

Introduction

An important part of the educational process is helping young people become aware of their rights and the responsibilities that accompany those rights. The school has the duty to create an atmosphere in which self-discipline, as an aspect of responsibility, is approached both positively and productively.

Parents/guardians must be the first to foster self-discipline within the child at home; the school provides an environment in which this training can be developed further, enabling all students to have the right to pursue their own educational needs without disruption by others.

The Cedar Falls Community School Board of Education affirms its support of the school student responsibility and discipline policies, its intent to support school staff that enforces these policies, and its intent to hold school staff accountable for implementing the policies.

Disciplinary action should follow as closely as possible the infraction or behavior that interferes substantially with the educational program and be related directly to the student(s) involved. The teacher is the key to providing disciplinary direction. The principal or designee should be involved only in those cases in which the student's behavior calls for assistance due to safety concerns or the serious or repetitive nature of the behavior.

For those few students who seem unable or unwilling to adjust self-discipline to the common good and who, consequently, continually disrupt the orderly operation of the school, procedures must be established to prevent and correct misconduct. When situations allow, an attempt should be made by teachers, counselors, and administrators, in cooperation with parents/guardians, to help troubled students modify their behavior.

- The Board may, by a majority vote, expel any student from school for a violation of the regulations or rules established by the Board, or when the presence of the student is detrimental to the best interests of the school.
- The Board permits any teacher, principal, or superintendent or designee temporarily to suspend a student, notice of the suspension being at once given in writing to the president of the Board if suspension is out of school.
- When a student is suspended by a teacher, principal, or superintendent or designee, the student may be readmitted by such teacher, principal, or superintendent or designee when the conditions of the suspension have been met, but when excluded or expelled by the Board the student may be readmitted only by the Board or in the manner prescribed by the Board.

Discipline of a special education student will conform to procedures prescribed by applicable law. Conditions governing the discipline of a special education student are contained in this policy.

The goal of school discipline policies should be to ensure the right of all students to a productive educational environment in which they may learn the social skills necessary to develop into mature, responsible young adults, accountable for their own actions.

Index

- I. Definition of School Discipline
- II. Definition of Misconduct
- III. Areas in Which Disciplinary Control of Students is to be Exercised
- IV. Consequences for Violating the Regulations, Rules and Policies of the School District
- V. Firearms
- VI. Physical Contact with a Student and the Use of Reasonable Force
- VII. Procedures for Exclusion/Expulsion Cases
- VIII. Special Education
- IX. Non-authorized Persons
- X. Actions for Assault and Threats to School Personnel
- XI. Distribution of Discipline Policy and Administrative Rules and Procedures

I. Definition of School Discipline

School discipline is the guidance of the conduct of students in a way which permits the orderly and efficient operation of the school, i.e., the maintenance of a scholarly, disciplined atmosphere to achieve maximum educational benefits for all students.

II. Definition of Misconduct

Students will be disciplined for conduct which disrupts or interferes with an educational program, which disrupts the orderly and efficient operation of the school or school activity, which disrupts the rights of other students to obtain their education or participate, which interrupts the maintenance of a scholarly, disciplined atmosphere or which presents a threat to the health or safety of others in the school environment. Misconduct may include, without limitation:

- A. Refusal to conform to school policies, rules or regulations.
- B. Conduct which disturbs the orderly, efficient and disciplined atmosphere and operation of the school or school activity.
- C. Refusal to comply with directions from teachers, administrators, or school personnel including registered volunteers on school premises or participating in or attending school activities.
- D. Physical attack or threats of physical attack to students, teachers, administrators, or other school personnel.
- E. Possession of weapons or dangerous objects, or items that appear to be weapons or dangerous objects.

