

**DISCIPLINE****Student Discipline**

The Governing Board desires to prepare youth for responsible citizenship by fostering self-discipline and personal responsibility. Good planning, a good understanding of each child, and parent involvement can minimize the need for discipline. When misconduct occurs, every effort will be made to identify and correct the causes of the student's behavior.

**Student Behavior**

Student behavior during school attendance and school activities, whether on or off school campus, shall be guided by respect for the rights, dignity, and physical well-being of self and others; and by respect for the authority of school personnel, the property of others, including school district property, and the instructional activities of the school.

Specific rules for student behavior, in conformance with district guidelines, shall be established at each school and made known to students and parents at the beginning of each school year. Staff shall enforce disciplinary rules fairly and consistently, without regard to race, creed, color or gender.

**Disciplinary Action**

Student behavior, in accordance with district guidelines, is a responsibility shared by students, parents, and staff. In many instances, student behavior is learned through teaching, counseling, and example. Staff will consistently provide assistance to students toward achieving acceptable standards of conduct and behavior. In some cases, disciplinary action is a necessary approach to bringing about proper behavior and conduct. Most disciplinary measures are carried out within the schools. In certain instances, however, for reasons enumerated in Sections 48900, 48900.2 and 48900.5 of the California Education Code, suspension from class or school or expulsion may be a necessary action, in the interests of the individual student, other students, the staff, and the educational program.

Enforcement of school rules, including disciplinary action, shall be the responsibility of each schools' staff and principal or designee except in cases of expulsion, which requires action by the Board.

Procedures for suspension and expulsion will be in accordance with Education Code Sections 48900 – 48925.

In addition to the provisions of Education Code Section 48913: A suspended student shall be allowed to complete all assignments and tests missed during the suspension which can be reasonably provided and, upon satisfactory completion, shall be given full credit therefore.

**DISCIPLINE** (continued)

Determination of “reasonably provided” and granting of full credit shall be made by the principal, in consultation with the student and teacher(s).

*Legal Reference:*

CIVIL CODE

1714.1 Parental liability for child's misconduct

EDUCATION CODE

35146 Closed sessions

35291 Rules

35291.5 School-adopted discipline rules

35291.7 School-adopted discipline rules: additional employees

35294-35294.9 School safety plans

37223 Weekend classes

44807.5 Restriction from recess

48630-48644.5 Opportunity schools

48900-48925 Suspension and expulsion

48980-48985 Notification of parents or guardians

49000-49001 Prohibition of corporal punishment

49330-49334 Injurious objects

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

307 Participation in school activities until departure of bus

353 Detention after school

*Management Resources:*

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Protecting Our Schools: Governing Board Strategies to Combat School Violence, 1995  
revised 1999

CDE PROGRAM ADVISORIES

1010.89 Physical Exercise as Corporal Punishment, CIL 89/9-3

1223.88 Corporal Punishment, CIL: 88/9-5

WEB SITES

CDE: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

USDE: <http://www.ed.gov>

**SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS**

The Governing Board has established policies and standards of behavior in order to promote learning and protect the safety and well-being of all students. When these policies and standards are violated, it may be necessary to suspend or expel a student from regular classroom instruction.

*(cf. 5144 - Discipline)*

Suspended or expelled students shall be excluded from all school-related extracurricular activities during the period of suspension or expulsion.

*(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)*

Except where suspension for a first offense is warranted in accordance with law, suspension shall be imposed only when other means of correction fail to bring about proper conduct. (Education Code 48900.5)

Expulsion is an action taken by the Board for severe or prolonged breaches of discipline by a student. Except for single acts of a grave nature, expulsion is used only when there is a history of misconduct, when other forms of discipline, including suspension, have failed to bring about proper conduct, or when the student's presence causes a continuing danger to him/herself or others. (Education Code 48915)

The grounds for suspension and expulsion and the procedures for considering, recommending and/or implementing suspension and expulsion shall be specified in administrative regulation.

**Student Due Process**

The Board shall provide for the fair and equitable treatment of students facing suspension and expulsion by affording them their due process rights under the law. The Superintendent or designee shall comply with procedures for notices and appeals as specified in administrative regulation and law. (Education Code 48911, 48915, 48915.5)

*(cf. 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Individuals with Disabilities))*

**Required Parental Attendance**

The Board believes that parental involvement plays an important role in the resolution of classroom behavior problems. The Board expects that teachers will communicate with parents/guardians when behavior problems arise.

Whenever a student is removed from a class because he/she committed an obscene act, engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity, disrupted school activities or otherwise willfully defied valid staff authority, the teacher of the class from which the student was removed may

**SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS** (continued)

provide that the student's parent/guardian attend a portion of a school day in that class. After completing the classroom visit and before leaving school premises, the parent/guardian also shall meet with the principal or designee. (Education Code 48900.1)

The Board encourages teachers, before requiring parental attendance, to make reasonable efforts to have the parent/guardian visit the class voluntarily. The teacher also may inform the parent/guardian about available resources and parent education opportunities. Teachers should reserve the option of required parental attendance for cases in which they have determined that it is the best strategy to promote positive interaction between the student and the parent/guardian and to improve classroom behavior.

The teacher shall apply this policy uniformly to all students within the classroom. This policy shall apply only to a parent/guardian who lives with the student. (Education Code 48900.1)

Parental attendance may be requested on the day the student returns to class or within one week thereafter. The principal or designee shall contact any parents/guardians who do not respond to the request to attend school. The Board recognizes that parental compliance with this policy may be delayed, modified or prevented for reasons such as serious illness/injury/disability, absence from town, or inability to get release time from work.

**Decision Not to Enforce Expulsion Order**

On a case-by-case basis, the enforcement of an expulsion order may be suspended by the Board pursuant to the requirements of law.

*Legal Reference: (see next page)*

**SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)**

*Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

212.5 *Sexual harassment*  
233 *Hate violence reduction*  
1981 *Enrollment of students*  
17292.5 *Program for expelled students*  
35146 *Closed sessions (re suspensions)*  
35291 *Rules (for government and discipline of schools)*  
35291.5 *Rules and procedures on school discipline*  
48660-48666 *Community day schools*  
48900-48926 *Suspension and expulsion*  
48950 *Speech and other communication*  
49073-49079 *Privacy of student records*

CIVIL CODE

48.8 *Defamation liability*

CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE

1985-1997 *Subpoenas; means of production*

GOVERNMENT CODE

11455.20 *Contempt*  
54950-54962 *Ralph M. Brown Act (re closed sessions)*

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

11014.5 *Drug paraphernalia*  
11053-11058 *Standards and schedules*

LABOR CODE

230.7 *Discharge or discrimination against employee for taking time off to appear in school on behalf of a child*

