

support of all stakeholders, particularly our families, as we strive to create a nurturing and positive environment.

**Our objectives regarding restorative practices and discipline are as follows:**

1. Providing students with ample opportunities to learn from their mistakes, transform their behavior, and restore relationships.
2. Developing a progressive and restorative program that embodies our values.
3. Ensuring administrators possess a comprehensive understanding of appropriate responses to discipline referrals and concerns, while allowing for flexibility and individualized approaches.
4. Offering clear guidelines and advanced communication to students, parents/guardians, and school personnel regarding the steps to be taken in handling discipline matters.
5. Providing ongoing professional development and support for educators to implement strategies and actions that align with the principles of a democratic society.

Each day, within our schools, we have the power to influence our students' social-emotional learning and development through the utilization of restorative practices. By prioritizing healthy relationships, preventing harmful behaviors, resolving conflicts constructively, and fostering a positive and inclusive learning environment, we aim to create an optimal space for growth and learning. We deeply value open dialogue as a means to repair relationships, and we maintain an unwavering commitment to ensuring that disruptive behavior does not impede other students' access to education.

To maintain a safe and respectful learning environment, our staff is dedicated to addressing and supporting behavioral concerns at the teacher and classroom levels. These conversations may involve peers, parents/guardians, and the administration, as we all share the responsibility to support and uphold a secure and inclusive learning community.

## **DISCIPLINE AND STUDENTS 7 AND UNDER AND IN GRADES K-4**

Suspension of elementary school students in kindergarten and grades one (1) through four (4) must comply with *A.R.S. 15-843(K)*, as follows:

### **Policy 5-306**

Unless required by *A.R.S. 15-841(G)*, bringing a firearm to school, which may be modified on a case-by-case basis, a school district may out-of-school suspend or expel a student who is enrolled in kindergarten through fourth grade only if all of the following apply:

1. The student is seven (7) years of age or older.
2. The student is engaged in conduct on school grounds that meets one (1) of the following criteria:
  - Involves possession of a dangerous weapon
  - Involves the possession, use or sale of a dangerous drug or narcotic drug
  - Immediately endangers the health or safety of others
  - The student's behavior is determined to qualify as "aggravating circumstances."
3. Failing to remove the student from the school building would create a safety threat that cannot otherwise reasonably be addressed or qualifies as "aggravating circumstances."
4. Before suspending or expelling the student, the school district considers and, if feasible, employs alternative behavioral and disciplinary interventions that are available, appropriate to the circumstances, and that are considerate of the health and safety of others. The consideration of disciplinary interventions will occur in consultation with the student's parent or guardian to the extent possible. The school district shall document the alternative behavioral and disciplinary interventions it considers and employs.