- F. Extortion.
- G. Criminal or illegal behavior.
- H. Theft, robbery, or possession of stolen goods.
- I. Damaging, altering, injuring, defacing or destroying any building, fixture, or tangible property.
- J. Causing a fire or explosion, or placing any burning or combustible material, or any incendiary or explosive device or material, in or near any school property or other premises where a school sponsored activity will be held, whether or not any such property is actually destroyed or damaged.
- K. Threatening to place or attempting to place any incendiary or explosive device or material, or any destructive substance or device, in or about the school premises or other premises where a school sponsored activity will be held.
- L. Fighting or engaging in disruptive or violent behavior.
- M. Activities, including making noise, which disrupt the orderly, efficient and disciplined atmosphere of the school or school-sponsored activity.
- N. Abusive epithets, threatening gestures, or harassment of other students, teachers, administrators, school personnel or other persons lawfully on school premises or participating in or attending school activities.
- O. By words or action initiating or circulating a report or warning of fire, epidemic, or other catastrophe knowing such report to be false or such warning to be baseless.
- P. Obstructing school premises or access to school premises or premises where a school activity is being held.
- Q. Possessing, consuming, being under the influence of, or distributing alcoholic liquors, wine, beer, or alcohol look-alikes on school property or while attending a school activity.
- R. Possession, use, being under the influence or distribution of a controlled substance or controlled substance paraphernalia or look-alikes.
- S. Possession, use, or distribution of tobacco, including look-alike tobacco products and e-cigarettes or vaping items.
- T. Gambling.
- U. Documented misconduct detrimental to the best interest of the school district.
- V. Truancy.
- W. Unauthorized access to computer hardware or software and the manipulation of electronically stored information.
- X. Violating academic integrity by actions such as cheating or plagiarism.
- Y. Bullying and taunting.

III. Areas in Which Disciplinary Control of Students is to be Exercised

- A. While on school premises.
- B. While being transported to and from school-sponsored activities in school-owned and/or operated school buses, chartered buses, or privately owned vehicles.
- C. While attending or engaged in school-sponsored activities.
- D. While away from school grounds if such conduct would directly affect the good order, efficiency, management, and welfare of the school.

IV. Consequences for Violating the Regulations, Rules, and Policies of the School District

Students who violate policies, rules or regulations of the school district, or who have documented cases of misconduct detrimental to the best interest of the school district, may be suspended, excluded, or expelled from school, or otherwise disciplined as provided by this policy. Students engaged in illegal activities may also be referred to the police.

The principal or designee may impose a range of penalties based upon their professional judgment and the facts and circumstances of each situation. Consequences may range from warning, counseling, community or school service projects, probation, written reprimand, detention, in-school suspension, loss of privileges, removal from class, out-of-school suspension, suspension from participation in activities, or recommendation for exclusion or expulsion.

The principal or designee shall have the authority to suspend students temporarily. Such suspension may be for a period not to exceed 10 consecutive school days. A suspended student shall be given opportunity to make up work and receive credit on the same basis as other absentees. A day of suspension shall be counted as an excused absence. The initiative to make up work must be made by the students.

The School Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the superintendent or designee in consultation with the associate superintendent and the building principal, may exclude or expel a student from school for violation of the policies, rules or regulations of the school district or for documented cases of misconduct detrimental to the best interest of the school district. The Board may exclude or expel any incorrigible child or any child whose presence in school may be injurious to the health of other students or to the welfare of the school. Exclusion is defined as a student being excluded from regular attendance for a period determined by the board with an alternative educational program being provided by the district. Expulsion is defined as a board decision to deny a student any educational program (except as required by law) for a determinate period of time.

Corporal Punishment: Corporal punishment, meaning the intentional physical punishment of students, is prohibited.

Sanctions regarding the behavior of students who are involved in activities/athletics shall be governed by Board Policy #503.4, in addition to this policy.

The superintendent or designee shall develop rules and procedures to implement this discipline policy and shall report such procedures to the Board of Education of the school district.

V. Firearms

Any student who is determined to have brought a firearm to school or knowingly possessed a firearm at school will be expelled from school for a period of not less than one calendar year. The superintendent or designee shall have the authority to recommend this expulsion requirement be modified on a case-by-case basis.

The term "firearm" is defined by applicable law and includes, but is not limited to:

- A. any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive;
- B. the frame or receiver of any such weapon;
- C. any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; and
- D. any destructive device.

The term "destructive device" includes, but not limited to any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas, bomb or grenade.

The principal may allow authorized persons to display weapons or other dangerous objects for educational purposes.

VI. Physical Contact With a Student and the Use of Reasonable Force

- A. Physical contact with the body of a student shall not be considered corporal punishment if it is reasonable and necessary under the circumstances, is not designed or intended to cause pain, and is not done with the intent to punish the student. Such contact is not prohibited.
- B. Reasons for permissible are:
 - To quell a disturbance or prevent an act that threatens physical harm to any person.
 - To obtain possession of a weapon or other dangerous object within a pupil's control.
 - For the purposes of self-defense or defense of others as provided for in Iowa Code Section 704.3.
 - For the protection of property as provided for in Iowa Code Section 704.4 or 704.5.
 - To remove a disruptive pupil from class, any area of school premises, or from school-sponsored activities off school premises.
 - To prevent a student from the self-infliction of harm.
 - To protect the safety of others.