PENAL CODE

31 *Principal defined*  
240 *Assault defined*  
241.2 *Assault fines*  
242 *Battery defined*  
243.2 *Battery fines*  
243.4 *Sexual battery*  
245 *Assault with deadly weapon*  
261 *Rape defined*  
266c *Unlawful sexual intercourse*  
286 *Sodomy defined*  
288 *Lewd or lascivious acts with child under age 14*  
288a *Oral copulation*  
289 *Penetration of genital or anal openings*  
417.25-417.27 *Laser scope*  
422.6 *Interference with civil rights; damaging property*  
422.7 *Aggravating factors for punishment*  
422.75 *Protected classes*

**SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)**

*Legal Reference continued:*

PENAL CODE (continued)

626.2 *Entry upon campus after written notice of suspension or dismissal without permission*

626.9 *Gun-Free School Zone Act of 1995*

626.10 *Dirks, daggers, knives, razors or stun guns*

868.5 *Supporting person; attendance during testimony of witness*

WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE

729.6 *Counseling*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 18

921 *Definitions*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

6301-8962 *Improving America's Schools Act, especially:*

8921-8922 *Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994*

COURT DECISIONS

*Board of Education of Sacramento City Unified School District v. Sacramento County Board of Education and Kenneth H.* (2001) 85 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 1321

*Garcia v. Los Angeles Board of Education* (1991) 123 Cal.App.3d 807

*Fremont Union High School District v. Santa Clara County Board* (1991) 235 Cal. App. 3d 1182

*John A. v. San Bernardino School District* (1982) 33 Cal. 3d 301, 308

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

84 *Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen.* 146 (2001)

80 *Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen.* 347 (1997)

80 *Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen.* 91 (1997)

80 *Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen.* 85 (1997)

*Management Resources:*

CDE PROGRAM ADVISORIES

0306.96 *Expulsion Policies and Educational Placements, SPB 95/96-04*

WEB SITES

CDE: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

**SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS**

**Definitions**

*Suspension* from school means removal of a student from ongoing instruction for adjustment purposes. However, *suspension* does not mean any of the following: (Education Code 48925)

1. Reassignment to another education program or class at the same school where the student will receive continuing instruction for the length of day prescribed by the Governing Board for students of the same grade level
2. Referral to a certificated employee designated by the principal to advise students
3. Removal from the class, but without reassignment to another class or program, for the remainder of the class period without sending the student to the principal or designee as provided in Education Code 48910. Removal from a particular class shall not occur more than once every five school days.

*Expulsion* means removal of a student from the immediate supervision and control, or the general supervision, of school personnel. (Education Code 48925)

*Day* means a calendar day unless otherwise specifically provided. (Education Code 48925)

*School day* means a day upon which the schools of the district are in session or weekdays during the summer recess. (Education Code 48925)

*Student* includes a student's parent/guardian or legal counsel. (Education Code 48925)

**Notice of Regulations**

At the beginning of each school year, the principal of each school shall ensure that all students and parents/guardians are notified in writing of all school rules related to discipline, suspension and expulsion. Transfer students and their parents/guardians shall be notified at the time of enrollment. (Education Code 35291.5, 48900.1, 48980)

(*cf.* 5144 - Discipline)

Notification shall include information about the availability of individual school rules and all district policies and regulations pertaining to student discipline. (Education Code 35291)

**SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS** (continued)

**Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion**

A student may be subject to suspension or expulsion when it is determined that he/she:

1. Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person or willfully used force or violence upon the person of another, except in self-defense. (Education Code 48900(a))

A student who aids or abets the infliction or attempted infliction of physical injury on another person, as defined in Penal Code 31, may be suspended, but not expelled. However a student may be suspended or expelled pursuant to Education Code 48900(a) once he/she has been adjudged by a juvenile court to have committed, as an aider or abettor, a crime of physical violence in which the victim suffered great or serious bodily injury. (Education Code 48900(q))

2. Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any firearm, knife, explosive, or other dangerous object unless, in the case of possession of any object of this type, the student had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, with the principal or designee's concurrence. (Education Code 48900(b))

*(cf. 5131 - Conduct)*

*(cf. 5131.7 - Weapons and Dangerous Instruments)*

3. Unlawfully possessed, used, sold, or otherwise furnished, or was under the influence of, any controlled substance as defined in Health and Safety Code 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind. (Education Code 48900(c))

*(cf. 5131.6 - Alcohol and Other Drugs)*

4. Unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any controlled substance as defined in Health and Safety Code 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant of any kind, and then sold, delivered or otherwise furnished to any person another liquid, substance or material and represented same as controlled substance, alcohol beverage or intoxicant. (Education Code 48900(d))

5. Committed or attempted to commit robbery or extortion. (Education Code 48900(e))

6. Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property. (Education Code 48900(f))

7. Stole or attempted to steal school property or private property. (Education Code 48900(g))

**SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS** (continued)

8. Possessed or used tobacco or any products containing tobacco or nicotine products, including but not limited to cigars, cigarettes, miniature cigars, clove cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chew packets and betel. This restriction shall not prohibit a student from using or possessing his/her own prescription products. (Education Code 48900(h))
  9. Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity. (Education Code 48900(i))
  10. Unlawfully possessed or unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any drug paraphernalia, as defined in Health and Safety Code 11014.5. (Education Code 48900(j))
  11. Disrupted school activities or otherwise willfully defied the valid authority of supervisors, teachers, administrators, other school officials, or other school personnel engaged in the performance of their duties. (Education Code 48900(k))
  12. Knowingly received stolen school property or private property. (Education Code 48900(l))
  13. Possessed an imitation firearm, i.e., a replica of a firearm that is so substantially similar in physical properties to an existing firearm as to lead a reasonable person to conclude that the replica is a firearm. (Education Code 48900(m))
  14. Committed or attempted to commit a sexual assault as defined in Penal Code 261, 266c, 286, 288, 288a or 289, or committed a sexual battery as defined in Penal Code 243.4. (Education Code 48900(n))
  15. Harassed, threatened, or intimidated a student who is a complaining witness or witness in a school disciplinary proceeding for the purpose of preventing that student from being a witness and/or retaliating against that student for being a witness. (Education Code 48900(o))
  16. Made terrorist threats against school officials and/or school property. (Education Code 48900.7)
- A student in grades 4 through 8 is also subject to suspension or recommendation for expulsion when it is determined that he/she:
17. Committed sexual harassment as defined in Education Code 212.5 (Education Code 48900.2)

*(cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)*

**SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS** (continued)

18. Caused, attempted to cause, threatened to cause, or participated in an act of hate violence as defined in Education Code 233 (Education Code 48900.3)
19. Intentionally harassed, threatened or intimidated a student or group of students to the extent of having the actual and reasonably expected effect of materially disrupting classwork, creating substantial disorder, and invading student rights by creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment (Education Code 48900.4)

A student may be suspended or expelled for any of the acts listed above if the act is related to school activity or school attendance occurring at any district school under the jurisdiction of the Superintendent or principal or within any other school district, including but not limited to the following circumstances: (Education Code 48900)

1. While on school grounds
2. While going to or coming from school
3. During the lunch period, whether on or off the school campus
4. During, going to, or coming from a school-sponsored activity

The Superintendent or principal may use his/her discretion to provide alternatives to suspension or expulsion for a student subject to discipline under this administrative regulation, including, but not limited to, counseling and an anger management program. (Education Code 48900(r))

Alternatives to suspension or expulsion may be used with students who are truant, tardy, or otherwise absent from assigned school activities.

