

Students

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I. Definitions

- A. **Emergency** means a situation in which the continued presence of the student in school poses such a danger to persons or property or such a disruption of the educational process that a hearing may be delayed until a time as soon after the exclusion of such student as possible.
- B. **Exclusion** means any denial of public school privileges to a student for disciplinary purposes.
- C. **Expulsion** is defined as an exclusion from school privileges for any student in grades three through twelve, inclusive for more than ten (10) consecutive school days and shall be deemed to include, but not be limited to, exclusion from the school to which such student was assigned at the time such disciplinary action was taken, provided such exclusion shall not extend beyond a period of one (1) calendar year. Such period of exclusion may extend to the school year following the school year in which such exclusion was imposed.

Unless an emergency exists, no student shall be expelled without a formal hearing provided whenever such student is a minor, the notice shall also be given to the parents or guardians of the student at least five business days before such hearing, not including the day of such hearing. If an emergency exists, such hearing shall be held as soon after the expulsion as possible. The notice shall include information concerning the parent's or guardian's and the student's legal rights concerning legal services provided free of charge or at a reduced rate that are available locally and how to access such services. An attorney or other advocate may represent any student subject to expulsion proceedings. The parent or guardian of the student shall have the right to have the expulsion hearing postponed for up to one week to allow time to obtain representation, except that if an emergency exists, such hearing shall be held as soon after the expulsion as possible.

- D. **Removal** is the exclusion of a student for a class period of ninety (90) minutes or less.
- E. **School Days** shall mean days when school is in session for students.
- F. **School-Sponsored Activity** means any activity sponsored, recognized or authorized
- G. **Seriously Disruptive of the Educational Process** means any conduct that markedly interrupts or severely impedes the day-to-day operation of a school.

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- H. Suspension** means the exclusion of a student from school privileges and/or transportation services provided such suspension shall not extend beyond the end of the school year in which such suspension is imposed. An out-of-school suspension imposed for children in preschool through grade two shall not exceed five days. An out-of-school suspension for students in grades three through twelve shall not exceed ten days. A student in grades preschool through two, inclusive, may be given an out-of-school suspension if it is determined by the administration that such suspension is appropriate based on evidence that the student's conduct on school grounds is of a violent or sexual nature that endangers persons. In addition, a person's duty as a mandated reporter to report suspected child abuse or neglect is not limited by this provision.

All suspensions shall be in-school unless the administration determines for any student in grades three through twelve that (1) the student being suspended poses such a danger to persons or property or such a disruption of the educational process that the student (grades three through twelve) shall be excluded from school during the period of suspension, or (2) that an out-of-school suspension is appropriate based on evidence of previous disciplinary issues that have led to suspensions or expulsion of the student and efforts by the administration to address such disciplinary issues through means other than out-of-school suspension or expulsion, including positive support strategies.

- I.** Notwithstanding the foregoing, the reassignment of a student from one regular education classroom program in the district to another regular education classroom program in the district shall not constitute a suspension or expulsion.
- J. In-School Suspension** is defined as an exclusion from regular classroom activity for not more than five consecutive school days, but not an exclusion from school, provided such exclusion shall not extend beyond the end of the school year in which such in-school suspension was imposed. An in-school suspension may include reassignment to a regular classroom. Program in a different school in the school district; such reassignment shall not constitute a "suspension" or "expulsion" under this policy.

In-school suspensions shall be served in the school attended by the student.

II. Scope of the Student Discipline Policy

A. Conduct on School Grounds or at a School-Sponsored Activity:

Students may be disciplined for conduct on school grounds or at any school-

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sponsored activity that endangers persons or property, is seriously disruptive of the educational process, or that violates a publicized policy of the Board.

B. Conduct off School Grounds:

1. Students may be disciplined for conduct off school grounds if such conduct is seriously disruptive of the educational process and violative of a publicized policy of the Board. In making a determination as to whether such conduct is seriously disruptive of the educational process, the Administration and the Board of Education may consider, but such consideration shall not be limited to, the following factors: (1) whether the incident occurred within close proximity of a school; (2) whether other students from the school were involved or whether there was any gang involvement; (3) whether the conduct involved violence, threats of violence, or the unlawful use of a weapon, as defined in section Conn. Gen. Stat. §29-38, and whether any injuries occurred; and (4) whether the conduct involved the use of alcohol.