In determining the reasonableness of the contact or force used, the following factors shall be considered:

- The nature of the misconduct of the student, if any, precipitating the physical contact by the school employee.
 - The size and physical or mental condition of the student.
 - The instrumentality used in making the physical contact.
 - The motivation of the school employee in initiating the physical contact.
 - The extent and nature of injury to the student resulting from the physical contact, if any.
- C. Whenever force is used against a student to protect persons or property or to obtain possession of a weapon or dangerous object, it shall be reported immediately to the building principal or designee.
- D. Whenever force is used against a student to protect persons or property or to obtain possession of a weapon or dangerous object, it shall be reported immediately to the student's parents/guardians by the building principal or designee.

VII. Procedures for Exclusion / Expulsion Cases

- A. When a student is suspended pending recommendation for exclusion or expulsion, the building principal shall immediately notify the associate superintendent and the superintendent or designee to review the alleged misconduct and all relevant matters. Following this review, a final determination of a recommendation for exclusion or expulsion to the Board of Education will be made by the superintendent or designee in consultation with the associate superintendent. The building principal shall hold a conference with the parents/guardians and the student to discuss the reasons for the suspension and proposed recommendation for exclusion or expulsion.
- B. If, after investigation and review, it is determined that exclusion or expulsion should be recommended to the Board of Education, the building principal, with assistance from the associate superintendent and legal counsel, shall prepare appropriate notice. The associate superintendent shall consult with the secretary of the Board of Education to arrange a time for the hearing. The notice of hearing on the recommended exclusion or expulsion shall state the reasons for the recommendation and shall have attached thereto documents that describe the alleged incidents that have precipitated the recommendation. There shall be included a direct citation of the section of the discipline policy, Board policy, and/or state statute that has been violated. The notice shall state the time and place of the hearing.

- C. Notice of the recommendation to the board for exclusion/expulsion shall be served upon the parents/guardians by the associate superintendent. The notice shall be sent by registered mail to the last known local address of the parents/guardians.
- D. At the same time the notice and supporting documents are delivered to the student and his/her parents/guardians, copies shall be delivered to the superintendent or designee, legal counsel, and the secretary of the Board of Education.

If the student has attained age 18, the notice shall be given to the student. It may also be given to the student's parents/guardians if they have shown the student is a dependent as defined in the Family Education Rights & Privacy Act of 1974 and the regulations there under.

- E. The Hearing:
 - 1. The hearing shall be held on a date not later than 10 school days subsequent to the date of suspension.
 - 2. The student may be accompanied by:
 - a. Parent(s)/guardian(s)
 - b. Legal counsel or any other advisor of his/her choice
 - 3. The Board of Education and the school district may also be advised by legal counsel.
 - 4. The Board of Education, in its discretion, may postpone the hearing upon request when it deems such a postponement necessary or appropriate; but a request for postponement for the convenience of legal counsel shall ordinarily be refused.
 - 5. The student and his/her parents/guardians may waive the hearing by furnishing a signed statement that they will waive the hearing. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to prohibit settlement by the parents/guardians by agreement, or waiver of hearing, or both.
 - 6. At the hearing, the student may respond to the complaint orally or in writing. The response may admit or deny the allegation of the notice in whole or in part. The student may also offer any explanation or comment that he/she believes relevant or appropriate.
 - 7. Each party to the hearing, directly or through his/her legal counsel or other advisor, may introduce evidence, witnesses to testify, or statements in writing, and may testify in his/her own behalf. To the extent that either party may rely on written statements as evidence, he/she shall clearly indicate how and from what source the evidence has been obtained. Each party shall have an opportunity to question any witnesses, either directly or through his/her legal counsel, or other advisor. If the Board should find it necessary to limit cross examination or the number of witnesses in order to protect the hearing against disruption, confusion, or unwarranted dilatory tactics, or for other good cause, it shall have the authority

to do so. The proceedings shall be administrative in nature and shall not be conducted as an adversary proceeding.