*(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)*

*(cf. 5113.1 - Truancy)*

**Removal from Class by a Teacher/Parental Attendance**

A teacher may suspend any student from his/her class for the remainder of the day and the following day for any act listed in “Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion” above. (Education Code 48910)

**SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)**

A teacher also may refer a student to the principal or designee for consideration of suspension from school. (Education Code 48910)

When removing a student from his/her class, the teacher shall immediately report this action to the principal and send the student to the principal for appropriate action. The student shall be appropriately supervised during the class periods from which he/she has been removed.

As soon as possible, the teacher shall ask the student's parent/guardian to attend a parent-teacher conference regarding the removal. A counselor or psychologist should attend the conference if it is practicable, and a school administrator may attend if either the parent/guardian or teacher so requests.

A student removed from class shall not be returned to class during the period of removal without the approval of the teacher of the class and the principal. (Education Code 48910)

A student removed from class shall not be placed in another regular class during the period of removal. However, if a student is assigned to more than one class per day, he/she may be placed in any other regular classes except those held at the same time as the class from which the student was removed. (Education Code 48910)

The teacher of any class from which a student is removed may require the student to complete any assignments and tests missed during the removal. (Education Code 48913)

Pursuant to Board policy, a teacher may provide that the parent/guardian of a student whom the teacher has removed attend a portion of a school day in his/her child's classroom. When a teacher makes this request, the principal shall send the parent/guardian a written notice that the parent/guardian's attendance is requested pursuant to law. (Education Code 48900.1)

**Suspension by Superintendent, Principal or Principal's Designee**

The Superintendent, principal or principal's designee may suspend a student from a school for not more than five consecutive school days unless the suspension is extended pending expulsion. (Education Code 48911)

The Superintendent or designee shall immediately suspend any student found at school or at a school activity to be: (Education Code 48915)

1. Possessing, as verified by a district employee, or selling or otherwise furnishing a firearm, unless the student had obtained prior written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, with the principal or designee's concurrence
2. Brandishing a knife, as defined in Education Code 48915(g), at another person

**SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS** (continued)

3. Unlawfully selling a controlled substance listed in Health and Safety Code 11053-11058
4. Committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault or committing a sexual battery as defined in item #14 under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion" above
5. Possession of an explosive as defined in 18 USC 921

Suspension also may be imposed upon a first offense if the Superintendent, principal or designee determines the student violated items #1-5 listed in "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion" above or if the student's presence causes a danger to persons or property or threatens to disrupt the instructional process. (Education Code 48900.5)

A student may be suspended from school for not more than 20 school days in any school year, unless for purposes of adjustment a student enrolls in or is transferred to another regular school, an opportunity school, or continuation school or class, in which case suspension shall not exceed 30 days in any school year. However, this restriction on the number of days of suspension does not apply when the suspension is extended pending an expulsion. (Education Code 48903, 48912)

The Superintendent or designee may count suspensions that occur while a student is enrolled in another school district toward the maximum number of days for which a student may be suspended in any school year. (Education Code 48903)

Suspensions shall be initiated according to the following procedures:

1. **Informal Conference:** Suspension shall be preceded by an informal conference conducted by the principal, designee or the Superintendent with the student and, whenever practicable, the teacher, supervisor or school employee who referred the student to the principal. At the conference, the student shall be informed of the reason for the disciplinary action and the evidence against him/her; the student shall be given the opportunity to present his/her version and evidence in support of his/her defense. (Education Code 48911(b))

This conference may be omitted if the principal, designee or the Superintendent determines that an emergency situation exists. An *emergency situation* involves a clear and present danger to the lives, safety or health of students or school personnel. If a student is suspended without this conference, 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 shall be held as soon as the student is physically able to return to school. (Education Code 48911(c))

**SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)**

2. **Administrative Actions:** All requests 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 parent/guardian by telephone or in person. Whenever a student is suspended, the parent/guardian shall be notified in writing of the suspension. (Education Code 48911)

This notice shall state the specific offense committed by the student. (Education Code 48900.8).

In addition, the notice may also state the date and time when the student may return to school. If school officials wish to ask the parent/guardian to confer regarding matters pertinent to the suspension, the notice may add that state law requires the parent/guardian to respond to such requests without delay.

4. **Parent/Guardian Conference:** Whenever a student is suspended, school officials may meet with the parent/guardian to discuss the causes and duration of the suspension, the school policy involved and any other pertinent matter. (Education Code 48914)

While the parent/guardian is required to respond without delay to a request for a conference about a student's behavior, no penalties may be imposed on the student for the failure of the parent/guardian to attend such a conference. The student may not be denied readmission solely because the parent/guardian failed to attend. (Education Code 48911)

5. **Extension of Suspension:** If the Board is considering the expulsion of a suspended student from any school or the suspension of a student for the balance of the semester from continuation school, the Superintendent or designee may, in writing, extend the suspension until such time as the Board has made a decision. (Education Code 48911(g))

Any extension of the original period of suspension shall be preceded by notice of such extension with an offer to hold a conference concerning the extension, giving the student an opportunity to be heard. This conference may be held in conjunction with a meeting requested by the student or parent/guardian to challenge the original suspension. Extension of the suspension may be made only if the Superintendent or designee determines, following a meeting in which the student and the student's parent/guardian were invited to participate, that the student's presence at the school or at an alternative school would endanger persons or property or threaten to disrupt the instructional process. (Education Code 48911)

## **SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS** (continued)

### **Suspension by the Board**

The Board may suspend a student for any of the acts listed in “Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion” above and within the limits specified in “Suspension by Superintendent, Principal or Principal’s Designee” above. (Education Code 48912)

The Board may suspend a student enrolled in a continuation school or class for a period not longer than the remainder of the semester if any of the acts listed in “Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion” occurred. The suspension shall meet the requirements of Education Code 48915. (Education Code 48912.5)

When the Board is considering a suspension, disciplinary action or any other action (except expulsion) against any student, it shall hold closed sessions if a public hearing would lead to disclosure of information violating a student’s right to privacy under Education Code 49073-49079.

