

SUSPENSION & REMOVAL TO ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMS**SUSPENSION OR REMOVAL:**

The Board or its designee may suspend a student for a period not to exceed ten school days within a semester or remove the student to an alternative education program. Suspension for a total of more than ten school days within a semester is an expulsion and shall occur only as provided in Board policy.

HANDICAPPED STUDENTS:

If a handicapped student's IEP contains disciplinary sanctions, including emergency removal, suspension, and removal to alternative education programs, and those sanctions are not currently being challenged in a court or special education administrative appeal, the sanctions implemented in accordance with specifications in the IEP shall be followed without regard to the procedural requirements for emergency removal, suspension, or removal to alternative education programs.

Handicapped students may be suspended for a period not to exceed six school days within a semester or removed to an alternative education program for a period not to exceed six school days within a semester or removed to an alternative education program for a period not to exceed ten consecutive school days. Before handicapped students are suspended or removed to alternative education programs for a maximum of ten days, special education support staff qualified to determine whether a link exists between the misconduct and the handicap or placement may be contacted for advice on whether a connection exists.

Handicapped students shall not be removed to an alternative education program for more than ten days unless the Special Education committee first determines whether the alleged behavior in question was related to handicapping condition.

If the Special Education committee determines there is a connection, they must also determine what action is appropriate. Removal for more than ten consecutive school days requires Special Education committee action, subject to the parents' right to appeal.

ALL STUDENTS:

Before a student may be suspended or removed to an alternative education program, the Board or its designee shall determine either:

1. That the student's presence in the regular classroom program or at the home camps presents a danger of physical harm to the student or to others; or

2. That the student has engaged in serious or persistent misbehavior that violates the district's previously communicated stands of student conduct.

Before suspending a student, the Board or its designee shall consider reasonable alternatives, including appropriate discipline management techniques, which may include removal to an alternative education program. If the board or its designee determines that suspension is the most appropriate available alternative, the board or its designee is not required to precede the suspension with another disciplinary action.

TERM OF REMOVAL:

Removal to a supervised alternative education setting may not extend beyond the end of the semester during which the conduct that directly led to the removal occurred. If the conduct occurred during the final grade report period of a semester, the removal may extend beyond the end of that semester, but may not extend beyond the end of the next semester.

The board may permit a student to remain in the alternative program for an additional period agreed on by the student, the student's parent or guardian, the supervisor of the alternative program, and the principal of the student's home school if they agree that the additional period would best serve the student's educational interest. This provision does not apply to the placement of a handicapped student in an alternative program in accordance with the decision of an admission, review, and dismissal committee.

HANDICAPPED STUDENTS:

When the total number of days a handicapped student is removed or suspended under Board policy is ten school days in a school year, the special education committee shall review the student's IEP, unless the discipline management portion of the IEP specifies otherwise.

NOTICE AND APPEAL:

If the decision to remove a student to an alternative education program is made by the board's designee, that decision may be appealed to the board. The student may be removed to the alternative education program pending appeal to the board. Any decision of the board on a removal is final and may not be appealed.

A student's parent is entitled to notice as soon as reasonably possible of a suspension or removal of a student to an alternative education program and an opportunity to participate in a proceeding before the board appealing a removal. The notice shall indicate that it is the parent's responsibility to provide adequate supervision for the student during the period of suspension.

PARENT CONFERENCES:

If the board's designee suspends or removes a student to an alternative education program for three or more consecutive school days of five or more cumulative school days within a semester the designee shall encourage the student's parent or guardian to attend a conference to discuss the action and/or the student's misbehavior.

CONTINUING EDUCATION:

The board or its designee shall provide for the continuing education of a student removed to an alternative education program, which may include any or all of the following programs.

1. In-School suspension. Students shall be instructed in the essential elements of the courses in which they are enrolled at the time of removal.
2. Transfer to a different campus.
3. Transfer to a community-based alternative school.
4. Home-based instruction, provided that combined days of suspension and assignment to home-based instruction shall not exceed ten school days in a semester.