8. If the student shall fail to appear at the hearing, or if, having appeared, shall make no response to the complaint, the Board shall nevertheless invite the school administration to submit evidence in support of the complaint. The hearing shall be in closed session so as not to disclose confidential student records, unless an open session is requested by the student or the parents/guardians of the student if the student is a minor.
9. If a party to the hearing should deliberately conduct himself/herself in a manner disruptive of the hearing, the Board shall be authorized to exclude him/her and to proceed with the hearing as if he/she had not personally appeared. A hearing shall be attended only by the Board, the Board Secretary, the Superintendent or designee, administrative personnel familiar with the case, the student, the student's parents/guardians, the student's legal counsel or other advisor, and legal counsel for the school board and school district. Witnesses other than the foregoing should be excluded except when presenting information to the Board, unless the student and his/her parents/guardians waive this exclusion. The Board may order all witnesses to be excluded on its own motion.
10. Provisions shall be made detailed minutes and an audio recording of the hearing. The complaint, the student's response, the transcript or record, and all other papers in the proceeding except the final disposition of the case, shall be treated as a confidential student record and shall not be disclosed except as provided by law.

F. The Decision:

1. The Board of Education in executive session shall consider all relevant evidence introduced at the hearing, and make findings of fact and conclusions as to the disciplinary action as it deems to be appropriate. The Board may consider the student's prior record as submitted by the school administration at the hearing. The Board determination as to disciplinary action shall be by majority vote in open session. The Board of Education shall promptly notify the parents/guardians and the student, as well as the Superintendent or designee, concerning the Board's determination.
2. As part of the final decision, the Board will set the term of the exclusion or expulsion and will prescribe the conditions under which the student will be readmitted.
3. The Board will prepare written findings of fact, conclusions, and decisions and provide same to the student and parents/guardians.
4. A student or parents/guardians may appeal the decision of the Board as provided in Chapter 290, Code of Iowa.

VIII. Special Education

Special education students may be suspended or expelled to the extent permitted by applicable law. The procedural protections of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or other applicable law are to be followed. Educational services shall be provided to the student as required by law.

IX. Non-authorized Persons

Persons should not be in the school building or on school premises at any time without authorization of the school building administrator. Any non-authorized person will be required to leave the school premises and may be subject to criminal prosecution.

A. Non-authorized persons include:

1. Students not assigned to that specific building.
2. Any person not an employee of the Cedar Falls Community School District.
3. An employee or volunteer not assigned duties at that building or premises.
4. Other persons who do not have authorization of the school building administrator or designee.

B. School administrators may enlist the aid of the police department to have removed any non-authorized persons.

C. Procedures dealing with non-authorized persons should be reasonable, ~~and~~ non-discriminatory and non-arbitrary in their operation.

X. Actions for Assault and Threats to School Personnel

A. Whenever any officer, employee, or agent of the school district has been struck or attacked by any student, or has suffered bodily harm, because of the actions of a student, he/she shall notify the principal immediately who shall call the associate superintendent and superintendent or designee. The principal shall notify the police and parents, and the student or students shall be suspended pending completion of the investigation and due process. Notice of the suspension shall be sent to the president of the Board through the superintendent or designee. Following the investigation and an administrative determination relative to its appropriateness, a recommendation for discipline, up to and including expulsion, may be made.

B. Whenever any officer, employee, or agent of the school district is threatened with bodily harm by a student, he/she shall notify the principal immediately, who shall suspend the student pending completion of the

investigation. Following the investigation and an administrative determination relative to its appropriateness, a recommendation for discipline, up to and including expulsion, may be made.

- C. It shall be the responsibility of the person who suffers the assault or injury to file any charges for prosecution.

XI. Distribution of Discipline Policy and Administrative Rules and Procedures

The discipline policy and administrative rules and procedures shall be printed and distributed to attendance centers; shall be made available to staff, students and parents/guardians; and shall be available in at least one location in each attendance center which is accessible to staff, parents/guardians and students at the beginning of the school year. Notwithstanding this policy and the corresponding administrative rules/procedures, the District reserves the right to take disciplinary actions as it deems appropriate on a case-by-case basis.