*(cf. 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)*

The Board shall provide the student and his/her parent/guardian with written notice of the closed session by certified mail. Upon receiving this notice, the student or parent/guardian may request a public meeting, and this request shall be granted if made in writing within 48 hours after receipt of the Board’s notice. However, any discussion that conflicts with any other student’s right to privacy still shall be held in closed session. (Education Code 35146, 48912)

### **Authority to Expel**

A student may be expelled only by the Board. The Board shall expel, as required by law, any student found to have committed certain offenses listed below under “Mandatory Recommendation and Mandatory Expulsion.”

The Board may also order a student expelled for any of the acts listed above under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion" upon recommendation by the principal, Superintendent, hearing officer or administrative panel, based on finding either or both of the following: (Education Code 48915(b) and (e))

1. That other means of correction are not feasible or have repeatedly failed to bring about proper conduct
2. That due to the nature of the violation, the presence of the student causes a continuing danger to the physical safety of the student or others

**SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)**

**Mandatory Recommendation for Expulsion**

Unless the principal, Superintendent or designee finds that expulsion is inappropriate due to particular circumstances, the principal, Superintendent or designee shall recommend a student's expulsion for any of the following acts: (Education Code 48915(a))

1. Causing serious physical injury to another person, except in self-defense
2. Possession of any knife as defined in Education Code 48915(g), explosive or other dangerous object of no reasonable use to the student
3. Unlawful possession of any controlled substance, as listed in Health and Safety Code 11053-11058, except for the first offense for the possession of not more than one ounce of marijuana, other than concentrated cannabis
4. Robbery or extortion
5. Assault or battery, as defined in Penal Code 240 and 242, upon any school employee

**Mandatory Recommendation and Mandatory Expulsion**

The principal, Superintendent or designee shall recommend that the Board expel any student found at school or at a school activity to be: (Education Code 48915(c))

1. Possessing, as verified by a district employee, or selling or otherwise furnishing a firearm, unless the student had obtained prior written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, with the principal or designee's concurrence
2. Brandishing a knife as defined in Education Code 48915(g) at another person
3. Unlawfully selling a controlled substance listed in Health and Safety Code 11053-11058
4. Committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault or committing a sexual battery as defined in item #14 under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion" above
5. Possessing an explosive as defined in 18 USC 921

Upon finding that the student committed any of the above acts, the Board shall expel the student. (Education Code 48915)

## **SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)**

### **Student's Right to Expulsion Hearing**

The student is entitled to a hearing to determine whether the student should be expelled. The hearing shall be held within 30 school days after the principal or Superintendent or designee determines that one of the acts listed under “Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion” has occurred. (Education Code 48918(a))

The student is entitled to one postponement of an expulsion hearing for a period of not more than 30 calendar days. The request for postponement shall be in writing. Any subsequent postponement may be granted at the Board’s discretion. (Education Code 48918(a))

If the Board finds it impractical during the school year to comply with these time requirements for conducting an expulsion hearing, the Superintendent or designee may, for good cause, extend the time period by an additional five school days. Reasons for the extension shall be included as a part of the record when the expulsion hearing is held. (Education Code 48918(a))

If the Board finds it impractical to comply with the time requirements of the expulsion hearing due to a summer recess of Board meetings of more than two weeks, the days during the recess shall not be counted as school days. The days not counted during the recess may not exceed 20 school days, as defined in Education Code 48925. Unless the student requests in writing that the expulsion hearing be postponed, the hearing shall be held not later than 20 calendar days prior to the first day of the next school year. (Education Code 48918(a)).

Once the hearing starts, all matters shall be pursued with reasonable diligence and concluded without unnecessary delay. (Education Code 48918(a))

### **Rights of Complaining Witness**

An expulsion hearing involving allegations of sexual assault or sexual battery may be postponed for one school day in order to accommodate the special physical, mental or emotional needs of a student who is the complaining witness. (Education Code 48918.5)

Whenever the Superintendent or designee recommends an expulsion hearing that addresses allegations of sexual assault or sexual battery, he/she shall give the complaining witness a copy of the district’s suspension and expulsion policy and regulation and shall advise the witness of his/her right to: (Education Code 48918.5)

1. Receive five days’ notice of his/her scheduled testimony at the hearing
2. Have up to two adult support persons of his/her choosing present in the hearing at the time he/she testifies

**SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)**

3. Have a closed hearing during the time he/she testifies

Whenever any allegation of sexual assault or sexual battery is made, the Superintendent or designee shall immediately advise complaining witnesses and accused students to refrain from personal or telephone contact with each other during the time when an expulsion process is pending. (Education Code 48918.5)

**Written Notice of the Expulsion Hearing**

Written notice of the hearing shall be forwarded to the student and the student's parent/guardian at least 10 calendar days before the date of the hearing. The notice shall include: (Education Code 48900.8, 48918(b))

1. The date and place of the hearing.
2. A statement of the specific facts, charges and offense upon which the proposed expulsion is based.
3. A copy of district disciplinary rules which relate to the alleged violation.
4. Notification of the student's or parent/guardian's obligation, pursuant to Education Code 48915.1, to provide information about the student's status in the district to any other district in which the student seeks enrollment. This obligation applies when a student is expelled for acts other than those described in Education Code 48915(a) or (c).

*(cf. 5119 - Students Expelled from Other Districts)*

5. The opportunity for the student or the student's parent/guardian to appear in person or be represented by legal counsel or by a nonattorney advisor.

*Legal counsel* means an attorney or lawyer who is admitted to the practice of law in California and is an active member of the State Bar of California

*Nonattorney advisor* means an individual who is not an attorney or lawyer, but who is familiar with the facts of the case, and has been selected by the student or student's parent/guardian to provide assistance at the hearing

6. The right to inspect and obtain copies of all documents to be used at the hearing.
7. The opportunity to confront and question all witnesses who testify at the hearing.

**SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)**

8. The opportunity to question all evidence presented and to present oral and documentary evidence on the student's behalf, including witnesses.

**Conduct of Expulsion Hearing**

1. Closed Session: Notwithstanding the provisions of Government Code 54953 and Education Code 35145, the Board shall conduct a hearing to consider the expulsion of the student in a session closed to the public unless the student requests in writing at least five days prior to the hearing that the hearing be a public meeting. If such request is made, the meeting shall be public unless another student's privacy rights would be violated. (Education Code 48918(c))

Whether the expulsion hearing is held in closed or public session, the Board may meet in closed session to deliberate and determine whether or not the student should be expelled. If the Board admits any other person to this closed session, the parent/guardian, the student, and the counsel of the student shall also be allowed to attend the closed session. (Education Code 48918(c))

If a hearing that involves a charge of sexual assault or sexual battery is to be conducted in public, a complaining witness shall have the right to have his/her testimony heard in closed session when testifying in public would threaten serious psychological harm to the witness and when there are no alternative procedures to avoid the threatened harm, including but not limited to videotaped deposition or contemporaneous examination in another place communicated to the hearing room by closed-circuit television. (Education Code 48918(c))

2. Record of Hearing: A record of the hearing shall be made and may be maintained by any means, including electronic recording, as long as a reasonably accurate and complete written transcription of the proceedings can be made. (Education Code 48918(g))
3. Presentation of Evidence: While technical rules of evidence do not apply to expulsion hearings, evidence may be admitted and used as proof only if it is the kind of evidence on which reasonable persons can rely in the conduct of serious affairs. The decision of the Board to expel must be supported by substantial evidence that the student committed any of the acts listed in "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion" above.

