon

A student who is determined to have brought one of the following objects to school, any school sponsored activity or event, or any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school shall be expelled for a period of at least one calendar year but not more than 2 calendar years:

Parent/guardian notification and parent/guardian conference and 1-10 days out-of-school suspension, and expulsion recommendation.

1. A firearm, meaning any gun rifle, shotgun, or weapon as defined by section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code (18U.S.C.&921), firearm as defined in section 1.1 of the Firearm Owners Identification Card Act (430 ILCS65/), or firearm as defined in Section 24-1 of the Criminal Code of 1961 (720 ILCS 5/24-1).

The expulsion requirement under either paragraph 1 or 2 may be modified by the Superintendent, and the Superintendent's determination may be modified by the Board on a case-by-case basis. **Policy 7.190**

2. A knife, brass knuckles, or other knuckle weapon regardless of its composition, a billy club, or any other object if used or attempted to be used to cause bodily harm, including look a likes of any firearm as defined above.

Weapon (Object Construed)

Possession of ammunition or a weapon at school or at school-sponsored activities.

A weapon is defined as an instrument of combat and includes, but is not limited to, guns, knives,

bludgeons, nunchuks, bows and arrows, metal knuckles, pepper spray/mace, stun gun, taser and any other devices or objects listed as weapons in the Illinois Compiled Statutes Chapter 720. Possession of any object that can be construed to be a weapon at school sponsored activities. The term "weapon" may be defined by reference to either federal, state or local law.

Possession of any object that can be construed to be a weapon at school sponsored activities. The term "weapon" may be defined by reference to either federal, state or local law. A weapon is defined as an instrument of combat.

Parent/guardian notification and parent/guardian conference and in building suspension or 1-10 days out-of-school suspension, and/or expulsion warning behavioral warning or expulsion recommendation.

SUSPENSION PROCEDURES

In-School Suspension

The Superintendent or designee is authorized to maintain an in-school suspension program. The program shall include, at a minimum, each of the following:

1. Before assigning a student to in-school suspension, the charges will be explained and the student will be given an opportunity to respond to the charges.
2. Students are supervised by licensed school personnel.
3. Students are given the opportunity to complete classroom work during the in-school suspension for equivalent academic credit.

Out-of-School Suspension

The Superintendent or designee shall implement suspension procedures that provide, at a minimum, for each of the following:

1. A conference during which the charges will be explained and the student will be given an opportunity to respond to the charges before he or she may be suspended.
2. A pre-suspension conference is not required, and the student can be immediately suspended when the student's presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disruption to the educational process. In such cases, the notice and conference shall follow as soon as practicable.
3. An attempted phone call to the student's parent(s)/guardian(s).
4. A written notice of the suspension to the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the student, which shall:
 - a. Provide notice to the parent(s)/guardian(s) of their child's right to a review of the suspension;
 - b. Include information about an opportunity to make up work missed during the suspension for equivalent academic credit;
 - c. Detail the specific act of gross disobedience or misconduct resulting in the decision to suspend;
 - d. Provide rationale or an explanation of how the chosen number of suspension days will address the threat or disruption posed by the student or his or her act of gross disobedience or misconduct; and
 - e. Depending upon the length of the out-of-school suspension, include the following applicable information:
 - i. For a suspension of 3 school days or less, an explanation that the student's continuing presence in school would either pose:
 - a) A threat to school safety, or
 - b) A disruption to other students' learning opportunities.
 - ii. For a suspension of 4 or more school days, an explanation:
 - a) That other appropriate and available behavioral and disciplinary interventions have been exhausted,
 - b) As to whether school officials attempted other interventions or determined that no other interventions were available for the student, and

- c) That the student's continuing presence in school would either:
 - i) Pose a threat to the safety of other students, staff, or members of the school community, or
 - ii) Substantially disrupt, impede, or interfere with the operation of the school.
- iii. For a suspension of 5 or more school days, the information listed in section 4.e.ii., above, along with documentation by the Superintendent or designee determining what, if any, appropriate and available support services will be provided to the student during the length of his or her suspension.
- 5. A summary of the notice, including the reason for the suspension and the suspension length, must be given to the Board by the Superintendent or designee.
- 6. Upon request of the parent(s)/guardian(s), a review of the suspension shall be conducted by the Board or a hearing officer appointed by the Board. At the review, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) may appear and discuss the suspension with the Board or its hearing officer and may be represented by counsel. Whenever there is evidence that mental illness may be the cause for the suspension, the Superintendent or designee shall invite a representative from the Department of Human Services to consult with the Board. After presentation of the evidence or receipt of the hearing officer's report, the Board shall take such action as it finds appropriate. If the suspension is upheld, the Board's written suspension decision shall specifically detail items (a) and (e) in number 4, above.

Expulsions:

The Superintendent or designee shall implement expulsion procedures that provide, at a minimum, for the following:

1. Before a student may be expelled, the student and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be provided a written request to appear at a hearing to determine whether the student should be expelled. The request shall be sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested. The request shall:
 - a. Include the time, date, and place for the hearing.
 - b. Briefly describe what will happen during the hearing.
 - c. Detail the specific act of gross disobedience or misconduct resulting in the decision to recommend expulsion.
 - d. List the student's prior suspension(s).
 - e. State that the School Code allows the School Board to expel a student for a definite period of time not to exceed 2 calendar years, as determined on a case-by-case basis.
 - f. Ask that the student or parent(s)/guardian(s) or attorney inform the Superintendent or Board Attorney if the student will be represented by an attorney and, if so, the attorney's name and contact information.
2. Unless the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) indicate that they do not want a hearing or fail to appear at the designated time and place, the hearing will proceed. It shall be conducted by the Board or a hearing officer appointed by it. If a hearing officer is appointed, he or she shall report to the Board the evidence presented at the hearing and the Board shall take such final action as it finds appropriate. Whenever there is evidence that mental illness may be the cause for the recommended expulsion, the Superintendent or designee shall invite a representative from the Dept. of Human Services to consult with the Board.
3. During the expulsion hearing, the Board or hearing officer shall hear evidence concerning whether the student is guilty of the gross disobedience or misconduct as charged. School officials must provide: (1) testimony of any other interventions attempted and exhausted or of their determination that no other appropriate and available interventions were available for the student, and (2) evidence of the threat or disruption posed by the student. The student and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) may be represented by counsel, offer evidence, present witnesses, cross-examine witnesses who testified, and otherwise present reasons why the student should not be expelled. After presentation of the evidence or receipt of the hearing officer's report, the Board shall decide the issue of guilt and take such action as it finds appropriate.
4. If the Board acts to expel the student, its written expulsion decision shall:
 - a. Detail the specific reason why removing the student from his or her learning environment is in the best interest of the school.
 - b. Provide a rationale for the specific duration of the recommended expulsion.
 - c. Document how school officials determined that all behavioral and disciplinary interventions have been exhausted by specifying which interventions were attempted or whether school officials determined that no other appropriate and available interventions existed for the student.

- d. Document how the student's continuing presence in school would (1) pose a threat to the safety of other students, staff, or members of the school community, or (2) substantially disrupt, impede, or interfere with the operation of the school.
- 5. Upon expulsion, the District may refer the student to appropriate and available support services.