Date of Adoption: August 13, 2007

Date of Revision: October 27, 2008
April 8, 2013
April 7, 2014
June 12, 2017
August 14, 2023

I. Authorized Actions

Students who violate policies, rules or regulations of the school district, or who have documented cases of misconduct detrimental to the best interest of the school district, may be suspended, excluded, or expelled from school, or otherwise disciplined as provided by this policy. Students engaged in illegal activities may also be referred to the police or other social agency.

The following actions are authorized under the discipline policy of the school district and by these administrative rules and procedures, and may be taken at any stage in the discipline proceedings.

- A. By the staff member or the principal or other administrator as the principal's designee*:
1. Conference with student.
 2. Parent conference or communication.
 3. Detention, before or after school or on Saturday.
 4. Removal from class, not to exceed one school day.
 5. Referral to administration for further action.

*Staff members are to follow the procedures and expectations of the building discipline plan.

- B. By the principal or designee:
1. Warning
 2. Counseling
 3. Reprimand
 4. Probation
 5. Detention
 6. In-school suspension
 7. Denial of privileges and/or participation in extracurricular activities
 8. Out-of-school suspension
 9. Removal from a specific class for up to the balance of the semester, with educational alternatives
 10. Recommendation, in conjunction with the director of elementary or secondary education and the superintendent or designee to the board of education for exclusion or expulsion
 11. As an alternative to the above actions, the principal or designee may offer a student an opportunity to participate in community or school service projects. Failure to perform the obligations of this alternative on the part of the student would lead to further disciplinary action
- C. By the Board of Education of the school district: Exclusion or Expulsion. Following review of the evidence at the board hearing, the Board may exclude, expel, or order a lesser sanction as an alternative to exclusion or expulsion.

- D. The Board of Education shall expel any student, who is determined to have brought a firearm to school, or knowingly possessed a firearm at school, for not less than one calendar year. The Superintendent or designee has the authority to recommend to the Board of Education that the expulsion requirement be modified on a case-by-case basis.

Criminal acts may be subject to discipline procedures under the discipline policy. In addition, criminal acts may be reported by the building principal or his/her designee to the police.

II. Definitions

- A. Detention: Detention shall be the requirement that a student remain after school, or come to school early, or on Saturday for purposes of discipline.
- B. Removal from class: Removal from class is that period of time a student is sent from the classroom by the teacher to the office of the principal or designee for a period of time not to exceed one day when the principal or designee reviews with the student and the classroom teacher the misconduct and determines the conditions for readmission to class, or further disciplinary proceedings.
- C. Denial of privileges and/or participation in extracurricular activities: Denial of extracurricular activities or privileges shall be the declaration of ineligibility to participate in such extracurricular activities or privileges for a period of time to be specified by the building principal or his/her designee.
- D. Probation: Probation is conditional attendance during a trial period imposed for conduct which violates the regulations or rules established by the board of directors, including misconduct as defined in the discipline policy, or in cases of conduct detrimental to the best interests of the school. Breach of the conditions of probation may result in more severe sanctions.
- E. In-school suspension: In-school suspension is the temporary isolation of a student from one or more classes while under proper administrative supervision. In-school suspension may be imposed by the principal or designee for violation of school rules or policies (including the discipline policy) where the infraction does not necessarily warrant removal from school grounds by suspension.
- F. Out-of-school Suspension: Suspension is that period of time a student is sent home from school by the principal. A student may be suspended from school for a period of not to exceed 10 consecutive school

days for any infraction. A suspended student shall be given opportunity to make up work and receive credit on the same basis as other absentees. Suspended days are to be counted as excused absences.

- G. Removal from a specific class for up to the balance of the semester: Removal from a specific class for up to the balance of the semester is isolation of a student from a specified class while under proper supervision and occurs where the student's conduct does not warrant exclusion from other classes or suspension/expulsion from school.
- H. Exclusion: Exclusion is an act carried out only by the Board of Education by a majority vote that excludes a student from school for a determinate period of time. During the period of exclusion, the school district will provide the student with an alternative educational program.
- I. Expulsion: Expulsion is that act carried out only by the Board of Education by a majority vote that expels any student from school for a determinate period of time. During the period of expulsion, the school district will provide no educational program or services to the student unless required by law.

III. Administrative Action

- A. Removal from class: Classroom teachers may temporarily remove from class any student for misconduct. Such removal from class shall be to the office of the principal or designee and shall not exceed one day.

