

# **LCSD STUDENT DISCIPLINE POLICY OVERVIEW**

**PRESENTER:  
DR. STACEY L. COOPER; DEPUTY  
SUPERINTENDENT**

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## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

**AB 285 & AB 330 (2023):** Prohibited the suspension or expulsion of students under the age of 11, with exceptions for misconduct listed in statute. (controlled substance, battery against staff, weapons/firearms, ongoing threat to school, habitual discipline)

**NRS 392 (2023):** Required the development of progressive discipline plans based upon “restorative justice” for students being suspended or expelled.

**Restorative Justice:** nonpunitive intervention and support provided by the school to a student to improve the behavior and remedy any harm caused by the student.



# ***LCSD: WE ARE AHEAD OF THE GAME!***

- Restorative Justice is NOT a new approach for Lyon County Schools!
- We acknowledge the importance of the whole-child; and are committed to improving student behavior and preventing the behavior from reoccurring.
- The Lyon County Sheriffs Office maintains a strong partnership with our schools, through a “zero-tolerance” expectation for our students.





# ***WHY THIS POLICY MATTERS***

- **Our Goal:** To ensure a safe and effective learning environment for *all* students.
- **Balancing Act:** We need to maintain order while also protecting every student's right to an education.
- **Fairness:** No student should be removed from school without a clear reason and a chance to explain their side.
- **Following the Rules:** Our policy follows all state and federal laws, especially those protecting students with disabilities

# DEFINITIONS WITHIN POLICY

## JG: WHAT DO THEY MEAN?

- **Suspension:** General terminology referencing the exclusion of a student from school.
- **Short-term Suspension:** Temporary exclusion of a student from school, commonly up to ten (10) days.
- **Long –term Suspension:** Exclusion of a student from school, as determined by a Discipline Panel, beyond ten (10) school days, but no more than one semester.
- **Expulsion:** Exclusion of a student from school, as determined by a Discipline Panel for more than one semester, but not permanently.
- **Permanent Expulsion:** Exclusion of a student from school, as determined by the Discipline Panel, without the possibility of returning to the regular school campus.

# OUR APPROACH TO DISCIPLINE

- **Clear Expectations:** We communicate expected behavior to all students and parents in writing.
- **Safe Environment:** School staff are responsible for keeping schools safe and secure.
- **Respect:** Students are expected to respect school staff and not disrupt learning.
- **Individual Situations:** We consider each student's unique circumstances when deciding on consequences.
- **Progressive Discipline:** We aim to use a step-by-step approach, starting with less severe consequences and escalating if needed.
- **Restorative Justice:** For certain situations, we use "restorative justice," which focuses on helping students improve their behavior and fix any harm caused, rather than just punishing them.

# IMPORTANT CHANGES & SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

**Age Matters:** Generally, students must be at least 11 years old to be suspended or expelled, *unless* it's for specific serious behaviors.

**Exceptions for Younger Students:** There are seven specific serious behaviors where students under the age of 11 *can* be suspended or expelled.

- **Students with Disabilities:** We have special procedures to ensure students with disabilities are disciplined fairly and in line with federal laws (IDEA and Section 504). They are still entitled to an education even if suspended for more than 10 days.
- **Homeless & Foster Care Students:** Special considerations apply to these students to ensure their unique situations are factored into disciplinary decisions.

# THE "SEVEN SERIOUS BEHAVIORS" (EXCEPTIONS FOR YOUNGER STUDENTS)

These are the types of misconduct where even younger students (under 11) may face suspension or expulsion (NRS 392):

- **Selling/Distributing Drugs:** Student sells or gives out controlled substances.
- **Battery Against Staff:** Student physically harms a school employee.
- **Intentional Battery Against Staff:** Student physically harms a school employee with the intent to cause injury.
- **Ongoing Danger:** Student poses a continuous threat to people or property or constantly disrupts learning.
- **Dangerous Weapon (Non-Firearm):** Student has a dangerous weapon that isn't a gun.
- **Firearm Possession:** Student has a gun.
- **Habitual Discipline Problem:** Student has a repeated history of serious behavioral issues, and efforts to create a behavior plan have not worked.





# ***WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A STUDENT IS REMOVED?***

- **Alternative Education:** If a student is suspended for a semester, they must:
  - Enroll in a private school or be homeschooled.
  - Enroll in an independent study or online learning program.
  - Enroll in an alternative education program provided by the school district (which must be in-person and in the least restrictive environment).
- **Immediate Removal:** In very serious cases (like possessing a firearm or posing an ongoing danger), a student can be removed immediately, with a hearing to follow as soon as possible.

# SUPERINTENDENT'S ROLE & RESPONSIBILITY

- **Modification Power:** The Superintendent can, for good reason, change a suspension or expulsion decision.
- **Restorative Justice Focus:** The Superintendent or Discipline Panel *must* allow a modification if they believe a "restorative justice" plan can successfully help the student improve.



# COMMON MISCONDUCT & CONSEQUENCES

- **Examples of Misconduct:** (List a few common examples from the policy, simplified)
  - Vandalism or theft
  - Disobeying staff
  - Fighting
  - Possession of drugs or alcohol
  - Bullying or cyberbullying
  - Cheating
  - Truancy (skipping school)
- **Consequences Vary:** Consequences can range from a verbal warning to in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, or expulsion, depending on the severity and individual circumstances.
- **Legal Referrals:** If Lyon County, Nevada, or federal laws are broken, we will involve law enforcement.



# ***APPEALS PROCESS***

- **Right to Appeal:** Students and parents have the right to appeal disciplinary decisions. Appeals go through the Deputy Superintendent & must be filed within 5 days of the hearing.
- **Policy & Guidelines:** The process for appeals is outlined in our Administrative Guidelines for Suspension and Expulsion.





# QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