In making a determination as to whether such conduct is seriously disruptive of the educational process, the Administration and/or the Board of Education may also consider whether such off-campus conduct involved the use of drugs.

2. When considering whether conduct off school grounds is seriously disruptive of the educational process, the term “weapon” means any pistol or revolver, any dirk knife or switch knife, any knife having an automatic spring release device by which a blade is released from the handle, having a blade of over one and one-half inches in length, and any other dangerous or deadly weapon or instrument, including any BB gun, sling shot, blackjack, sand bag, metal or brass knuckles, stiletto, knife, the edged portion of the blade of which is four inches and over in length, or any martial arts weapon as defined below at section VI.B.

III. Actions Leading to Disciplinary Action, Including Removal from Class, Suspension and / or Expulsion

Conduct which may lead to disciplinary action (including, but not limited to, suspension and/or expulsion) includes conduct on school grounds or at a school-sponsored activity, and conduct off school grounds, as set forth above. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

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- A. Striking or assaulting a student, members of the school staff or other persons.
- B. Theft.
- C. The use of obscene or profane language or gestures.
- D. Violation of smoking, dress, transportation regulations, or other regulations and/or policies governing student conduct.
- E. Refusal to obey a member of the school staff, law enforcement authorities, or school volunteers, or disruptive classroom behavior.
- F. Any act of harassment based on an individual's sex, sexual orientation, race, color, religion, disability, national origin or ancestry.
- G. Refusal by a student to identify himself/herself to a staff member when asked, or misidentification of oneself to such person(s).
- H. A walk-out from or sit-in within a classroom or school building or school grounds.
- I. Blackmailing, threatening or intimidating school staff or students (or acting in a manner that could be construed to constitute blackmail, a threat, or intimidation, regardless of whether intended as a joke).
- J. Possession of any weapon, weapon facsimile, deadly weapon, pistol, knife, blackjack, bludgeon, box cutter, metal knuckles, pellet gun, explosive device, firearm, whether loaded or 'unloaded, whether functional or not, or any other dangerous object.
- K. Unauthorized entrance into any school facility or portion of a school facility or aiding or abetting an unauthorized entrance.
- L. Possession or ignition of any fireworks or other explosive materials, or ignition of any material causing a fire.
- M. Unauthorized possession, sale, distribution, use or consumption of tobacco, drugs, narcotics or alcoholic beverages (or any facsimile of tobacco, drugs, narcotics or alcoholic beverages, or any item represented to be tobacco, drugs or alcoholic beverages). For the purposes of this Paragraph 13, the term "drugs" shall include, but shall not be limited to, any medicinal preparation (prescription and non- prescription) and any controlled substance whose possession, sale, distribution, use or consumption is illegal under state and/or federal law.
- N. Possession of paraphernalia used or designed to be used in the consumption, sale or distribution of drugs, alcohol or tobacco, as described in subparagraph (13) above.

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- O.** The destruction of real, personal or school property, such as, cutting, defacing or otherwise damaging property in any way.
- P.** Accumulation of offenses such as school and class tardiness, class or study hall cutting, or failure to attend detention.
- Q.** Trespassing on school grounds while on out-of-school suspension or expulsion.
- R.** Making false bomb threats or other threats to the safety of students, staff members, and / or other persons.
- S.** Defiance of school rules and the valid authority of teachers, supervisors, administrators, other staff members and/or law enforcement authorities.
- T.** Throwing snowballs, rocks, sticks and/or similar objects, except as specifically authorized by school staff.
- U.** Unauthorized and/or reckless and/or improper operation of a motor vehicle on school grounds or at any school-sponsored activity.
- V.** Leaving school grounds, school transportation or a school-sponsored activity without authorization.
- W.** Use of or copying of the academic work of another individual and presenting it as the student's own work, without proper attribution.
- X.** Possession and/or use of a radio, walkman, beeper, paging device, cellular telephone, walkie talkie or similar electronic device on school grounds or at a school-sponsored activity without the written permission of the principal or his/her designee.
- Y.** Unauthorized use of any school computer, computer system, computer software, Internet connection or similar school property or system, or the use of such property or system for unauthorized purposes.
- Z.** Possession and/or use of a laser pointer.
- AA.** Hazing.
- BB.** Bullying is defined under Sec. 10-222d. as amended by PA 08-160 as: any overt acts by a student or a group of students directed against another student with the intent to ridicule, humiliate, or intimidate the other student while on school grounds or at a school-sponsored activity, which acts are repeated against the same student over time.
- CC.** Any other violation of school rules or regulations or a series of violations which makes the presence of the student in school seriously disruptive of the educational process and/or a danger to persons or property.
- DD.** Any action prohibited by any Federal or State law which would indicate that the student presents a danger to any person in the school community or school property.

