

PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE - SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS

A child's right to receive an education is an important one, which should not be lightly taken away. As a result, children in public, catholic and private schools are entitled to have all allegations fairly and impartially investigated. Families also have the right to have an appeal process from a principal's decision to expel or suspend a student for more than one day. Suspensions and Expulsion should never be the first point of consequence.

Principals are only allowed to consider suspension if a student from Grade 4 to Grade 12 has engaged in any of the activities listed below, which are outlined in subsection 306(1) of the Education Act. **As of September 1, 2020, students in junior kindergarten to Grade 3 can no longer be suspended for these activities:**

- Uttering a threat to inflict serious bodily harm on another person
- Possessing alcohol, cannabis (unless the student is authorized to use cannabis for medical purposes), or illegal drugs
- Being under the influence of alcohol or cannabis (unless the student is authorized to use cannabis for medical purposes)
- Swearing at a teacher or at any person in a position of authority
- Committing an act of vandalism that causes extensive damage to school property at the student's school or to property on school premises
- Bullying, including cyber-bullying
- Any other activities identified in school board policy. It is important to note that the final category
- is based on individual school policies which are instituted by principals and school councils

Suspension and Expulsions can also be considered whether the activity took place at school, at a school-related activity (e.g., a field trip), or in any other circumstances where the student's behaviour has an impact on the school climate (like cyber bullying).

If a student in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 3 has engaged in any of the activities listed below, the principal will investigate the allegations to determine if the student should be suspended or expelled.

Students can be expelled for:

- Possessing a weapon, including a firearm
- Using a weapon to cause or threaten bodily harm to another person
- Committing physical assault on another person that causes bodily harm requiring treatment by a medical practitioner
- Committing sexual assault
- Trafficking in weapons or illegal drugs
- Committing robbery
- Giving alcohol or cannabis to a minor
- Bullying - if the student was suspended before for bullying and the student's presence in the school
- Creates an unacceptable risk to the safety of another person
- Any activity for which a student can be suspended that is motivated by bias, prejudice or hate
- Any other activities identified in school board policy

Links to Resources:

- [System Navigation Booklet](#)
- [Learn More About Systems Abuse](#)
- [Learn More About Freedom of Information Requests](#)
- [Learn More About The Impact of Trauma on Black Children](#)