Findings of fact shall be based solely on the evidence at the hearing. While no finding shall be based solely on hearsay, sworn declarations may be admitted as testimony from witnesses whose disclosure of their identity or testimony at the hearing may subject them to an unreasonable risk of physical or psychological harm. (Education Code 48918(f) and (h))

**SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS** (continued)

In cases where a search of a student's person or property has occurred, evidence describing the reasonableness of the search shall be included in the hearing record.

4. Testimony by Complaining Witnesses: The following procedures shall be observed when hearings involve allegations of sexual assault or sexual battery by a student: (Education Code 48918)
  - a. Any complaining witness shall be given five days' notice before being called to testify.
  - b. Any complaining witness shall be entitled to have up to two adult support persons, including but not limited to a parent/guardian or legal counsel, present during his/her testimony.
  - c. Before a complaining witness testifies, support persons shall be admonished that the hearing is confidential.
  - d. The person presiding over the hearing may remove a support person whom he/she finds is disrupting the hearing.
  - e. If one or both support persons are also witnesses, the hearing shall be conducted according to Penal Code 868.5.
  - f. Evidence of specific instances of prior sexual conduct of a complaining witness shall be presumed inadmissible and shall not be heard unless the person conducting the hearing determines that extraordinary circumstances require the evidence to be heard. Before such a determination is made, the complaining witness shall be given notice and an opportunity to oppose the introduction of this evidence. In the hearing on the admissibility of this evidence, the complaining witness shall be entitled to be represented by a parent/guardian, legal counsel or other support person. Reputation or opinion evidence regarding the sexual behavior of a complaining witness shall not be admissible for any purpose.
  - g. In order to facilitate a free and accurate statement of the experiences of the complaining witness and to prevent discouragement of complaints, the district shall provide a nonthreatening environment.
    - (1) The district shall provide a room separate from the hearing room for the use of the complaining witness before and during breaks in testimony.

**SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)**

- (2) At the discretion of the person conducting the hearing, the complaining witness shall be allowed reasonable periods of relief from examination and cross-examination during which he/she may leave the hearing room.
- (3) The person conducting the hearing may:
  - (a) Arrange the seating within the hearing room so as to facilitate a less intimidating environment for the complaining witness
  - (b) Limit the time for taking the testimony of a complaining witness to the hours he/she is normally in school, if there is no good cause to take the testimony during other hours
  - (c) Permit one of the support persons to accompany the complaining witness to the witness stand
- 5. **Decision Within 10 Days:** The Board's decision on whether to expel a student shall be made within 10 school days after the conclusion of the hearing, unless the student requests in writing that the decision be postponed. (Education Code 48918(a))
- 6. **Decision Within 40 Days:** If the Board does not meet on a weekly basis, its decision on whether to expel a student shall be made within 40 school days after the student is removed from his/her school of attendance, unless the student requests in writing that the decision be postponed. (Education Code 48918(a))

**Alternative Expulsion Hearing: Hearing Officer or Administrative Panel**

Instead of conducting an expulsion hearing itself, the Board may contract with the county hearing officer or with the Office of Administrative Hearings of the State of California for a hearing officer. Alternatively, the Board may appoint an impartial administrative panel composed of three or more certificated personnel, none of whom shall be members of the Board or on the staff of the school in which the student is enrolled. (Education Code 48918(d))

A hearing conducted by the hearing officer or administrative panel shall conform to the same procedures as apply to a hearing conducted by the Board as specified above in "Conduct of Expulsion Hearing."

The hearing officer or administrative panel shall, within three school days after the hearing, determine whether to recommend expulsion of the student to the Board. If expulsion is not recommended, the student shall be immediately reinstated. The Superintendent or designee shall place the student in a classroom instructional program, any other instructional program,

**SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS** (continued)

a rehabilitation program, or any combination of these programs after consulting with district staff, including the student's teachers and with the student's parent/guardian. (Education Code 48918(e))

If expulsion is recommended, findings of fact in support of the recommendation shall be prepared and submitted to the Board. All findings of fact and recommendations shall be based solely on the evidence presented at the hearing. The Board may accept the recommendation based either upon a review of the findings of fact and recommendations submitted or upon the results of any supplementary hearing the Board may order. (Education Code 48918(f))

In accordance with Board policy, the hearing officer or administrative panel may recommend that the Board suspend the enforcement of the expulsion for a period of one year.

The Board shall make its decision about the student's expulsion within 40 school days after the date of the student's removal from school unless the student requests in writing that the decision be postponed. (Education Code 48918(a))

**Final Action by the Board**

Whether the expulsion hearing is conducted in closed or public session by the Board, a hearing officer, or an administrative panel, the final action to expel shall be taken by the Board at a public meeting. (Education Code 48918(j))

*(cf. 9321.1 - Closed Session Actions and Reports)*

If the Board conducts the hearing and reaches a decision not to expel, this decision shall be final and the student shall be reinstated immediately.

Upon ordering an expulsion, the Board shall set a date when the student shall be reviewed for readmission to a school within the district. For a student expelled for an act listed under "Mandatory Recommendation and Mandatory Expulsion" above, this date shall be one year from the date the expulsion occurred, except that the Board may set an earlier date on a case-by-case basis. For a student expelled for other acts, this date shall be no later than the last day of the semester following the semester in which the expulsion occurred. (Education Code 48916)

At the time of the expulsion order, the Board shall recommend a plan for the student's rehabilitation, which may include: (Education Code 48916)

1. Periodic review as well as assessment of the student at the time of review for readmission

**SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (continued)**

2. Recommendations for improved academic performance, tutoring, special education assessments, job training, counseling, employment, community service and other rehabilitative programs

With parental consent, students who have been expelled for reasons relating to controlled substances or alcohol may be required to enroll in a county-sponsored drug rehabilitation program before returning to school. (Education Code 48916.5)

**Written Notice to Expel**

The Superintendent or designee shall send written notice of the decision to expel to the student or parent/guardian. This notice shall include the following:

1. The specific offense committed by the student for any of the causes for suspension or expulsion listed in Education Code 48900(a)-(o), Education Code 48900.2-48900.4 and Education Code 48915(c) (Education Code 48900.8)
2. The fact that a description of readmission procedures will be made available to the student and his/her parent/guardian (Education Code 48916)
3. Notice of the right to appeal the expulsion to the County Board of Education (Education Code 48918)
4. Notice of the alternative educational placement to be provided to the student during the time of expulsion (Education Code 48918)
5. Notice of the student's or parent/guardian's obligation to inform any new district in which the student seeks to enroll of the student's status with the expelling district, pursuant to Education Code 48915.1 (Education Code 48918)

**Decision Not to Enforce Expulsion Order**

In accordance with Board policy, when deciding whether to suspend the enforcement of an expulsion, the Board shall take into account the following criteria:

1. The student's pattern of behavior
2. The seriousness of the misconduct
3. The student's attitude toward the misconduct and his/her willingness to follow a rehabilitation program

**SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS** (continued)

The suspension of the enforcement of an expulsion shall be governed by the following:  
(Education Code 48917)

1. The Board may, as a condition of the suspension of enforcement, assign the student to a school, class or program appropriate for the student's rehabilitation. This rehabilitation program may provide for the involvement of the student's parent/guardian in the student's education. However, a parent/guardian's refusal to participate in the rehabilitation program shall not be considered in the Board's determination as to whether the student has satisfactorily completed the rehabilitation program.
2. During the period when enforcement of the expulsion order is suspended, the student shall be on probationary status.
3. The suspension of the enforcement of an expulsion order may be revoked by the Board if the student commits any of the acts listed under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion" above or violates any of the district's rules and regulations governing student conduct.
4. When the suspension of the enforcement of an expulsion order is revoked, a student may be expelled under the terms of the original expulsion order.
5. Upon satisfactory completion of the rehabilitation assignment, the Board shall reinstate the student in a district school. Upon rein-statement, the Board may order the expunging of any or all records of the expulsion proceedings.
6. Suspension of the enforcement of an expulsion order shall not affect the time period and requirements for the filing of an appeal of the expulsion order with the County Board of Education.
7. The Superintendent or designee shall send written notice of any decision to suspend the enforcement of an expulsion order during a period of probation to the student or parent/guardian. The notice shall also inform the parent/guardian of the right to appeal the expulsion to the County Board of Education. (Education Code 48918(j)).

**Right to Appeal**

The student or parent/guardian is entitled to file an appeal of the Board's decision to the County Board of Education. The appeal must be filed within 30 days of the Board's decision to expel, even if the expulsion action is suspended and the student is placed on probation.  
(Education Code 48919)

**SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS** (continued)

The student shall submit a written request for a copy of the written transcripts and supporting documents from the district simultaneously with the filing of the notice of appeal with the County Board of Education. The district shall provide the student with these documents within 10 school days following the student's written request. (Education Code 48919)

**Post-Expulsion Placements**

The Board shall refer expelled students to a program of study that is: (Education Code 48915, 48915.01)

1. Appropriately prepared to accommodate students who exhibit discipline problems
2. Not provided at a comprehensive middle, junior or senior high school or at any elementary school, unless the program is offered at a community day school established at such a site
3. Not housed at the school site attended by the student at the time of suspension

When the placement described above is not available, and when the County Superintendent of Schools so certifies, students expelled for acts described in items #6 through #13 and #17 through #19 under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion" above may be instead referred to a program of study that is provided at another comprehensive middle, junior, or senior high school, or at an elementary school. (Education Code 48915)

The program for a student expelled from any of grades K-6 shall not be combined or merged with programs offered to students in any of grades 7-12. (Education Code 48916.1)

**Readmission After Expulsion**

Readmission procedures shall be as follows:

1. On the date set by the Board when it ordered the expulsion, the district shall consider readmission of the student. (Education Code 48916)
2. The Superintendent or designee shall hold a conference with the parent/guardian and the student. At the conference the student's rehabilitation plan shall be reviewed and the Superintendent or designee shall verify that the provisions of this plan have been met.

School regulations shall be reviewed and the student and parent/guardian shall be asked to indicate in writing their willingness to comply with these regulations.

**SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS** (continued)

3. The Superintendent or designee shall transmit to the Board his/her recommendation regarding readmission. The Board shall consider this recommendation in closed session if information would be disclosed in violation of Education Code 49073-49079. If a written request for open session is received from the parent/guardian or adult student, it shall be honored.
4. If the readmission is granted, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the student and parent/guardian, by registered mail, of the Board's decision regarding readmission.
5. The Board may deny readmission only if it finds that the student has not satisfied the conditions of the rehabilitation plan or that the student continues to pose a danger to campus safety or to other district students or employees. (Education Code 48916)
6. If the Board denies the readmission of a student, the Board shall determine either to continue the student's placement in the alternative educational program initially selected or to place the student in another program that serves expelled students, including placement in a county community school. (Education Code 48916)
7. The Board shall provide written notice to the expelled student and parent/guardian describing the reasons for denying readmittance into the regular program. This notice shall indicate the Board's determination of the educational program which the Board has chosen. The student shall enroll in that program unless the parent/guardian chooses to enroll the student in another school district. (Education Code 48916)

**Maintenance of Records**

The Board shall maintain a record of each expulsion, including the specific cause of the expulsion. The expulsion record shall be maintained in the student's mandatory interim record and sent to any school in which the student subsequently enrolls, within five days of a written request by the admitting school. (Education Code 48900.8, 48918(k))

The Superintendent or designee shall, within five working days, honor any other district's request for information about an expulsion from this district. (Education Code 48915.1)

*(cf. 5125 - Student Records)*

**Notifications to Law Enforcement Authorities**

Prior to the suspension or expulsion of any student, the principal or designee shall notify appropriate city or county law enforcement authorities of any student acts of assault which may have violated Penal Code 245. (Education Code 48902)

**SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS** (continued)

The principal or designee also shall notify appropriate city or county law enforcement authorities of any student acts which may involve the possession or sale of narcotics or of a controlled substance or possession of weapons or firearms in violation of Penal Code 626.9 and 626.10. (Education Code 48902)

Within one school day after a student's suspension or expulsion, the principal or designee shall notify appropriate city or county law enforcement authorities, by telephone or other appropriate means, of any student acts which may violate Education Code 48900(c) or (d), relating to the possession, use, offering or sale of controlled substances, alcohol or intoxicants of any kind. (Education Code 48902)

**Outcome Data**

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain the following data and report such data annually to the California Department of Education, using forms supplied by the California Department of Education: (Education Code 48900.8, 48916.1)

1. The number of students recommended for expulsion
2. The specific grounds for each recommended expulsion
3. Whether the student was subsequently expelled
4. Whether the expulsion order was suspended
5. The type of referral made after the expulsion
6. The disposition of the student after the end of the expulsion period

**SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES)**

A student identified as an individual with disabilities pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is subject to the same grounds for suspension and expulsion which apply to students without disabilities.

