

Article VIII.B.5.      Suspension of Students

A.      One to Three-Day Elementary and Secondary Suspensions

An administrator may suspend a student for up to three days for the following reasons:

1.      The student's behavior disrupts normal school proceedings sufficiently that it hampers the right of other students to learn.
2.      The student willfully and knowingly destroys school property or threatens to do so.
3.      The student physically injures or threatens to injure himself/herself or others.

B.      Due Process

Public schools are bound by both procedural and substantive due process when a suspension becomes necessary. Any suspension should also be reasonably expected to help correct the problem for which it was necessary. Suspended students must remain on the school's membership rolls, and they must be counted as absent during the period of their suspension.

1.      Procedural Due Process:

- a.      Notice: The student must have had reasonable opportunity to know the expectations for acceptable conduct in the school.
- b.      Hearing: Parents/guardians must be notified immediately of the suspension. The student and parent/guardian have a right to explain what occurred as they perceived it.

2.      Substantive Due Process:

Disciplinary actions imposed by school officials will not be arbitrary, capricious, or unfair.

C.      Suspension for More than Three Days

Suspension of a student for longer than a three-day period must be authorized by the director of Student Services or designee.

D.      Exemption Permits

Exemption permits can only be issued by the appropriate Student Services staff member. (See Administrative Memorandum No. 17.)