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IV. Procedures Governing Removal From Class

- A.** A student may be removed from class by a teacher or administrator if he/she deliberately causes a serious disruption of the educational process. When a student is removed, the teacher must send him/her to a designated area and notify the principal or his/her designee at once.
- B.** A student may not be removed from class more than six (6) times in one school year nor more than twice in one week unless the student is referred to the building principal or designee and granted an informal hearing at which the student should be informed of the reasons for the disciplinary action and given an opportunity to explain the situation.
- C.** The parents or guardian of any minor student removed from class shall be given notice of such disciplinary action within twenty-four (24) hours of the time of the institution of such removal from class.
- D.** A school principal or other school administrator shall notify a parent or guardian of a student whose behavior has caused a serious disruption to the instruction of other students, caused self-harm, or caused physical harm to the teacher, another student, or other school employee no later than twenty-four hours after such behavior occurs. Such notice shall include, but not limited to, informing such parent or guardian that the teacher of record in the classroom in which such behavior occurred may request a behavior intervention meeting.

Any teacher of record in a classroom may request a behavior intervention meeting with the crisis intervention team for the school, for any student whose behavior has caused a serious disruption to the instruction of other students, or caused self-harm or physical harm to such teacher or another student or staff member in such teacher's classroom. The crisis intervention team shall, upon request of such teacher and notifying such student's parent or guardian, convene a behavior intervention meeting regarding such student. The participants of such behavior intervention meeting shall identify resources and support to address such student's social, emotional, and instructional needs. Not later than seven days after the behavior intervention meeting, the crisis intervention team shall submit to the parent or guardian of such student, in the dominant language of such parent or guardian, a written summary of such meeting, including, but not limited to, the resources and supports identified.

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V. Procedures Governing Suspension

- A. All suspensions shall be in-school suspensions, except the Board of Education may authorize the administration of the school to impose an out-of-school suspension on any student:

1. In grades three through twelve, inclusive, if, resulting from a due process hearing:
 - a. The administration determines that the student being suspended poses such a danger to persons or property or such a disruption of the educational process that the student shall be excluded from school during the period of suspension;
 - b. The administration determines that an out-of-school suspension is appropriate for such student based on evidence of:
 - i. previous disciplinary problems that have led to suspension or expulsion of such student, and
 - ii. efforts by the administration to address such disciplinary problems through means other than out-of-school suspension or expulsion, including positive behavioral support strategies; or for grades preschool through two if during the due process hearing.
2. The administration determines that an out-of-school suspension is appropriate based on evidence that such student's conduct on school grounds is behavior that causes physical harm.

- B. An out-of-school suspension shall not exceed ten school days for students in grades three through twelve.

An out-of-school suspension shall not exceed five school days for children in preschool through grade two.

An in-school suspension may be served in the student's school or any other school building under the jurisdiction of the local or regional board of education, as determined by the District.

- C. Requires that such student receives services that are trauma-informed and developmentally appropriate and align with any behavior intervention plan, individualized education program, or plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended from time to time, for such student upon

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such student's return to school immediately following the out-of-school suspension;
and

