

Policy

BOARD OF EDUCATION
HORTONVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION

The Board recognizes that exclusion from educational programs of the School District, by suspension or expulsion, is a substantial sanction and that such action must comply with the student's due process rights. Exclusionary discipline is appropriate to address serious misconduct or when alternatives, such as in-school discipline or restorative practices, have been ineffective to address a student's repeated refusal or neglect to obey school rules.

Administrative Guidelines

The District Administrator shall develop administrative guidelines to implement this policy, which shall include, at a minimum:

- A. Strategies for providing special assistance to students who are in danger of being expelled and are not achieving the goals of the educational program;
- B. Procedures that ensure compliance with State and Federal law including, but not limited to, due process rights;
- C. Provisions for completing school work when appropriate;
- D. Reference to staff obligations to report threats of violence made in or targeted at a school, which in the good faith judgement of the staff member, pose a serious and imminent of harm to the health and safety of others.

SUSPENSION

For purposes of this policy, "suspension" shall be the short-term exclusion of a student from a regular District Program.

A building administrator or designee designated by the District Administrator may suspend a student for up to five (5) school days or, if a notice of expulsion hearing has been sent, for up to fifteen (15) consecutive school days, or ten (10) consecutive school days for each incident if the student is eligible for special education services under Chapter 115, Wis. Stats.

The suspension must be reasonably justified based upon the grounds authorized under ~~Sec.~~ 120.13, Wis. Stats., which include, but are not limited to; noncompliance with school rules or board rules; knowingly conveying any threat or false information concerning an attempt or alleged attempt being made or to be made to destroy any school property by means of explosives; conduct by the student while at school or while under the supervision of a school authority that endangers the property, health, or safety of others; conduct while not at school or while not under the supervision of a school authority that endangers the property, health, or safety of others at school or under the supervision of a school authority; or conduct while not at school or while not under the supervision of a school authority that endangers the property, health, or safety of any employee or School Board member of the district in which the student is enrolled.

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A building administrator or designee designated by the School District Administrator shall suspend a student if the student possessed a firearm, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921(a)(3), while at school or while under the supervision of a school authority.

The parent of a suspended minor must be given prompt notice of the suspension and the reason for the suspension. The student's suspension from school shall be entered in the student's record as required by the rules adopted by the board concerning the content of the student records. The suspended student or the student's parent may, within five (5) school days following the commencement of the suspension, have a conference with the District Administrator or designee, who shall be someone other than a principal, administrator, or teacher in the suspended student's school, to discuss removing reference to the suspension from the student's records. Reference to the suspension on the student's school record shall be removed if the designated Administrator finds that the student was suspended unfairly or unjustly; the suspension was inappropriate, given the nature of the alleged offense; or the student suffered undue consequences or penalties as a result of the suspension. The District Administrator or designee shall make a finding within fifteen (15) days of the conference.

A suspended student shall not be denied the opportunity to take any quarterly, semester, or grading period examinations or to complete course work missed during the suspension period. Such work shall be completed pursuant to the procedures established by the Board.

EXPULSION

Under this policy, expulsion shall mean the Board will not permit a student to attend school at all, including any school-sponsored events or activities, for a specified period of time. If the student is expelled, the Board will determine the length of the expulsion period, which may extend at a maximum to the student's 21st birthday. The Board's expulsion order may include the opportunity for the student to return to school prior to expiration of the term of expulsion under a specified set of early reinstatement condition(s) which are related to the conduct for which the student was expelled. The condition(s), once set forth in an expulsion order, shall be administered at the discretion of the District Administrator who shall have the authority to deny early reinstatement if any early reinstatement condition is not met prior to reinstatement or to revoke it for the remainder of the expulsion period if any enrollment condition applicable to the student's attendance during a period of expulsion under early reinstatement, or conditional enrollment, are deemed by the District Administrator to have been violated. The decision to revoke a student's conditional enrollment shall be explained in writing. The student or student's parent may request a conference with the District Administrator within five (5) school days of a decision to revoke early reinstatement. The District Administrator shall meet with the student and/or parents within five (5) school days of a request. The District Administrator's decision is final.

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The District Administrator may designate another School District employee to perform the functions pertaining to a student's early reinstatement but may not designate someone that is an administrator or teacher in the student's school.

The Board may expel a student only when it is satisfied that the interest of the school demands the student's expulsion and only when the student: repeatedly refused or neglected to obey the rules established by the School District; knowingly conveyed or caused to be conveyed any threat or false information concerning an attempt or alleged attempt being made or to be made to destroy any school property by means of explosives; engaged in conduct while at school while under the supervision of a school authority that endangered the property, health, or safety of others; engaged in conduct while not at school or while not under the supervision of a school authority that endangered the property, health, or safety of others at school or under the supervision of a school authority or endangered the property, health, or safety of any employee or Board member of the ~~School~~ District in which the student is enrolled; or was at least sixteen (16) years old and had repeatedly engaged in conduct while at school or while under the supervision of a school authority that disrupted the ability of school authorities to maintain order or an education atmosphere at school or at an activity supervised by a school authority and that such conduct did no otherwise constitute grounds for expulsion. For purposes of this policy, conduct that endangers a person or property includes making a threat to the health or safety of a person or making a threat to damage property.

The Board shall hold an expulsion hearing in the event a student is in possession of a firearm while at school or under the supervision of school authorities and shall expel a student from school for not less than one (1) year whenever it finds that the student brought a firearm to school or, while at school or while under the supervision of a school authority, possessed a firearm, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921(a)(3), unless the Board finds that the punishment should be reduced based upon the circumstances of the incident. Any such finding by the board shall be in writing. This does not include any circumstance in which a student possessed a firearm while lawfully hunting on school forest land.

The District shall refer any student who brings a firearm (as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921(a)(3)) or a weapon to school to law enforcement.

As required by 20 U.S.C. 7151, the District Administrator will ensure that the following information is sent to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; a copy of this policy; a description of the circumstances surrounding any expulsion(s) for violating the above-stated firearms policy; the name of the school; the number of student expelled; and the types of firearms involved.

Prior to expelling a student, the Board shall provide the student with a hearing. Prior written notice of the hearing must be sent separately to both the student and if the student is a minor, to their parent(s). The notice must be sent at least five (5) days prior to the date of hearing, not counting the date notice is sent. The notice must also satisfy the requirements of 120.13(1)(c)4, Wis. Stats.

Board Approved 5/12/14; 1/22/18; 6/10/19; 6/26/23T; 8/26/24; 2/24/25T
Adoption Resolution 10/13/14

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An expelled student or, if the student is a minor, the student's parent(s) may appeal the Board's expulsion decision to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. An appeal from the decision of the Department may be taken within thirty (30) days to the circuit court for the county in which the school is located.

Legal References:

119.25, Wis. Stats.

120.13, Wis. Stats.

18 U.S.C. 921(1)(3)

20 U.S.C. 7151

42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.

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