*(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)*

**Procedures for Students Not Yet Eligible for Special Education Services**

A student who has not been identified as an individual with disabilities pursuant to IDEA and who has violated the district's disciplinary procedures may assert the procedural safeguards granted under this administrative regulation only if the district had knowledge that the student was disabled before the behavior occurred. (20 USC 1415(k)(8))

The district shall be deemed to have knowledge that the student had a disability if one of the following conditions exists: (20 USC 1415)(k)(8); 34 CFR 300.527)

1. The parent/guardian has expressed concern in writing, or orally if the parent/guardian does not know how to write or has a disability that prevents a written statement, that the student is in need of special education or related services.
2. The behavior or performance of the student demonstrates the need for such services, in accordance with 34 CFR 300.7.
3. The parent/guardian has requested an evaluation of the student for special education pursuant to 34 CFR 300.530-300.536.
4. The teacher of the student or other district personnel has expressed concern about the behavior or performance of the student to the district's Director of Special Education or to other personnel in accordance with the district's established child find or special education referral system.

A district would not be deemed to "have knowledge" as specified in items #1-4 above, if, as a result of receiving such information, the district either (1) conducted an evaluation and determined that the student was not a student with a disability, or (2) determined that an evaluation was not necessary and provided notice to the parent/guardian of its determination. (34 CFR 300.527)

If it is determined that the district did not have knowledge that the student was disabled, then the student shall be disciplined in accordance with procedures established for students without disabilities. (20 USC 1415(k)(8))

**SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES)** (continued)

If a request is made for an evaluation of a student during the time period in which the student is subject to disciplinary measures, the evaluation shall be conducted in an expedited manner. Until the evaluation is completed, the student shall remain in the educational placement determined by school authorities. (34 CFR 300.527)

**Suspension**

The Superintendent or designee may suspend a student with a disability for up to five school days for a single incident of misconduct, and for up to 20 school days in a school year. If the student is transferred to another school or alternative educational program, the student may be suspended for up to 30 school days in a school year, but still no more than five days for a single incident of misconduct, unless the student is suspended by the Governing Board pursuant to Education Code 48912. (Education Code 48903, 48911)

The principal or designee shall monitor the number of days, including portions of days, students with a valid individualized education program (IEP) have been suspended during the school year.

If the student poses an immediate threat to the safety of himself/herself or others, the Superintendent or designee may suspend the student for up to, but not more than, 10 consecutive school days if the student's parent/guardian agrees or a court order so provides. (Education Code 48911)

**Services During Suspension**

Students suspended for more than 10 school days in a school year shall continue to receive a free and appropriate public education during the term of the suspension. (34 CFR 300.520)

**Interim Alternative Placement Due to Dangerous Behavior**

A student with a disability may be placed in an appropriate interim alternative educational setting when he/she commits one of the following acts: (20 USC 1415(k)(1))

1. Carries a weapon, as defined in 18 USC 930, to school or to a school function
2. Knowingly possesses or uses illegal drugs while at school or a school function
3. Sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance while at school or a school function

A hearing officer may order a change in placement of a student with a disability to an appropriate interim educational setting if the hearing officer: (20 USC 1415(k)(2))

**SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES)** (continued)

1. Determines that the district has established by substantial evidence that maintaining the current placement of the student is substantially likely to result in injury to the student or others
2. Considers the appropriateness of the student's current placement
3. Considers whether the district has made reasonable efforts to minimize the risk of harm in the student's current placement, including the use of supplementary aids and services
4. Determines that the interim alternative educational setting allows the student to participate in general curriculum, to continue to receive IEP services and to receive services designed to ensure that the behavior does not recur

The student may be placed in the interim alternative educational setting for up to 45 days, or until the conclusion of any due process hearing proceedings requested by the parent/guardian. (20 USC 1415(k)(2))

The student's alternative educational setting shall be determined by the student's IEP team. (20 USC 1415(k)(2))

**Procedural Safeguards/Manifestation Determination**

Either before or not later than 10 business days after a student has been suspended for more than 10 school days or placed in an alternative educational setting, the district shall convene an IEP team meeting to conduct a functional behavior assessment and implement a behavioral intervention plan. If the student already has a behavioral intervention plan, the IEP team shall review the plan and modify it as necessary to address the behavior. (20 USC 1415(k)(1))

As soon as practicable after developing the behavioral intervention plan and completing the required assessments, the IEP team shall meet to develop appropriate behavioral interventions to address the behavior and shall implement those interventions. (34 CFR 300.520)

**SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES)** (continued)

If a student with disabilities who has a functional behavioral plan is subject to a removal for more than 10 school days in a school year that does not constitute a change in placement, the IEP team members shall review the behavioral intervention plan and its implementation to determine if modifications are necessary. (34 CFR 300.520)

The following procedural safeguards shall apply when a student is suspended for more than 10 school days, when disciplinary action is contemplated for a dangerous behavior as described above, or when a change of placement of more than 10 school days is contemplated: (20 USC 1415(k)(4); 34 CFR 300.523)

1. The parents/guardians of the student shall be immediately notified of the decision and provided all procedural safeguards on the day the decision to take action is made.
2. Immediately if possible, but in no case later than 10 school days after the date of the decision, a manifestation determination shall be made of the relationship between the student's disability and the behavior subject to the disciplinary action by the IEP team and other qualified personnel.

At this hearing, the IEP team and other qualified personnel shall consider, in terms of the behavior subject to the disciplinary action, all relevant information, including: (20 USC 1415(k)(4); 34 CFR 300.523)

- a. Evaluation and diagnostic results, including the results or other relevant information supplied by the student's parents/ guardians
- b. Observations of the student
- c. The student's IEP and placement

In relationship to the behavior subject to the disciplinary action, the team shall then determine whether the IEP and placement were appropriate and whether supplementary aids, services, and behavioral interventions were provided. The team shall also determine that the student's disability did not impair the ability of the student to understand the impact and consequences of the behavior, nor did it impair his/her ability to control the behavior subject to the disciplinary action. (20 USC 1415(k)(4); 34 CFR 300.523)

If the team determines that the student's behavior was not a manifestation of his/her disability, then the student may be disciplined in accordance with the procedures for students without disabilities. (20 USC 1415(k)(4))

**SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES)** (continued)

If the team determines that the student's behavior was a manifestation of his/her disability, then the student's placement may only be changed via the IEP team process. (20 USC 1415(k)(4))

