

# THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

SECTION: 200 Pupils

TITLE: Suspension and  
Expulsion

ADOPTED: August 24, 2011

REVISED: June 21, 2018

## 233 SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION

### **Purpose**

This policy governs the suspension and expulsion of students from the school district. The School Reform Commission recognizes that exclusion from the educational program of the schools, whether by suspension or expulsion, is the most severe sanction that can be imposed on a student and one that cannot be imposed without due process.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)

The SRC intends not only that this policy be applied when facts and circumstances clearly warrant the imposition of a suspension or expulsion, but also that expulsions are pursued by the district only when absolutely necessary and appropriate. The SRC is aware that, pursuant to state regulations, if a student is expelled from the district, it is that student's parent/guardian who is responsible for the student's continued education; however, District shall continue to assist all expelled students and their parents/guardians by providing alternative education options that are separate from the comprehensive school educational system from which the student was expelled.[\[1\]](#)

### **Definitions**

**Alternative education** - a system of options for students that provides a high quality academic program and supports that address the diverse needs of students significantly at risk of dropping out of school, returning from court-sponsored placements, and those subject to disciplinary transfer or expulsion.

**Expulsion** - the exclusion of a student from the District, by a majority vote of the SRC, for a period exceeding ten (10) consecutive school days. Expulsions may be permanent or for a specified period of time.[\[1\]](#)[\[4\]](#)[\[5\]](#)[\[6\]](#)

**In-school suspension** - an exclusion from the classroom that allows a student to remain under the direct supervision of school personnel.

**Long-term suspension** - an exclusion from school and/or any school activity or function for a period of four (4) to ten (10) consecutive school days.

**Short-term suspension** - an exclusion from school and/or any school activity or function for a period of three (3) consecutive school days or less.

**Suspension** - the exclusion of a student from school for a period of one (1) to ten (10) consecutive school days.[\[1\]](#)

**Authority**

The SRC shall define and publish the types of offenses that would lead to exclusion from school. Exclusions affecting students with disabilities shall be governed by applicable state and federal law and regulations.[\[1\]\[2\]\[3\]\[7\]\[8\]](#)

The SRC may, after a proper hearing, suspend or expel a student for such time as it deems necessary, or may permanently expel a student.[\[1\]\[4\]\[5\]](#)

Kindergarten, first, and second grade students shall not be suspended from school unless their actions result in serious bodily injury.

**Delegation of Responsibility**

The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative procedures to implement this policy which include:

1. Publication of a Code of Student Conduct, in accordance with SRC policy on student discipline.[\[19\]](#)
2. Procedures that ensure due process when a student is being deprived of the right to attend school.
3. Regulations regarding student records which require that records of disciplinary suspension be maintained in accordance with SRC policy on student records.[\[10\]](#)
4. The name of a student who has been disciplined shall not become part of the agenda or minutes of a public meeting, nor part of any public record of the SRC. Such students may be designated by code.
5. Procedures for readmission to the school district and expungement of expulsion records.

All administrative procedures developed by the Superintendent or designee shall be advertised in all district schools, on the district's website, and made available to all students' parents/guardians.

**Legal References:**

1. [22 PA Code 12.6](#)
2. [22 PA Code 12.7](#)
3. [22 PA Code 14.143](#)
4. [22 PA Code 12.8](#)
5. [24 P.S. 1318](#)
6. [24 P.S. 696](#)

- 7. 20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq
- 8. 34 CFR Part 300
- 9. Pol. 113.4 - Confidentiality of Special Education Student Information
- 10. Pol. 216 - Student Records
- 11. Pol. 903 - Public Participation in Commission Meetings
- 12. 24 P.S. 1317.2
- 13. Pol. 218.1 - Weapons
- 14. 2 Pa. C.S.A. 101 et seq
- 15. 2 Pa. C.S.A. 101
- 16. Pol. 204 - Attendance
- 17. Pol. 113 - Special Education
- 18. Pol. 113.1 - Discipline of Students With Disabilities
- 19. Pol. 218 - Student Conduct and Discipline

**Related Information:**

22 PA Code 12.3