

STUDENT SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION

Background

To ensure a satisfactory climate for learning, school rules and regulations must be observed by students, and teachers must be empowered to enforce those rules and regulations. Students who do not conform to the student code of conduct may negatively affect the school's learning environment and their behaviour may need to be addressed by invoking the measures of suspension and expulsion. Section 31 of the Education Act identifies expectations for student conduct and sections 36 and 37 deal with student suspensions and expulsions.

There may be situations which require teachers or principals to take immediate action to preserve the discipline within the school, or to protect students and teachers whose physical or mental well-being may be in jeopardy.

Principals, in consultation with their staff and the School Council, are to develop, implement and communicate clearly expectations for student conduct and behavior in Division schools, classrooms and school sponsored activities.

Procedures

1. A teacher or a Principal may suspend a student from one (1) class period if, in the opinion of the teacher or Principal the student has failed to comply with Section 31 of the Education Act or the student's conduct is injurious to the physical or mental well-being of others in the school.
2. A Principal or designate may suspend a student from school, from one (1) or more class periods, from transportation, or from any school-related activity.
3. A Principal or designate may reinstate a student suspended by the teacher or the Principal.
4. Suspension

Suspension of a student is deemed to be a serious measure to be invoked only when other measures have proven to be ineffective or when the seriousness of the offense warrants such actions. The following criteria shall be followed:

- 4.1 Cases shall be dealt with as quickly as possible.
- 4.2 Students and parents shall be protected against arbitrary decisions at all levels.

- 4.3 The Principal shall ensure that students, parents, and staff (including bus drivers) are informed of the Student Suspension and Expulsion administrative procedure.
- 5 When a student is suspended by the Principal or designate, the Principal or designate shall:
 - 5.1 Immediately inform the student's parent of the suspension;
 - 5.2 Report in writing to the student's parent all the circumstances respecting the suspension; and
 - 5.3 Provide an opportunity to meet with the student's parent, and the student if the student is sixteen (16) years of age or older, to discuss the reasonableness of the suspension.
- 6 The suspension may not exceed 5 school days, except in accordance with a recommendation for expulsion made by the principal.
- 7 If the principal recommends expulsion under section 37(1), the principal will report in writing to the board all the circumstances respecting the suspension and the principal's recommendation for expulsion.
- 8 The student shall remain suspended until the Board has made a decision.
- 9 The Board shall, within ten (10) school days of the date of the suspension:
 - 9.1 Reinstate the student; or
 - 9.2 Expel the student from school in accordance with Section 37 of the Education Act.

Reference: *Education Act*, SA 2012, c E-0.3, ss. 11, 31, 32, 33, 35, 35.1, 36, 37, 196, 197, 222, 257