

RSU #63

- a. **NEPN/NSBA Code:** **JKD**
- b. **Title:** **Suspension of Students**
- c. **Author:** **Superintendent**
- d. **Replaces Policy:**
- e. **Date Approved:** **11/29/2021RSU #63**
- f. **Previously Approved:** **10/24/2016**
- g. **Policy Expiration:** **Review as Needed**
- h. **Responsible for Review:** **Superintendent & Policy Committee**
- i. **Date Reviewed:** **11/08/2021 Superintendent**
11/08/2021 Policy Committee
- j. **References:** **20-A MRSA §§ 1001(9), (15-A) (D)**
Cross Referenced Policies: **JIC – Student Code of Conduct**
JICIA – Weapons, Violence, and School Safety
JICK – Bullying
JK – Student Discipline
JKE – Expulsion of Students
JKF – Disciplinary Removal of Students with Disabilities
- k. **Narrative:**

The Board of Directors (the Board) delegates to the principals the authority to suspend disobedient and disorderly students for a period not to exceed ten (10) school days. Suspensions may be in-school or out-of-school at the discretion of the principal. Suspensions longer than 10 days may be imposed by the Board.

- I. The administration will follow the procedures in the process of suspension listed below:
 - A. The student will be given oral or written notice of the charges.
 - B. The student will be given an explanation of the evidence forming the basis of the charge(s).
 - C. The student will be given the opportunity to present their version of the incident.
- II. Students whose presence poses an imminent danger of serious physical harm may be immediately removed from school. In such cases, the notice of charges, explanation of evidence, and the student's opportunity to present their version of the incident, will be arranged as soon as practicable after removal of the student from school.
 - A. Out of school suspension is prohibited for any student who is in Grade 5 or lower, unless:
 - i. The student has violated the federal Gun Free School Zones Act; or
 - ii. The student presents an imminent danger of "serious physical injury" to the student or others.

In the circumstances above, the law limits the length of an out of school suspension to no more than three (3) school days.

- B.** All students (PK to Grade 8) attending a RSU #63 school cannot be deprived of their recess time as a disciplinary consequence.
- III.** The students' parents/guardians will be notified of any in-school or out-of-school suspension as soon as practicable by telephone (if possible) and by written notice sent by email or mail. A copy of the notice will also be sent to the superintendent.
- IV.** Students are not allowed on school property during any out-of-school suspension except with the prior authorization of the principal or superintendent. The parents/guardians and the student will be required to meet with the building administrator/designee within the suspension period and prior to readmittance to school.
- V.** Students will be responsible for any schoolwork missed during their suspension. After readmittance, they will be permitted to take tests, quizzes, or any other form of evaluation affecting their grades. If the Board permits in-school suspension, students serving in-school suspension will not be permitted to participate in extracurricular activities.
- VI.** To reduce disciplinary problems and the potential for violence in the schools, the Superintendent may develop procedures for conflict resolution which may be accomplished through peer mediation, counseling, parent/guardian involvement, services of community agencies, or other activities suitable to the school unit. These practices are designed to strengthen relationships, improve the connection to school and promote a strong sense of accountability and that help students learn from their mistakes, understand the impact of their actions on others and find opportunities to repair the harm they have caused through their misbehavior.
- VII.** The administrator who has suspended a student may reinstate the student after his/her suspension.
- VIII.** If necessary, the Board may expel any obstinately disobedient or disorderly student after investigation of their behavior.
- IX.** Students who have been expelled from school must come before the Board with their parents/guardians before they will be permitted to return to school.