- D. Considers whether to convene a planning and placement team meeting for the purposes of conducting an evaluation to determine whether such student may require special education or related services.
- E. In cases where the student has previously been suspended, or where such suspension will result in the student's being suspended more than ten (10) times or for fifty (50) days in a school year, whichever results in fewer days of exclusion, the student shall, prior to suspension, be granted a formal hearing. The principal or designee shall report the student to the Superintendent or designee and request a formal hearing.
- F. A student in grades preschool through two, inclusive, may be given an out-of-school suspension if the administration determines that such suspension is appropriate based on a determination by the administration that the student's conduct on school grounds is of a violent or sexual nature that endangers persons.
- G. District Practices and Protocols Governing Suspension
 1. Unless an emergency situation exists, no student shall be suspended prior to having an informal hearing before the principal or designee at which the student is informed of the charges and given an opportunity to respond. In the event of an emergency, the informal hearing shall be held as soon after the suspension as possible.
 2. Evidence of past disciplinary problems which have led to removal from a classroom, suspension, or expulsion of a student who is the subject of an informal hearing may be received by the principal or designee and considered in the determination of the length of suspensions and/or whether the suspension is an in-school or out-of-school suspension.
 3. By telephone, the principal or designee shall make reasonable attempts to immediately notify the parent or guardian of a minor student following the suspension and to state the cause(s) leading to the suspension.
 4. Whether or not telephone contact is made with the parent or guardian of such minor student, the principal or designee shall forward a letter promptly to such parent or guardian to the last address reported on school records (or to a newer address if known by the principal or designee), offering the parent or guardian an opportunity for a conference to discuss same.
 5. In all cases, the parent or guardian of any minor student who has been suspended shall be given notice of such suspension within twenty-four (24) hours of the time of the institution of the suspension.

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6. Notice of the original suspension shall be transmitted by the principal or designee to the Superintendent of Schools or designee by the close of the school day following the commencement of the suspension.
7. The student shall be allowed to complete any class work, including examinations, without penalty, which he or she missed while under suspension.
8. Notice of the suspension shall be recorded in the student's cumulative educational record. Such notice shall be expunged from the cumulative educational record if the student graduates from high school.
9. The decision of the principal or designee with regard to disciplinary actions up to and including suspensions shall be final.
10. During the period of suspension, the student shall not be permitted to be on school property (except in the case of an in-school suspension), and shall not be permitted to attend or participate in any school-sponsored activities, unless the principal specifically authorizes the student to participate in a particular school-sponsored activity.

VI. Procedures Governing Expulsion Recommendation

The Board of Education may expel any student, grades three through twelve, inclusive, for one or more of the reasons stated in Sections II and III.

- A. A principal may consider recommendation of expulsion of a student in grades three through twelve, inclusive, in a case where he/she has reason to believe the student has engaged in conduct described at sections II and/or III, above.
- B. A principal must recommend expulsion proceedings in all cases against any student in grades preschool through twelve, inclusive, whom the administration has reason to believe:
 1. was in possession on school grounds or at a school-sponsored activity of a deadly weapon, dangerous instrument, martial arts weapon, or firearm as defined in 18 U.S.C. §921 as amended from time to time; or
 2. off school grounds, possessed a firearm as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921, in violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 29-35, or possessed and used a firearm as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921, a deadly weapon, a dangerous instrument or a martial arts weapon in the commission of a crime under chapter 952 of the Connecticut General Statutes; or
 3. was engaged on or off school grounds in offering for sale or distribution a controlled substance (as defined in Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-240(9)), whose manufacturing, distribution, sale, prescription, dispensing, transporting, or

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possessing with intent to sell or dispense, offering or administering is subject to criminal penalties under Conn. Gen. Stat. §§21a-277 and 21a-278.

4. for the definition of firearm, deadly weapon, dangerous instrument and martial arts weapon, see policy 5131.7.

- C. Upon receipt of an expulsion recommendation, the Superintendent may conduct an inquiry concerning the expulsion recommendation.

If the Superintendent or his/her designee determines that a student should or must be expelled, he or she shall forward his/her recommendation to an impartial hearing officer to hear and decide the expulsion matter.

VII. Procedures Governing Expulsion Hearing

A. Emergency Exception:

Except in an emergency situation, the Board of Education shall, prior to expelling any student, conduct a hearing to be governed by the procedures outlined herein. Whenever an emergency exists, the hearing provided for herein shall be held as soon as possible after the expulsion.

B. Hearing Panel:

The Superintendent is hereby authorized to retain a hearing officer to conduct the hearing.

