

STUDENT DISCIPLINARY INTERVENTIONS

Disciplinary interventions shall include a range of ~~alternatives~~ strategies designed to identify problems and modify behavior. They may include counseling, behavioral contracts, and logical consequences. If an intervention is not effective in modifying unacceptable behavior, it shall be terminated and an alternate method shall be implemented.

Disciplinary interventions shall support students remaining in school and in the classroom to increase the likelihood of the student's academic and social success. However, this is not to be done at the expense of effective teaching time of other students. No student has the right to disrupt a class so as to interfere with the instruction of other students.

The degree, frequency, and circumstances surrounding each incident shall determine the method and consequences used in enforcing the district policies. In particular the following policies shall be observed:

- Disciplinary comment and action shall not be designed to shame or humiliate a student, publicly or privately.
- Behavioral interventions shall be used only for behavioral offenses, and academic consequences shall be used only for academic offenses.
- The punishment of a group for the actions of one or more of its individuals shall be unacceptable. Consequences shall apply only to the student who misbehaves.
- A student may be given the option to perform a service in lieu of a behavioral consequence if the student and staff (~~intervention Team~~) agree on a mutually acceptable plan.

Principals and staff shall be responsible for dealing with student discipline problems as they occur. Staff shall have the right to impose disciplinary interventions other than suspension (in-school or out-of-school) or expulsion and shall be responsible for their implementation. If the interventions are not effective, the staff member shall notify the administration that further intervention is necessary. Principals have the right, with due process, to suspend or expel students under certain circumstances as described herein.

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Interventions Team

~~Members of the school community whose~~ Students whose behavior does not conform to the expectations of the school code of conduct shall be required to work ~~with~~ with an Intervention Team school officials on interventions. ~~The Intervention Team shall include a guidance counselor and/or school psychologist, a building administrator, a teacher, the student being counseled, and a parent or guardian of the student.~~

The goals of the Interventions ~~Team~~ shall be as follows:

1. Identify the cause of the misbehavior
2. Propose a strategy to modify the student behavior
3. Address any grievances made by other members of the community
4. Evaluate whether interventions have been effective, and if not,
5. Propose an alternate approach to channel the behavior in an appropriate manner.

It shall be the responsibility of the principal to ensure that an Intervention s are convened in a timely manner, and to notify parents and/or guardians of the student if he/she is removed from the classroom or from a school activity. It shall be the responsibility of the principal in conjunction with the Intervention Team to determine what disciplinary intervention shall be employed and to insure its implementation.

Detention of a student after school hours ~~shall not be implemented as a punishment, but rather is as~~ an opportunity to ~~correct~~ address a problem, for example; to complete make-up work, receive tutoring, meet with a counselor, or to accept other logical consequences of unacceptable behavior. Parent/guardians must ~~receive~~ be informed within 24 hrs; and if able to arrange transportation so the detention may be served within 24 hours ~~notice prior to a student being detained after school hours.~~ A teacher may assign a detention that he/she supervises personally.

Suspension is the temporary exclusion of the student from the school, classroom, or school activity.

In-school suspension of a student from the classroom or other school-sponsored activity may be employed when a student has been an ongoing disruption to the class and other methods of intervention have failed. During the time the student is excluded from the classroom, efforts shall be increased to help him/her develop the discipline needed to function appropriately in the classroom and to help him/her to keep up with class work. While on suspension, students shall be responsible for and given credit for all successfully completed class work, homework and tests given during that time. Teachers shall provide these assignments but shall not be expected to make up classroom instruction time. Students who are placed on in-school suspension shall not be allowed to attend or participate in any school function outside the school day, extracurricular activity, or sports program for the duration of that suspension. They are to leave the school building and property at the end of the regularly scheduled school day and are not to return to the school premises until the next school day except to serve a Saturday detention. Students on in-school suspension may ride the bus unless otherwise determined by the principal.

Out-of-school suspension of a student may only be employed if a student's presence on campus is determined to be dangerous to others or so disruptive as to interfere with the normal operation of school. Out-of-school suspension of a student may be the consequence of illegal/unlawful actions or behaviors. Prior to re-admittance of the student, the principal shall be responsible for ~~convening an~~ interventions Team to ~~discuss~~ address social, psychological, and academic needs of the student. ~~At this time~~ When appropriate a plan shall be made which will ~~attempt to diminish~~ address the likelihood of another suspension of the student in the future.

While on suspension, students shall be responsible for and given credit for all class work, homework, and tests given and completed during that time. Students under out-of-school suspension will not be allowed to attend or participate in any school function outside the regular school day, extra-curricular activity or sports program, or to be on any school property (including school buses) during the time of suspension.

Expulsion is the "permanent exclusion of a student from the school system." The expulsion of a student may be used only when there is no other way a student can be safely reintroduced to the school during the present school year, such as the conviction of a felony.

Academic consequences shall be employed only for academic offenses. Academic offenses are failure to prepare for class, cheating, and plagiarism. Academic interventions shall be based upon a system of logical consequences. Academic consequences include grade lowering and reduction of course credits. The only situation in which a student may be barred from the classroom is if his/her behavior is dangerous or disruptive to other students in the classroom, to him/herself, or to staff.

Corporal punishment shall not be used under any circumstances, however, school staff and other employees may use reasonable force as is necessary to protect pupils, other persons, and themselves from an assault by a pupil. When such an assault has occurred, the principal shall file a detailed report with the Superintendent and local police. (M.G.L. 71:37G)