When a student is removed from class to the office of the principal or designee by a classroom teacher, the principal or designee shall ascertain the reasons for the temporary removal from class. The classroom teacher shall submit a written report to the principal specifying the misconduct or reason for suspension from class. If necessary, suitable arrangements for readmission to class shall be established during a teacher-student conference, which may include the principal or designee, and may also include the parent(s)/guardian(s). Administrative procedures in Section IV shall be followed.

- B. Probation: The principal or designee may specify that the student may be readmitted to class upon probation, conditional upon good behavior during a specified period. Probation may be imposed for infractions of school rules or policies (including the discipline policy) where the infraction does not necessarily warrant further removal from class or removal from school by suspension. Written notice of probation shall be given to the student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) and shall be placed in the student's supplementary record. Should the student breach the conditions imposed for probation, the student may be suspended from school, or may be subject to any of the

other authorized actions pursuant to the discipline policy and these administrative rules and procedures. Administrative procedures in Section IV shall be followed.

- C. In-school suspension: The principal or designee may specify the imposition of an in-school suspension which shall be imposed for a period not to exceed 10 consecutive school days. In-school suspension may be imposed for infractions of school rules or policies (including the discipline policy) where the infraction does not necessarily warrant removal from school premises by suspension. Written notice of in-school suspension shall be given to the student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s), and shall be placed in the student's supplementary record. Administrative procedures in Section IV shall be followed.
- D. Removal from a specific class for up to the balance of the semester with educational alternative (secondary students only): If the principal or designee determines that other sanctions for discipline have not and will not resolve a specific discipline problem in a class situation, and if the principal or designee, in consultation with the Director of Secondary Education, determines that exclusion or expulsion is not recommended, then the principal may remove the student from the specific class for up to the balance of the school semester and may specify coincidental with such removal some other supervised alternative for the student. Such removal action shall be taken only after the principal has explored all available disciplinary alternatives and all other educational alternatives, including placement of the student in another class under the direction of another teacher, and only after a conference has been held with the student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s). Notice of such removal from class for the balance of the semester shall be given in writing to the student, parent(s)/guardian(s), and the Director of Secondary Education.

When such removal is ordered, it shall be with the opportunity for proper administrative supervision during the time of such removal.

- E. Out-of-school suspension: A student may be suspended out-of-school for up to 10 consecutive school days by the principal or designee for violation of the regulations or rules established by the board of directors of the school district, including misconduct as defined by the discipline policy, or for conduct detrimental to the best interests of the school district or when the presence of the student will cause substantial interference with the maintenance of the educational environment or in the normal operation of the school or school activity. Notice of suspension shall be given to the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) and the Director of Elementary or Secondary Education. Administrative procedures in Section IV shall be followed.
- F. Manifestation Determination: If a long-term suspension (in-school or out-of-school) is imposed on a student receiving special education services, an immediate meeting of the student's IEP team should be held to assess

determine whether the misconduct giving rise to the suspension was manifestation of the student's disability and to assess the effectiveness and appropriateness of the student's placement. In an emergency situation where a child poses an immediate threat to the safety of others, and in the absence of parental consent to the long-term suspension, the school will seek a court order temporarily enjoining the child from attending school.

IV. Administrative Procedures

These procedures are to be followed when a student is placed on probation or suspended or denied privileges or declared ineligible for extracurricular activities, or when a student is removed from a specified class for the balance of the semester.

- A. A student should be told what he/she is accused of doing, orally or in writing, and be given an explanation of the evidence and the rules or policy allegedly violated. The principal or designee shall make an informal investigation, and have discussion with the student. If written notice and explanation is not given, a written memorandum shall be prepared after the discussion, one copy to be placed in the student's file and the other to be mailed to the student's parent(s)/guardian(s).
- B. If the student denies the charges, he/she should be given an opportunity to explain his/her side of the story. There need be no delay between the time of the discussion and explanation to the student and the student's opportunity for response.

The principal or designee may, in his/her discretion, find it advisable to have the person(s) who observed and reported the misconduct present when the accusation and explanation is given; to allow the student to confront such person(s); or to hear the person(s) in behalf of the student. Such proceedings shall be informal. If the student makes a reasonable request that other persons be questioned, the principal or designee should attempt to talk to them if possible.

