Required

WASHINGTON CENTRAL UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT	**POLICY:**	**C15**
	WARNED:	**10.15.25**
Board of Directors' Policy	**ADOPTED:**	**12.3.25**
STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE	**EFFECTIVE:**	**12.3.25**

Policy

It is the policy of the Washington Central Unified Union School District (District) to maintain a safe, orderly, civil and positive learning environment via a system of classroom and school management practices, supported by consistent, clear and fair disciplinary procedures. The goal of this policy is to create an environment where the expectations for student behavior are clearly stated, are understood, and accepted by students and staff, and are applied in compliance with due process requirements and Vermont law and State Board of Education rules. This policy is to be applied in conjunction with the school's overall discipline plan developed pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 1161a, the requirements of 16 V.S.A. § 1162, and in conformance with State Board Rule 4500, and any policies adopted by the District with regard to the Use of Restraint and Seclusion.

Definitions (refer to policy C5)

1. ***School*** means any setting which is under the control and supervision of the School District. It includes school grounds, facilities, and school-sponsored events whether held on or off of school grounds and vehicles used to transport students to and from school or school activities.
2. ***Knife*** means any instrument that is capable of ready use as a stabbing weapon that may inflict bodily injury or death
3. **W*eapon*** means a device, instrument, material, or substance whether animate or inanimate, which, when used as it is intended to be used, is known to be capable of producing death or serious bodily injury.
4. ***Suspension*** means the temporary exclusion of a student from the learning environment for a violation of school policy or rules for 10 school days or less. Suspension of students for more than 10 days follows the procedure for expulsion.
5. ***Expulsion*** means the termination of educational services for up to either the remainder of the school year, or up to 90 school days - whichever is longer.

Student Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of each student to contribute to a safe and productive learning environment in the school by demonstrating respect and consideration for fellow students and adults. This includes complying with all policies and rules of conduct of the school district and individual classrooms.

Administrative Responsibilities

The principal, in consultation with the educational staff, will develop an overall discipline plan (the "Plan") pursuant to 16 V.S.A. §1161a.

The Plan will include clear guidelines for student behavior. The Plan may include provisions for the suspension or expulsion of students who engage in misconduct on school property, on a school bus, or at a school sponsored activity when the misconduct makes the continued presence of the student harmful to the welfare of the school community. The Plan may also include provisions for the suspension or expulsion of students who engage in misconduct not on school property, on a school bus, or at a school sponsored activity where direct harm to the school can be demonstrated or where the misconduct can be shown to pose a clear and substantial interference with another student's equal access to educational programs[] and/or where such student conduct violates the District's policy for the prevention of harassment hazing and bullying, with respect to sexual harassment, or harassment, or hazing, and such discipline is reasonably designed to prevent a reoccurrence of such conduct.

The Plan shall include information about due process and due process rights shall be included in Parent/Student Handbooks..

The Plan shall include any prohibitions against possession by students of knives, weapons, and dangerous instruments while at school, and shall allow disciplinary action up to and including expulsion for violations of the prohibition against knives, weapons and dangerous instruments that are not possessed at school as part of an educational program sponsored or sanctioned by the school.[]

Expectations for behaviors, and the consequences of engaging in prohibited conduct, will be set forth in the student handbook and other publications distributed to students and parents/guardians.

Re-entry plans will be developed for any student suspended or expelled.

The superintendent or designee shall ensure the analysis of student discipline data to identify and address any disproportionalities in discipline.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in a school's Plan, a student enrolled in a public school who is under eight years of age shall not be suspended or expelled from the school; provided, however, that the school may suspend or expel the student if the student poses an imminent threat of harm or danger to others in the school.[7]

[7] See 16 V.S.A. § 1162(d)

VSBA Version:	*November 2, 2022*
Date Warned:	12.3.25
Date Adopted:	12.3.25
Legal Reference(s):	*16 V.S.A. §1161a (discipline)*

	16 V.S.A. §1162 (suspension and expulsion)
	20 U.S.C. §§1400 et seq.(IDEA)
	29 U.S.C. §794 (Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973)
	VT State Board of Education Manual of Rules & Practices §§4311, 4312, 4313; 2120.8.12, 2122.1,4500.
Cross Reference:	*Notice of Non-Discrimination*
	Public Complaints About Personnel
	Searches and Seizure of Students by School Personnel
	Student Drugs & Alcohol
	Firearms
	Wellness and Comprehensive Health

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