

Suspension and Expulsion - Corrective Actions and Punishment

Suspension

Before suspension, the student shall be provided oral or written notice of the charges. If the student denies the charges, the student shall be given an explanation of the evidence and an opportunity to present his or her version. Prior notice and hearing as stated above 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 necessary notice and hearing shall follow as soon as practicable.

Any suspension shall be reported as soon as possible to the student's parents. A written notice of the suspension shall contain a statement of the reasons for the suspension and a notice to the parents of their right to review the suspension. Upon request of the parents, the Superintendent shall convene a meeting to review the suspension. At the meeting, the student's parents may appear and discuss the suspension with the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall decide whether the suspension is appropriate. The decision of the Superintendent is final and may not be appealed to the Board.

The term of a suspension may vary depending upon the circumstances. A student may be suspended for an initial term not to exceed ten (10) school days. Upon a finding by a school administrator that the immediate return to school by a pupil would be detrimental to the health, welfare, or safety of others or would be disruptive of the educational process, a pupil may be suspended for one additional period not to exceed (ten) 10 school days if the pupil is granted an informal hearing with the school administrator prior to the additional suspension and if the decision to impose the additional suspension does not violate the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act.

Expulsion

Expulsion is any removal of a student for more than twenty (20) school days without the provision of educational services. Only the Board may expel a student from school. After the administration has investigated the alleged misconduct and made the decision to recommend an expulsion of the student to the Board, the administration shall send notice to the student and the parent of the following:

- The intent to recommend an expulsion;
- The specific charges against the student;
- What rule or regulation was broken;
- The nature of the evidence supporting the charges;
- The date, time and place where the hearing will be held;
- A copy of the procedure that will be followed by the Board; and
- A reminder of the rights the student and parents have, including the right to counsel, the right to cross examine witnesses, and the right to present witnesses.

The hearing may be rescheduled by the parent by submitting a request showing good cause to the Superintendent at least 3 school days prior to the scheduled date of the hearing. The Superintendent shall determine if the request shows good cause.

Before expelling a student for bringing a gun to school, the trustees will hold a due process hearing that includes presentation of a summary of the information leading to the allegations and an opportunity for the student to respond to the allegations. The student may not be expelled unless the trustees find that the student knowingly brought a firearm to school or possessed a firearm at school. When a student subject to a hearing is found to have not violated this section, the student's school record must be expunged of the incident.

Students with rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act may be expelled under certain circumstances, and the District must follow all procedural requirements of those Acts, including holding a manifestation determination meeting, prior to moving forward with an expulsion.

Legal References:	§ 20-4-302, MCA	Discipline and punishment of pupils
	§ 20-4-402, MCA	Duties of district superintendent
	§ 20-5-201, MCA	Duties of pupils – sanctions
	§ 20-5-202, MCA	Suspension and expulsion (<i>Revised by Senate Bill 283</i>)
	20 USC 1415(k)	IDEA
	10.55.701, ARM	Board of Trustees
	Senate Bill 283	Expulsion Policies and Firearms on School Grounds
	MCA 1-1-204	Terms denoting state of mind (<i>Cited by Senate Bill 283</i>)

Policy History:

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