



Hillcrest Christian School

Student Suspension and Expulsion Policy

STUDENT CONDUCT AND CONSEQUENCES

Background

It is necessary for schools to establish and enforce standards of student conduct and behaviour that support a favourable learning environment free from physical, emotional and social abuse. All students have the right to be safe and secure in school. Accompanying that right is the responsibility to respect the rights of those around them, and to accept the positive and negative consequences of their behavior.

All students and staff, in accordance with biblical values, shall treat students with dignity, respect and fairness. In addition, it is expected that students and parents will recognize their responsibility to develop self-discipline within the student.

Procedures

1. Students shall conduct themselves in accordance with the Education Act which outlines a code of conduct for students in Alberta schools.
2. Students shall exercise their responsibilities to:
 - 2.1 Use their abilities and talents to gain maximum learning benefits from their school experiences; and
 - 2.2 Contribute to a climate of mutual trust and respect conducive to effective learning, personal development and social living.
3. In addition to behavioral expectations during school hours, students shall be responsible and accountable for their behaviour and conduct:
 - 3.1 While involved in school-sponsored or related activities;
 - 3.2 While on school property;
 - 3.3 During any lunch periods, on or off school property;
 - 3.4 While travelling to and from school; and
 - 3.5 Beyond the hours of school operation if the behaviour or conduct detrimentally affects the welfare of individual students or the governance, climate or efficiency of the school.
4. The Principal shall, in conjunction with the students, staff and School Board, establish and maintain appropriate procedures to ensure an acceptable standard of student conduct.
5. Failure to comply to meet the expectations for behaviour and conduct shall result in some or all of the following consequences:
 - 5.1 Problem solving, monitoring or reviewing behaviour;
 - 5.2 Parental involvement;
 - 5.3 Referral to attendance board;
 - 5.4 Temporary removal of privileges;
 - 5.5 Detention of student;
 - 5.6 Temporary exclusion of student from class;
 - 5.7 In-school suspension;
 - 5.8 Out-of-school suspension;
 - 5.9 Behaviour contract with student;
 - 5.10 Assessment of student to develop appropriate programming;
 - 5.11 Expulsion from school.



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6. In the event of misbehaviour, students and parents shall have the opportunity to offer an explanation, and to be informed about consequences of misbehaviour.

STUDENT SUSPENSION/EXPULSION

The Board recognizes that a satisfactory climate for learning is dependent upon students' adherence to rules and regulations as set out in Section 36 & 37 of the Education Act. The Board recognizes the principle that teachers stand "in loco parentis" and must be empowered to enforce rules and regulations established by the Board and the school staff.

The suspension or expulsion of a student is to be invoked when other measures have proven to be ineffective or when the seriousness of the offense warrants such actions.

The Board delegates to its Principal the responsibility for acting on its behalf in relation to a hearing relating to suspension or expulsion of students.

GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES

The following shall be considered as adequate grounds for suspension:

1. A teacher or a principal may suspend a student in accordance with subsection (2) or (3) if, in the opinion of the teacher or principal,
 - 1.1 the student has failed to comply with section 31,
 - 1.2 the student has failed to comply with the code of conduct established under section 33(2),
 - 1.3 the student's conduct, whether or not the conduct occurs within the school building or during the school day, is injurious to the physical or mental well-being of others in the school, or
 - 1.4 the student has distributed an intimate image of another person in the circumstances described in section 1(1.1).
 - 1.5 the student has displayed open opposition to authority, willful disobedience, willful damage to property
 - 1.6 the student has consumed, possessed or trafficked alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs while under the supervision of the school; appeared at school or school-sponsored activities while showing evidence of having recently consumed alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs
2. A teacher or Principal may suspend a student
 - 2.1 from school,
 - 2.2 from one or more class periods or courses,
 - 2.3 from transportation provided under section 59, or
 - 2.4 from any school-related activity.
3. When a student is suspended under subsection (3), the principal shall
 - 3.1 immediately inform the student's parent of the suspension,
 - 3.2 report in writing to the student's parent all the circumstances respecting the suspension, and
 - 3.3 provide an opportunity to meet with the student's parent, and the student if the student is 16 years of age or older, to discuss the suspension.
4. A suspension may not exceed 5 school days, except in accordance with a recommendation for expulsion made by the principal under section 37.



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Expulsion

The following shall be considered as adequate grounds for Expulsion:

1. If a student is suspended in accordance with section 36, the principal may recommend, prior to the end of the student's suspension, that the board expel the student if
 - 1.1 the student has displayed an attitude of willful, blatant and repeated refusal to comply with section 31,
 - 1.2 the student has displayed an attitude of willful, blatant and repeated refusal to comply with the code of conduct established under section 33(2),
 - 1.3 the student's conduct, whether or not the conduct occurs within the school building or during the school day, is injurious to the physical or mental well-being of others in the school, or
 - 1.4 the student has distributed an intimate image of another person in the circumstances described in section 1(1.1).
 - 1.5 the student has displayed open opposition to authority, willful disobedience, willful damage to property
 - 1.6 the student has consumed, possessed or trafficked alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs while under the supervision of the school; appeared at school or school-sponsored activities while showing evidence of having recently consumed alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs
2. If the principal recommends expulsion under subsection (1), the principal shall
 - 2.1 immediately inform the board of the recommendation for expulsion, and
 - 2.2 report in writing to the board all the circumstances respecting the suspension and the principal's recommendation for expulsion, and the student remains suspended until the board has made a decision under subsection (4).
3. The student and the student's parent may make representations to the board with respect to the principal's recommendation to expel the student.
4. The board shall, within 10 school days after the initial date of the suspension, make a decision
 - (a) to return the student to school, class, a course or courses, transportation provided under section 59 or a school-related activity, or
 - (b) to expel the student.
5. The board may expel a student under subsection (4) only if the principal has recommended that the board expel the student.
6. If a student is expelled under this section, the expulsion takes effect immediately following the board's decision under subsection (4)(b).
7. The board may establish rules or conditions for an expelled student respecting the circumstances in which the student may be enrolled in the same or a different education program.
8. An expulsion or any rule or condition under subsection (7) may apply to a student beyond the school year in which the student was expelled.
9. When a student is expelled under this section, the board shall immediately notify, in writing, the student's parent, and the student if the student is 16 years of age or older,
 - (a) of the expulsion and any rules or conditions that apply to the student, and
 - (b) of the right to request a review under section 43.



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- 10 When a student is expelled under this section, the board shall
 - 10.1 ensure that the student is provided with a supervised education program consistent with the requirements of this Act and the regulations,
 - 10.2 ensure that the student is provided with supports and services in accordance with section 33(1)(e), and
 - 10.3 make all reasonable efforts to ensure the attendance of the student in accordance with section 7.

In cases where a student is demonstrating escalating behavioural issues that may lead to an expulsion, the parent should be notified of the possibility of an expulsion and this notification should be documented by the school.

Where a student meets the definition of independent student as cited in the Education Act, all correspondence normally directed to the parent or guardian shall be directed to the student.

The following procedure will be adhered to in a hearing:

1. Attending the meeting will be the Board or designate, the School Principal and the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the student, should they wish to make representation. The parents/guardians may choose to bring an additional representative.
2. All documentation made available to the School Board shall also be made available to the parent(s)/guardian(s).
3. The Chairperson or designated Trustee of the Board shall chair the meeting.
4. The cause of suspension and related communication will be reviewed with the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the student who shall have an opportunity to speak to the circumstances of the suspension.
5. The Board Chair or designate, the student, the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the Principal may ask questions and discuss the matter with the parties at the meeting.
6. A recorder will take minutes of the meeting.