C. Hearing Notice:

1. Written notice of the expulsion hearing must be given to the student, and, if the student is a minor, to his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) within at least five business days prior to, but not including, the hearing date.
2. A copy of this Board policy on student discipline shall also be given to the student, and if the student is a minor, to his/her parent(s) or guardian(s), at the time the notice is sent that an expulsion hearing will be convened.
3. The written notice of the expulsion hearing shall inform the student of the following:
 - a. The date, time, and location of the hearing.
 - b. A short, plain description of the conduct alleged by the administration.

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- c. The student may present as evidence, testimony and documents concerning the conduct alleged and the appropriate length and conditions of expulsion, as well as notice that the expulsion hearing will be the student's sole opportunity to present such evidence.
- d. The student may cross-examine witnesses called by the administration.
- e. The student may be represented by any third party of his/her choice, including an attorney, at his/her expense or at the expense of his/her parents.
- f. A student is entitled to the services of a translator or interpreter, to be provided by the Board of Education, whenever the student or his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) do(es) not speak the English language or is handicapped.
- g. The conditions under which the Board is not legally required to give the student an alternative educational opportunity (if applicable).

D. Hearing Procedures:

- 1. The hearing will be conducted by a hearing officer, who will call the meeting to order, introduce the parties, and counsel, briefly explain the hearing procedures, and swear in any witnesses called by the administration or the student.
- 2. The hearing will be conducted in executive session. A verbatim record of the hearing and the official transcription, if any or if not transcribed, any record or stenographic record of the hearing will be included.
- 3. Formal rules of evidence will not be followed. The hearing officer has the right to accept hearsay and other evidence if it deems that evidence relevant or material to its determination. The hearing officer will rule on testimony or evidence as to it being immaterial or irrelevant.
- 4. The hearing will be conducted in two parts. In the first part of the hearing, the hearing officer will receive and consider evidence regarding the conduct alleged by the administration.
- 5. In the first part of the hearing, the charges will be introduced into the record by the Superintendent or his/her designee.
- 6. Each witness for the administration will be called and sworn. After a witness has finished testifying, he/she will be subject to cross-examination by the opposite party or his/her legal counsel and by the hearing officer.

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7. After the administration has presented its case, the student will be asked if he/she has any witnesses or evidence to present. If so, the witnesses will be sworn, will testify, and will be subject to cross examination and to questioning by the hearing officer. The student may also choose to make a statement at this time. If the student chooses to make a statement, he or she will be sworn and subject to cross examination and questioning by the hearing officer. Concluding statements will be made by the administration and then by the student and/or his or her representative.
8. In cases where the student has denied the allegation, the hearing officer must determine whether the student committed the offense(s) as alleged by the Superintendent.
9. If the hearing officer determines that the student has committed the conduct as alleged, then the hearing officer shall proceed with the second portion of the hearing, during which the hearing officer will receive and consider evidence regarding the length and conditions of expulsion.
10. When considering the length and conditions of expulsion, the hearing officer may review the student's attendance, academic and past disciplinary records. The hearing officer may ask the Superintendent for a recommendation as to the discipline to be imposed.
11. Evidence of past disciplinary problems which have led to removal from a classroom, suspension or expulsion of a student being considered for expulsion may be considered only during the second portion of the hearing, during which the hearing officer is considering length and conditions of expulsion and nature of alternative educational opportunity to be offered.
12. Where administrative staff presented evidence in support of the allegations against the student, such administrative staff shall not be present during the deliberations of the hearing officer either on questions of evidence or on the final length and conditions of expulsion to be imposed. The Superintendent may, after reviewing the incident with administrators, and reviewing the student's records, make a recommendation to the hearing officer as to the appropriate length and conditions of expulsion to be imposed.
13. The hearing officer shall make findings as to the truth of the allegations, if the student has denied them, and, in all cases, the length and conditions of expulsion, if any, to be imposed. The hearing officer shall report its final decision in writing to the student, or if such student is a minor, also to the parent(s) or guardian(s), stating the reasons on which the decision is based, and the length and conditions of expulsion to be imposed. Said decision shall be based solely on evidence presented at the hearing.

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E. Expulsion Notice:

The parents or guardian or any minor student who has been expelled shall be given notice of such length and conditions of expulsion within twenty-four (24) hours of the time of the institution of the period of the expulsion.