**Pre-Expulsion Assessment and Meeting**

1. The parent/guardian shall receive written notice of the district's intent to conduct the pre-expulsion assessment and shall make the student available for the assessment without delay at a site designated by the district. The parent/guardian shall also have the right to an independent assessment as provided in Education Code 56329. (Education Code 48915.5)
2. The pre-expulsion assessment shall be conducted in accordance with the guidelines of 34 CFR 104.35, which shall include a review of the student's placement at the time of the alleged misconduct and a determination of the relationship, if any, between the student's behavior and his/her disability. (Education Code 48915.5)
3. The IEP team shall meet to determine if an expulsion hearing is appropriate. This meeting shall be held at a time and place mutually convenient to the parent/guardian and district within the period, if any, of the student's pre-expulsion suspension. The parent/guardian's participation may be made through actual participation, representation, or a telephone conference call. (Education Code 48915.5)
4. The parent/guardian shall be notified of his/her right to participate in the meeting at least 48 hours before the meeting. This notice shall specify: (Education Code 48915.5)
  - a. That the meeting may be held without the parent/guardian's participation unless he/she requests a postponement for up to three additional school days
  - b. That the suspension will be continued during the postponement if the student continues to pose an immediate threat to the safety of himself/herself or others

In order to make a record of its attempts to arrange the meeting at a mutually convenient time and place, the district shall keep documentation such as: (34 CFR 300.345)

- a. Detailed records of telephone calls made or attempted, and the results of those calls

**SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES)** (continued)

- b. Copies of correspondence sent to parents/guardians and any responses received
  - c. Detailed records of visits made to the parent/guardian's home or place of employment, and the results of those visits
5. The district shall grant a parent/guardian's request that the meeting be postponed for up to three additional school days and may extend a student's suspension for the period of postponement if he/she continues to pose an immediate threat to the safety of himself/herself or others. However, the suspension shall not be extended beyond 10 consecutive school days unless agreed to by the parent/guardian or required by court order. If the parent/guardian refuses to consent to an extension beyond 10 consecutive school days and chooses not to participate, the meeting may be conducted without the parent/guardian's participation. (Education Code 48915.5)
6. The IEP team shall consider the pre-expulsion assessment results and shall also review and consider the student's health records and school discipline records. (Education Code 48915.5)
7. If the IEP team determines that the alleged misconduct was caused by, or was a direct manifestation of, the student's disability or that the student was not appropriately placed, the expulsion shall not proceed. (Education Code 48915.5)
8. If the IEP team determines that the alleged misconduct was not caused by, or a direct manifestation of, the student's disability, and if it is determined that the student was appropriately placed, the student shall be subject to expulsion in accordance with procedures that apply to all students. (Education Code 48915.5)
9. When expulsion is ordered, the Board shall recommend a rehabilitation plan for the student. (Education Code 48916)

**Notification to Law Enforcement Authorities**

Prior to the suspension or expulsion of any student, the principal or designee shall notify appropriate city or county law enforcement authorities of any student acts of assault which may have violated Penal Code 245. (Education Code 48902)

The principal or designee also shall notify appropriate city or county law enforcement authorities of any student acts which may involve the possession or sale of narcotics or of a controlled substance or possession of weapons or firearms in violation of Penal Code 626.9 and 626.10. (Education Code 48902)

**SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES)** (continued)

Within one school day after a student's suspension or expulsion, the principal or designee shall notify appropriate city or county law enforcement authorities, by telephone or other appropriate means, of any student acts which may violate Education Code 48900(c) or (d), relating to the possession, use, offering or sale of controlled substances, alcohol or intoxicants of any kind. (Education Code 48902)

**Due Process Appeals**

If the parent/guardian disagrees with a decision that the behavior was not a manifestation of the student's disability or with any decision regarding placement, he/she has a right to appeal the decision. (20 USC 1415(k)(6))

The expulsion hearing shall not be conducted, and the 30-day expulsion proceedings time limit shall not commence, until after completion of the:

1. Pre-expulsion assessment and the manifestation determination (Education Code 48915.5; 20 USC 1415(k))
2. IEP team meeting (Education Code 48915.5)
3. Due process hearings and appeals, if initiated (Education Code 48915.5)

The Board may expel a student with disability only if an IEP team has determined that the misconduct was not caused by, or a direct manifestation of, the student's identified disability, and the student was appropriately placed at the time the misconduct occurred. (Education Code 48915.5)

**Services During Expulsion**

During the term of the expulsion, a student with a disability shall continue to be offered a program of free and appropriate public education. Such services may include independent study, home instruction, or another appropriate alternative program.

*(cf. 6158 - Independent Study)*

The alternative program must provide services to the extent necessary to enable the student to appropriately progress in the general curriculum and appropriately advance toward achieving the goals set out in the student's IEP. (34 CFR 300.121)

**SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES)** (continued)

**Readmission**

Readmission procedures for students with disabilities shall be the same as those used for all students. The Superintendent or designee may consider the input of the student's IEP team when developing recommendations to the Board regarding a request for readmission. Upon readmission, an IEP team meeting shall be convened to determine whether a new IEP needs to be established.

**Suspension of Expulsion**

The Board's criteria for suspending the enforcement of an expulsion order shall be applied to students with disabilities in the same manner as they are applied to all other students. (Education Code 48917)

*Legal Reference: (see next page)*

**SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS (STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES)** (continued)

*Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

35146 *Closed sessions (re suspensions)*  
35291 *Rules (of governing board)*  
48900-48925 *Suspension and expulsion*  
56000 *Special education; legislative findings and declarations*  
56320 *Educational needs; requirements*  
56321 *Development or revision of individualized education program*  
56329 *Independent educational assessment*  
56340-56347 *Individual education program teams*  
56505 *State hearing*

PENAL CODE

245 *Assault with deadly weapon*  
626.2 *Entry upon campus after written notice of suspension or dismissal without permission*  
626.9 *Gun-Free School Zone Act*  
626.10 *Dirks, daggers, knives, razors or stun guns*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 18

930 *Weapons*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1412 *State eligibility*  
1415 *Procedural safeguards*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 29

706 *Definitions*  
794 *Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504*

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

104.35 *Evaluation and placement*  
104.36 *Procedural safeguards*  
300.1-300.756 *Assistance to states for the education of students with disabilities*

COURT DECISIONS

*Parents of Student W. v. Puyallup School District*, (1994 9th Cir.) 31 F.3d 1489  
*M.P. v. Governing Board of Grossmont Union High School District*, (1994) U.S. Dist. Ct., S.D. Cal. 858 F.Supp. 1044  
*Honig v. Doe*, (1988) 484 U.S. 305  
*Doe v. Maher*, (1986) 793 F.2d 1470  
*Rock Island School District #41*, IDELR 353:364  
*San Juan Unified School District*, 20 IDELR 549

*Management Resources:*

FEDERAL REGISTER

34 CFR 300.a *Appendix A to Part 300 - Questions and Answers*  
34 CFR 300a1 *Attachment 1: Analysis of Comments and Changes*

WEB SITES

CDE: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>  
USDE: <http://www.ed.gov>