

Student Discipline

Model School Board Policy

In the use of disciplinary authority, including suspension and expulsion authority, neither the Board nor any employee or school administrator may discriminate on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability.

Before the beginning of the school year, the School Board shall determine:

1. A specification of what constitutes dangerous, disruptive or unruly behavior or behavior that interferes with the ability of the teacher to teach effectively under 118.164 (2), Wis. Stats.
2. Any grounds in addition to those under subd. 1. for the removal of a pupil from the class under s. 118.164 (2), Wis. Stats.
3. The procedures for determining the appropriate educational placement of a pupil who has been removed from the class and assigned a placement by the school principal or his or her designee under 118.164, Wis. Stats.
4. A procedure for notifying the parent or guardian of a minor pupil who has been removed from the class under 118.164 (2), Wis. Stats.

A description of the above-referenced determinations regarding discipline shall be provided to parents at least once annually, at the beginning of the school year, such as in the student handbook.

The School Board endorses alternatives to out-of-school suspension when appropriate. Such alternatives may include, but are not limited to, before-school detention, lunch/recess detention, after-school detention, Saturday detention, and in-school suspension.



In-school discipline alternatives to out-of-school suspension may be offered at the discretion of the principal for inappropriate conduct pursuant to District policy.

No student is to be detained after the close of the regular school day unless the student's parent has been contacted and informed that the student will be detained. No student shall be refused transportation services until the parent has been notified and other suitable transportation arrangements have been made. Notification to the parent is the responsibility of District personnel and should be made prior to the departure of school buses. If a parent cannot be contacted, the child should be detained on another day.

For purposes of this policy, the term "parent" includes a legal guardian or other person standing in loco parentis (such as grandparent or stepparent with whom the child lives, or a person who is legally responsible for the welfare of the child).

Rights under this policy transfer from the parents to a student who is 18 years old or emancipated under State law.

Legal Analysis

Wisconsin law specifically addresses requirements for student discipline by school districts including, Wis. Stat. § 120.13, school board powers for suspension and expulsion and Wis. Stat. § 118.164, relating to the removal of a pupil from class. Federal law also limits disciplinary options for students with disabilities, such as when conduct in violation of school policy is determined to be a manifestation of the disability of a student. See 20 U.S.C. 1415(k)(1)(E); 34 C.F.R. § 300.530.

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