The notice of the expulsion hearing shall be given at least five (5) business days before such hearing to the student and his/her parents or guardians, if said student is less than 18 years of age shall include information concerning the parent's/guardian's and the student's legal rights and concerning legal services that are provided free of charge or at a reduced rate that are available and how to access such services. The notification shall reference the maximum number of suspension days before the expulsion days proceed. (5 consecutive days for students in preschool through grade two, 10 consecutive days for students in grades three through twelve), a statement that an attorney or other advocate may represent any student subject to expulsion proceedings. The parent/guardian of the student shall be notified of the right to have the expulsion hearing postponed for up to one week to allow time to obtain representation, except that if an emergency exists, such hearing shall be held as soon after the expulsion as possible.

F. Presence on School Grounds and Participation in School-Sponsored Activities During Expulsion:

During the period of expulsion, the student shall not be permitted to be on school property and shall not be permitted to attend or participate in any school-sponsored activities, except for the student's participation in any alternative educational program provided by the district in accordance with this policy, unless the Superintendent specifically authorizes the student to participate in a particular school-sponsored activity.

VIII. Board Policy Regarding Mandatory Expulsions

In keeping with Conn. Gen. Stat. §10-233d and the Gun-Free Schools Act, it shall be the policy of the Board to expel a student for one full calendar year for the conduct described in Section VI(B)(1), (2) and (3) of this policy. The hearing officer may modify the term of expulsion on a case-by-case basis.

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IX. Alternative Educational Programs for Expelled Students

A. Students under sixteen (16) years of age:

Whenever a student under sixteen years of age is expelled, any such student shall be offered an alternative educational program.

B. Students sixteen (16) to eighteen (18) years of age:

The Board of Education will provide an alternative education to a sixteen to eighteen year old student expelled for the first time if he/she requests it and if he/she agrees to the conditions set by the Board of Education, acting through the Superintendent, except as follows: The Board of Education is not required to offer an alternative program to any student between the ages of sixteen, and eighteen who is expelled for the second time, or if it is determined at the hearing that (1) the student possessed a dangerous instrument, deadly weapon, firearm or martial arts weapon on school property or at a school-sponsored activity, or (2) the student offered a controlled substance for sale or distribution on school property or at a school-sponsored activity.

C. Students eighteen (18) years of age or older:

The Board of Education is not required to offer an alternative educational program to expelled students eighteen years of age or older.

D. Students identified as eligible for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (“IDEA”):

Notwithstanding Sections IX.A. through C. above, if an expelled student has been identified as eligible for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (“IDEA”), the expelled student shall be offered an alternative educational program in accordance with the requirements of IDEA, as it may be amended from time to time.

X. Notice of Student Expulsion on Cumulative Record

If a student’s expulsion is shortened or the expulsion period waived based upon the fact that the student was expelled for the first time, had never been suspended, and successfully completed a District specified program and/or met other conditions required by the District, the notice of expulsion shall be expunged from the cumulative educational record if the student graduates from high school or, if the District so chooses, at the time the student completes the District specified program and meets any other conditions required by the District.

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XI. Change of Residence During Expulsion Proceedings

A. Student moving into the school district:

1. If a student enrolls in the district while an expulsion hearing is pending in another district, such student shall not be excluded from school pending completion of the out of district expulsion hearing unless an emergency exists, as defined above. The hearing officer shall have the authority to suspend the student or to conduct its own expulsion hearing.
2. Where a student enrolls in the district during the period of expulsion from another public school district, the hearing officer may adopt the decision of the student expulsion hearing conducted by such other school district. The hearing officer shall make its determination based upon a hearing held by the hearing officer, which shall be limited to a determination of whether the conduct which was the basis of the previous public school district's expulsion would also warrant expulsion by the Board.

B. Student moving out of the school district:

Where a student withdraws from school after having been notified that an expulsion hearing is pending, but before a decision has been rendered by the hearing officer, the notice of the pending expulsion hearing shall be included on the student's cumulative record and the hearing officer shall complete the expulsion hearing and render a decision. If the hearing officer subsequently renders a decision to expel the student, a notice of the expulsion shall be included on the student's cumulative record.

