

POLICY

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Related Entries: JCC, JCC-RA, JD-RA

Responsible Office: DIVISION OF STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

STUDENT SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION

A. PURPOSE

To establish a policy promoting effective learning by maintaining a positive environment of order, safety, and discipline.

B. ISSUE

Safe, supportive, healthy, and orderly learning environments are necessary to support student achievement. All students deserve the opportunity to learn in an environment that is free from disruption and detrimental behavior. School discipline should be administered fairly, equitably, and consistently in accordance with due process protections.

C. POSITION

1. Although suspensions and expulsions are necessary at times, student discipline shall be based on the goals of fostering, teaching, acknowledging positive behavior, and designed to keep students connected to the learning environment so they will graduate college and career ready.
2. In an effort to modify student behaviors that disrupt the learning process, the principal and staff may use a variety of resources including the:
 - a. Special abilities of local school personnel;
 - b. Assistance of parent(s)/guardian(s);
 - c. Services of the Division of Student Support Services; and
 - d. Psychological, health, legal, community, and rehabilitative agencies of the county and the State.
3. When a disciplinary referral that may result in the suspension or expulsion of a student is issued, at a minimum, the student shall have a conference with the administrator. The administrator shall take prompt and reasonable steps to notify the

- parent(s)/guardian(s) of the referral, any action that was taken by the administrator, and the possible consequences of future misconduct. In accordance with State law and regulations the parent shall have the right to confer.
4. A student referred to the administrator’s office for school disruptions shall be subjected to disciplinary action in accordance with *The Code of Student Conduct*.
 - a. Disruptive behavior includes any behavior which interferes with the teaching and learning process or interferes with the safety or management of students in the school building, on school property, or during any school-sponsored activity.
 - b. It is recognized that a suspension shall normally occur only after reasonable intervention strategies have been attempted in accordance with *The Code of Student Conduct*.
 - c. This section is not intended to limit the authority of the principal to suspend or request the expulsion of a student pursuant to State law or this policy.
 5. Principal and school system discretion shall be considered when imposing discipline.
 6. Long-term suspensions and expulsions may only be utilized after other options to address student behavior are exhausted.
 7. Students with disabilities may be suspended or expelled in accordance with the accompanying regulation.
 8. In accordance with The Code of Maryland Regulations, a principal shall document offenses for which students are referred for suspension or expulsion.
 9. In order for a suspended or expelled student to be readmitted to school, the student and the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s) shall follow procedures outlined in the accompanying regulation.

D. IMPLEMENTATION

The Superintendent is authorized to develop regulations to implement this policy.

Policy History: Adopted 08/20/14; Revised 02/06/19

Note Previous Policy History: Replaces Policy 903; adopted 03/01/72, revised 05/20/91, 06/19/96, 08/04/04, and 05/17/06