

Title: Student Discipline, Suspension and Expulsion

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner promoting an orderly learning environment. Respect for the authority vested in all school employees, regard for public property and consideration of the rights and welfare of all students should govern their actions.

All employees of the District and other authorized contracted personnel share the responsibility of maintaining an orderly learning environment through enforcement of the student Code of Conduct.

Administrators are authorized by the Board of Directors to suspend students in accordance with the Code of Conduct. Suspensions of special education students shall be in accordance with all applicable federal and state standards.

The student Code of Conduct is subject to approval by the Board. The Code of Conduct shall include a statement noting Board approval.

In compliance with state and federal law, the Code of Conduct shall specify that students bringing a firearm to school shall be expelled for not less than twelve months. The Superintendent shall have the authority to recommend this expulsion requirement be modified for a student on a case-by-case basis. For purposes of this portion of this policy, the term “firearm” includes any weapon which is designed to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, a muffler or silencer for such a weapon or any explosive, incendiary or poisonous gas, or as otherwise defined by applicable law.

The building administrator shall be required to report to local law enforcement any weapon possessed on school property. This includes, but is not limited to, a dangerous weapon as defined by Iowa Law. A dangerous weapon is any instrument or device designed primarily for use in inflicting death or injury upon a human being when used in the manner for which it was designed. Additionally, an instrument or device of any sort whatsoever which is actually used in such a manner as to indicate that the defendant intends to inflict death or serious injury upon the other, and which, when so used, is capable of inflicting death upon a human being, is a dangerous weapon. Dangerous weapons include but are not limited to any offensive weapon, pistol, revolver or other firearm, dagger, razor, stiletto, switchblade knife, knife having a blade exceeding 3 ½ inches in length, or any portable device or weapon directing an electric current, impulse, wave, or beam that produces a high-voltage pulse designed to immobilize a person.

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Under no circumstances shall any suspended or expelled student be allowed on District property or be involved in District events during the period of suspension or expulsion without prior approval.

A student shall be entitled to a reasonable amount of time to complete make up work for absences related to a suspension. The building administrator may also require the student to undertake counseling or other activities designed to help the student understand and compensate for the consequences of his or her action. Financial obligations incurred under these situations are the responsibility of the student or family.

It is within the discretion of the Superintendent to recommend to the Board the expulsion of a student for disciplinary purposes and to recommend conditions for re-entry.

Only the Board may expel any student from school for violation of the student Code of Conduct or other regulations or rules established by the Board and/or when the presence of a student is detrimental to the best interests of the District. Upon recommendation by the Superintendent, only the Board may take action to re-admit the student.

In cases involving expulsion, the Board shall establish conditions for re-admission. Conditions for re-admission may focus on academic, vocational, medical, psychological and behavioral standards or other interventions the Board deems necessary for the student to complete while expelled or upon re-entry in order to be successfully re-integrated into the school following the period of expulsion. A student may be eligible for academic credit from the District during the period of expulsion. Any financial burden in meeting conditions for re-admission shall not be the responsibility of the Board. Expulsions of special education students shall be in accordance with all applicable federal and state standards.

Cross References:  
512 Code of Conduct  
District Handbook

Legal References:  
Goss v. Lopez, 419 U.S. 565, 95 S. Ct. 729 (1975);  
Iowa Code 280.17A, 280.17B, 280.21B, 282.3, .4, .5  
Federal Gun Free Schools Act, 20 U.S.C. § 7151(b)(1)

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