XII. Procedures Governing Suspension and Expulsion of Students Identified as Eligible for Services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ("IDEA")

A. Suspension of students who are eligible for services under IDEA:

Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the administration suspends a student identified as eligible for services under the IDEA (a "student with a disability") who has violated any rule or code of conduct of the school district that applies to all students, the following procedures shall apply:

1. The administration shall make reasonable attempts to immediately notify the parents of the student of the decision to suspend on the date on which the decision to suspend was made, and a copy of the special education procedural safeguards must either be hand-delivered or sent by mail to the parents on the date that the decision to suspend was made.

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2. During the period of suspension, the school district is not required to provide any educational services to the student with a disability beyond that which is provided to all students suspended by the school district.

B. Expulsion and Suspensions that Constitute Changes in Placement for Students with Disabilities:

Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, if the administration recommends for expulsion a student with a disability who has violated any rule or code of conduct of the school district that applies to all students, the procedures described in this section shall apply. The procedures described in this section shall also apply for students whom the administration has suspended in a manner that is considered under the IDEA, as it may be amended from time to time, to be a change in placement:

1. The parents of the student must be notified of the decision to suspend on the date on which the decision to suspend was made, and a copy of the special education procedural safeguards must either be hand-delivered or sent by mail to the parents on the date that the decision to suspend was made.
2. The school district shall immediately convene the PPT team, but in no case later than ten (10) school days after the recommendation for expulsion or the suspension that constitutes a change in placement was made. The student's PPT team shall consider whether the student's disability caused or had a direct and substantial relationship to the behavior that led to the recommendation for expulsion or the suspension which constitutes a change in placement, and whether the behavior was a direct result of the failure to implement the student's IEP in order to determine whether the student's behavior was a manifestation of his/her disability.
3. If the PPT team finds that the behavior was a manifestation of the student's disability, the administration shall not proceed with the recommendation for expulsion. The PPT team shall consider the student's misconduct and revise the IEP to prevent a recurrence of the misconduct and to provide for the safety of other students and staff.
4. If the PPT team finds that the behavior was not a manifestation of the student's disability, the administration may proceed with the recommended expulsion or suspension that constitutes a change in placement.
5. During any period of expulsion, or suspension of greater than ten (10) days per school year, the administration shall provide the student with an alternative education program in accordance with the provisions of the IDEA.

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6. The special education records and disciplinary records of the student must be transmitted to the individual(s) who will make the final determination regarding a recommendation for expulsion or a suspension that results in a change in placement.

C. Transfer of Students with Disabilities for Certain Offenses

School personnel may transfer an IDEA student to an appropriate interim alternative educational setting for not more than forty-five (45) school days if the student:

1. Was in possession of a dangerous weapon, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 930(g)(2), as amended from time to time, on school grounds or at a school-sponsored activity, or
2. Knowingly possessed or used illegal drugs or sold or solicited the sale of a controlled substance while at school or at a school-sponsored activity.
3. Has inflicted serious bodily injury on another person at school, on school grounds or at a school sponsored activity.

As used in this subsection XII.C., the term “dangerous weapon” means a weapon, device, instrument, material, or substance, animate or inanimate, that is used for, or is readily capable of, causing death or serious bodily injury, except that such term does not include a pocket knife with a blade of less than 2.5 inches in length. The term “serious bodily injury” means bodily injury which involves substantial risk of death; extreme physical pain; protracted and obvious disfigurement; or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ or mental faculty.

XIII. Procedures Governing Expulsions for Students Identified as Eligible for Educational Accommodations under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, if the administration recommends for expulsion a student identified as eligible for educational accommodations under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (a “Student with Disabilities under 504”) who has violated any rule or code of conduct of the school district that applies to all students, the following procedures shall apply:

1. The parents of the student must be notified of the decision to recommend the student for expulsion.
2. The district shall immediately convene the student’s Section 504 team (“504 team”) for the purpose of reviewing the relationship between the student’s disability and the behavior that led to the recommendation for expulsion. The 504 team will determine whether the

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student's behavior was a manifestation of his/her disability.

3. If the 504 team finds that the behavior is a manifestation of the student's disability, the administration shall not proceed with the recommended expulsion. The 504 team shall consider the student's misconduct and revise the 504 plan to prevent a recurrence of the misconduct and to provide for the safety of other students and staff.
4. If the 504 team finds that the behavior was not a manifestation of the student's disability, the administration may proceed with the recommended expulsion.