- C. If the student does not deny the charges, the principal shall explain the sanction to be imposed.
- D. Students whose presences pose a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disrupting the academic process may be immediately removed from school. In such cases, the notice and hearing should

follow as soon as practical, not later than three school days after immediate suspension. If the student is immediately removed from school, the principal or designee shall investigate the incident and decide, by the end of the school day, if practicable, whether further disciplinary action is necessary. If an additional suspension is necessary beyond the end of the school day, the principal or designee shall give notice to the student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s), describing what the student is accused of doing, an explanation of the evidence, the rule or policy allegedly violated, and the time when the student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) may be heard as heretofore provided.

- E. When a student is suspended pending exclusion or expulsion, the procedures for exclusion or expulsion in the discipline policy shall be followed. If the principal determines not to recommend exclusion or expulsion, the principal, the student, and the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) shall make suitable arrangements for readmission.
- F. Nothing in this procedure shall be construed to prohibit informal settlement by the parent(s)/guardian(s) by agreement, or waiver of hearing or both.

V. Procedures for Sending a Suspended Student Home During the School Day

When a student is suspended, the principal shall attempt to reach the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) to inform them of the school's action and to request that they come to the school for the child. If the student is entitled to transportation, and if the parent(s)/guardian(s) are unable to come for the child, the school shall provide transportation to the home, provided there is a parent(s)/guardian(s) there to receive the child. If the principal cannot reach the parent(s)/guardian(s), or where no one will be at home to receive the student, the student shall remain on school property until the close of the school day.

Notwithstanding this requirement, the principal may order the student to leave the school premises immediately when faced with mass violations of school rules or where it is not possible to keep the student on school premises and restore order to protect people on the school grounds. However, even in this instance, distance to the home and the age of the individual child may require keeping the student until the parent(s)/guardian(s) can be contacted or other arrangements can be made.

VI. Truancy Procedure

Truancy is a symptom of maladaptive behavior and may require remedial procedures. The following sequential steps outline a guide to be followed. Most cases will be resolved by use of steps A, B, and C. More persistent truancy cases may result in suspension and/or exclusion or expulsion from school, and some may be subject to further action in accordance with law, including referral to the county attorney.

- A. The principal or designee shall counsel with the student.
- B. The parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be informed by telephone and/or mail and be requested to counsel with the student. The school counselor should be notified and shall arrange for ongoing counseling.
- C. The principal or designee shall hold a conference with the student and the student's parent(s)/guardian(s).
- D. The principal may suspend the student or place the student on probation. A conference must be held with the student and the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) before the student is readmitted to school. The principal may require an agreement stating the conditions of readmission which shall be signed by the student and the principal.
- E. The student may be suspended and the principal or designee may arrange for a psychological evaluation and may make whatever other investigation is relevant and recommend appropriate remedial measures. This may mean a referral to the juvenile court or other community agencies.
- F. The principal may recommend exclusion or expulsion of the student and/or recommend further action in accordance with law, including referral to the County Attorney.

VII. Procedures for Handling Student Alcohol, Tobacco/Nicotine, or Controlled Substance Cases

- A. When it is determined that a student has been under the influence of using, possessing, selling or delivering alcohol, tobacco/nicotine, unauthorized controlled substances, or look-alikes on school premises or at school activities the student may be suspended by the building principal. The administrative procedures for suspension shall be applied in such case.
- B. In addition, if it is determined that the student has been under the influence of, using, possessing, selling or delivering unauthorized controlled substances on school premises or at a school-sponsored activity, the student may be recommended for exclusion or expulsion by the building principal.

- C. All instances of alcohol, tobacco/nicotine, or unauthorized controlled substance influence, possession, use, ~~or~~ sale, or delivery shall be reported to the parent(s)/guardian(s), and may be reported to local law enforcement agencies.
- D. Repeated violations involving alcohol and tobacco/nicotine may result in a recommendation to the board of education for exclusion or expulsion.

VIII. Referral of students with substance abuse problems

- A. All school personnel shall report information relative to students with alleged substance abuse problems to the principal.
- B. The principal may refer the matter to the nurse, counselor, student assistant team, or other school personnel.
- C. The principal may refer the case to a medical consultant as permitted by law.
- D. Assistance for substance abuse, rather than punishment, is the first goal of these referrals.

Notwithstanding anything in these administrative regulations to the contrary.

Date of Adoption: August 13, 2007

Date of Revision: October 27, 2008
April 8, 2013
April 7, 2014
June 12, 2017
August 14, 2023