AR-5144.1 (a)

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION

Note: *4 AAAC 07-030 requires annual notice regarding district policies concerning student rights and responsibilities.*

Notice of Regulations

At the beginning of each school year, the principal of each school shall notify all students and parents/guardians in writing of all school rules related to discipline, suspension and expulsion. Staff, students, and parents/guardians shall be notified about district policies and regulations. Transfer students and their parents/guardians shall be notified at the time of enrollment.

Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion

For purposes of this policy "suspension" means the temporary exclusion of a student from the educational program of the District (this includes in-school suspension). "Expulsion" means the permanent exclusion of a student from the educational program of the District. A student may be suspended or expelled for the following grounds:

1. Continued willful disobedience or open and persistent defiance of a reasonable school authority;

2. Behavior that is inimical to the welfare, safety or morals of members of the school community;

3. A physical or mental condition that, in the opinion of a competent medical authority, will render the child unable to reasonably benefit from the programs available;

4. A physical or mental condition that, in the opinion of a competent medical authority, will cause the attendance of the child to be inimical to the welfare of other students;

5. Conviction of a felony which the Board determines will cause the attendance of the child to be inimical to the welfare or education of other students;

6. Violations of rules relating to weapons that are considered behavior that is harmful to the safety or welfare of members of the school community.

AR-5144.1 (b)

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION

A student may be suspended or expelled for behavior occurring at any time, including but not limited to the following circumstances:

1. While on school grounds;

2. While going to or coming from school or a school-sponsored activity;

3. During the lunch period, whether on or off the school campus.

Authority to Suspend

A Principal, or designee, may suspend a student from school for any of the acts listed under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion" for not more than ten consecutive days.

The Superintendent may suspend a student from school for any of the grounds listed above for any period less than one full school year.

A short-term suspension of ten days or less may be imposed pending consideration of a long-term suspension or expulsion.

Suspension may be imposed upon a first offense if the Principal or Superintendent determines the student's behavior to be in some way harmful to the welfare, safety or morals of other students or the student's presence represents a danger to persons or property or threatens to disrupt the educational process.

Short Term Suspension and Procedures (10 days or less)

1. Informal Conference

   Suspension shall be preceded by an informal conference conducted by the Principal, Superintendent or designee, and shall include the student and whenever practicable, the teacher, supervisor, or school employee who referred the student for discipline. At the conference, the student shall be informed of the reason for the disciplinary action and the evidence against him/her and shall be given the opportunity to explain his/her version and evidence in support of his/her defense.

   If at the end of this discussion, the Principal, Superintendent or designee believes the student is guilty of the misconduct charged, the student may be suspended for 10 days or less.

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION

This conference may be omitted if the Principal, Superintendent or designee determines that an emergency exists. An "emergency" involves a clear and present danger to the lives, safety or health of students or school personnel. If the pre-suspension conference is not held, both the parent/guardian and student shall be notified of the student's right to return to school for the purpose of a conference. The conference shall be held within two school days, unless the student waives his/her right to it or is physically unable to attend for any reason. In such case, the conference will be held as soon as the student is physically able to return to school.

2. Administrative Actions

   All request for student suspension are to be processed by the Principal or designee of the school in which the student is enrolled at the time of the misbehavior.

   A school employee shall report the suspension, including the name of the student and the cause for the suspension, to the Superintendent or designee.

3. Notice to Parents/Guardians

At the time of the suspension, a school employee shall make a reasonable effort to contact the student's parent/guardian by telephone or in person. Whenever a student is suspended, the parent/guardian and student shall be notified in writing of the suspension.

This notice shall state the reasons for suspension and the date and time when the student may return to school and may request that the parent/guardian confer with school authorities regarding matters pertinent to the suspension. The notice shall also inform the parent/guardian and student of the student's right to appeal the suspension to the Wrangell School Board.

No penalties may be imposed on the student for the failure or refusal of the parent/guardian to meet with school authorities. The student may not be denied readmission solely because the parent/guardian failed to meet with school authorities.

Long Term Suspension (more than 10 days)

Where alleged misconduct of a student warrants a suspension of more than 10 days, the student will be provided the opportunity for a hearing as outlined under the long-term suspension and expulsion procedure. The long-term suspension procedure does not preclude a student from being suspended for up to 10 days if procedures for short term suspension have been followed.

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION

A student requesting a hearing regarding a long-term suspension will be readmitted to the program pending the outcome of the hearing except where the Superintendent determines that the student's presence in school poses a threat of harm to the student or others.

Expulsion

A student may be expelled only by the Board.

Expulsion from school is the prerogative of the School Board, upon recommendation of the Superintendent after an opportunity for a hearing has been provided and after all other means of resolving the problem have been exhausted.

Expulsion is defined as a removal of a student from school for a period equal to or exceeding one school year. Expulsion may be preceded by suspension.

Suspension of Expulsion

1. The Board, upon voting to expel a student, may suspend the enforcement of the expulsion order for not more than one calendar year and may, as a condition of the suspension of enforcement, assign the student to a school, class or program appropriate for the student's rehabilitation. When deciding whether to suspend the enforcement of an expulsion, the Board shall consider the following criteria:
    a. The student's previous behavior.
    b. The seriousness of the misconduct.
    c. The student's attitude toward the misconduct and his/her willingness to follow a rehabilitation program; and
    d. Any legal restrictions against suspending the enforcement of the expulsion order

2. During this period the student shall be on probationary status;

3. The suspension of expulsion order may be revoked by the Board if the student commits any of the acts which would constitute grounds for suspension or expulsion or violates any of the district's rules and regulations governing student conduct;

4. When the suspension of expulsion order is revoked, a student may be expelled under the terms of the original expulsion order;

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION

5. Upon satisfactory completion of the rehabilitation assignment, the Board shall reinstate the student in a district school. Upon reinstatement, the Board may order the expungement of any or all records of the expulsion proceedings;

6. Suspension of an expulsion order shall not affect the time period and requirements for the filing of any legal challenge to the expulsion order.

7. The Superintendent or designee shall send written notice of any decision to suspend the enforcement of an expulsion order to the student or parent/guardian.

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