

Questions and Answers

Appendix IV

The following information sheet has been developed to assist parents in understanding suspension.

Where can I find board policy that addresses suspension?

You can get a copy of Algoma District School Board's Safe Schools Policies from the school or at www.adsb.on.ca under policy.

What is a suspension?

Suspension is one strategy within a range of progressive discipline options designed to support the student in changing inappropriate behaviour. It may be appropriate to assign an out-of-school suspension to a student as part of an ongoing process to modifying inappropriate behaviour. All suspensions range between one and 20 school days. Suspension between 6 and 20 school days are referred to as long-term suspensions. A Student Action Plan will be developed for every student on a long-term suspension who makes a commitment to fulfill the requirements of the program. The content and balance of the suspension program for a student will depend on the needs of the student, the length of the suspension, and the nature and severity of the behaviour that led to the suspension, including progressive discipline and any mitigating or other factors.

What do principals take into account when considering a suspension?

Principals work through a careful and thorough process when deciding whether to suspend a student and for how long. When addressing inappropriate behaviour, principals must consider progressive discipline for the individual student and circumstances of the incident, the nature and severity of the behaviour, its impact on the school climate, and mitigating and any other factors. Mitigating factors, are defined by the Ministry of Education and board policy. (Board Policy 6.49.02 *Progressive Discipline Policy, Including Suspension and Expulsion* Section 4.1).

What activities may lead to a suspension?

Only principals have the authority to suspend students. A principal will consider whether to suspend a student if she/he believes that the student has engaged in circumstances that impact negatively on the school climate. For a list of circumstances that may result in suspension please refer to (Board Policy 6.49.02 *Progressive Discipline Policy, Including Suspension and Expulsion* Section 4.1).

How will my child continue her/his education while on suspension?

For the period of the suspension, your child will be offered academic programming, from the school, to assist with keeping course work up-to-date. A non-academic counselling component will be made available for suspensions beyond 10 days. The school principal will coordinate a planning meeting with you to develop a Student Action Plan outlining goals, objectives and learning expectations.

PROGRAM FOR STUDENT ON A LONG-TERM SUSPENSION				
Suspension or Suspension Pending Expulsion	Planning Meeting	Student Action Plan (S.A.P.)		Re-Entry Meeting
		Academic Supports	Non-Academic Supports	
6-10 school days suspension	*	*	Not required	*
11-20 school days suspension	*	*	*	*
Up to 20 school days Suspension Pending expulsion	*	*	*	*
Supports for students with special education needs will be consistent with Individual Education Plan (IEP).				

Can suspensions be appealed?

Yes. All suspensions can be appealed to the school board. Should you choose to request a review of the suspension or suspension appeal, please be advised that such a request does not delay the suspension. Please note that a Parent's *Guideline for Suspension Appeal* is available electronically on the board website at www.adsb.on.ca under policies or by request to the school principal.