XIV. Early Readmission to School

An expelled student may apply for early readmission to school. The Board delegates the authority to make decisions on readmission requests to the Superintendent. Students desiring readmission to school shall direct such readmission requests to the Superintendent. The Superintendent has the discretion to approve or deny such readmission requests and may condition readmission on specified criteria.

XV. Dissemination of Policy

The Board of Education shall, at the beginning of each school year and at such other times as it may deem appropriate, provide for an effective means of informing all students, parent(s) and/or guardian(s) of this policy.

XVI. Compliance with Reporting Requirements

- A. The Board of Education shall report all suspensions and expulsions to the State Department of Education and shall include the individual student's state-assigned student identifier (SASID).
- B. If a student is expelled for sale or distribution of a controlled substance, the Board shall refer such student to an appropriate state or local agency for rehabilitation, intervention or job training and inform the agency of its action.
- C. If a student is expelled for possession of a deadly weapon or firearm, as defined in Conn. Gen. Stat. §53a-3, the violation shall be reported to the local police.
- D. No later than August 31st, the Superintendent shall, in Executive Session, provide the Board with a summary of any recommendation of expulsion and any expulsion hearings from the prior fiscal year ending June 30th. The summary shall include conduct alleged by the administration, the findings of the hearing officer and the length and conditions of expulsion imposed, if any.

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Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

4-176e through 4-180a. Contested cases. Notice. Record, as amended
1074j Alternative education (PA 15-133)

10-222d Safe school climate plans. Definitions. Safe school climate
assessments.

10-233a through 10-233e Suspension and expulsion of students, as
amended by PA 95-304, PA 96-244, PA 98-139, PA 07-66, PA 07-122, PA
08-160, PA 09-82, PA 09-6 (September Special session), PA 10-111, PA 11-
126, PA 14-229, PA 15-96, PA 16-147 and PA 17-220, and PA 19-91.

10-233l Expulsion and suspension of children in preschool programs
19a-342a Use of electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product
prohibited.

29-38 Weapons in vehicles

53-a-3 Definitions

53a-217b Possession of Firearms and Deadly Weapons on School Grounds.

53-344b Sale and delivery of electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor
products to minors.

53-206 Carrying of dangerous weapons prohibited

PA 15-96 An Act Prohibiting Out-of-School Suspensions and Expulsions for
Students in Preschool and Grades Kindergarten to Two.

Goals 2000: Educate America Act, Pub. L. 103-227

Title III – Amendments to the Individual with Disabilities Education Act.

Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965 as amended by the Gun Free
Schools Act of 1994

P.L. 105-17 The Individuals with Disabilities Act, Amendments of 1997.

Kyle P. Packer PPA Jane Packer v. Thomaston Board of Education.

P. L. 108-446 The Individual with Disabilities Education Improvement Act
of 2004, 20 U.S.C. 1400 et. Seq.

10-233f as amended by PA 07-66 and PA 08-160 In-school suspension of
students.

Packer v. Board of Educ. of the Town of Thomaston, 246 Conn. 89 (1998).

Honig v. Doe 484 U.S. 305 (1988)

Individuals with Disabilities Act, 20 U.S.C. 1400 as amended by the
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 1997, Pub. L.
105-17.

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Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes (continued)

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794(a).8

U.S.C. §921 (definition of “firearm”)

18 U.S.C. §930(g)(2) (definition of “dangerous weapon”)

18 U.S.C. § 91365(h)(3) – Identifying “serious bodily injury”

21 U.S.C. § 812(c) – Identifying “controlled substances”

Gun-Free Schools Act, Pub. L. 107-110, Sec. 401, 115 Stat. 1762 (codified at 20 U.S.C. §715 1)

Public Act 24-45 An Act Concerning Education Mandate Relief, School Discipline and Disconnected Youth, Sections 13-14

Public Act 24-93 An Act Concerning Various and Assorted Revisions to the Education Statutes, Section 11 and Section 12

Adopted 11/9/2010

Revised and Adopted 5/15/2013

Revised and Adopted 9/23/2014

Revised and Adopted 5/17/2016

Revised and Adopted 11/12/2024