

STUDENT SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION

A student may be suspended or expelled from any public school for good cause in accordance with state law and local policies. A recommendation for expulsion results in an automatic suspension of the student from school until a hearing is held with a designee of the Superintendent. A recommendation for expulsion results in a minimum of three (3) days suspension.

I. DISCIPLINE OF PUPILS: EXPULSION & SUSPENSION

Any student who commits the offenses listed below shall be recommended for expulsion.

A. DRUGS

1. Any student who
 - a. is in possession of, or;
 - b. is in possession of with intent to distribute, sell, give, or loan, or;
 - c. has knowledge of and intent to distribute, sell, give, or loan any narcotics, drugs, including alcohol, drug paraphernalia or any controlled substance governed by the Controlled Dangerous Substance Law, on school property, a school bus or at a school event shall be recommended for expulsion. It shall also be a violation of the drug policy if the substance, possessed or distributed, is believed by the possessor or represented by him/her to be a substance prohibited by this policy.
2. Any student who is under the influence of narcotics, drugs, alcohol, or an control substance, governed by the Controlled Dangerous Substance Law, on a school campus, school bus or at a school event shall be recommended for expulsion.
3. It shall be the policy of the Lafayette Parish School System that on the recommendation of the school administrator any student in possession of a chemical substance other than an illegal narcotic, drug, or other controlled substance and not covered by the medication policy shall be recommended for expulsion.
4. Any student sixteen (16) years of age or older found guilty in the court system of possession of, and/or possession with intent to distribute any illegal narcotic, drug or other controlled substance on school property, or a school bus, or bus stop, or at a school event shall be expelled from school for a minimum of twenty-four (24) calendar months unless such student has agreed to participate and participates full time in a juvenile drug court program operated by a court of this state as required for such student by the appropriate authority. Such student may be placed by the school system in an alternative education program for suspended and expelled

- students approved by the State board of Elementary and Secondary Education. (LA R.S. 17:416)
5. Any student under sixteen (16) years of age and in grades 6-12 who is found guilty of possession of, and/or knowledge of intentional distribution of, and/or possession with intent to distribute any illegal narcotic, drug, or other controlled substance on school property, on a school bus or bus stop, or at a school event shall be expelled from school for a minimum period of twelve (12) calendar months unless such student has agreed to participate and participates full time in a juvenile drug court program operated by a court of this state as required for such student by the appropriate authority. Such student may be placed by the school system in an alternative education program for suspended and expelled students approved by the State board of Elementary and Secondary Education. (LA R.S. 17:416)
 6. Any case involving a student in grades K-5 found guilty (pursuant to a hearing) of possession of, and/or knowledge of intentional distribution of, and/or with intent to distribute any illegal narcotic, drug, or other controlled substance on school property, on a school bus or bus stop, or at a school event shall be referred to the local School Board through a recommendation for action from the Superintendent.
 7. Any student recommended for expulsion and/or arrested for intentional distribution of, or possession with intent to distribute any illegal narcotic, drug, or other controlled substance on school property shall be referred by the school principal or his designee for testing or screening by a qualified medical professional for evidence of abuse of alcohol, illegal narcotics, drugs, or other controlled dangerous substance. If evidence of abuse is found, the student can be referred to an alcohol and drug abuse treatment professional chosen by the student's parent or tutor. If the student is found by the professional to be in need of treatment, as certified in writing by the medical professional, such documentation may be used to initiate reopening the student's case. The School Board shall take into consideration the student's agreement to receive treatment as a positive factor in the final decision relative to any final disciplinary action.
 8. When the principal/designee has reasonable cause to believe that a student is in possession of alcohol, controlled dangerous substances, or any mood altering chemicals, to include possession of drug paraphernalia, or is under the influence of alcohol, controlled dangerous substances, or any mood altering chemicals, parents/guardians and the appropriate law enforcement agencies shall be contacted immediately. The student shall be recommended for expulsion from school according to the following procedures:

- a. Parents/guardian are responsible for scheduling a hearing with the Lafayette Parish Schools Census and Attendance Office. A hearing is scheduled to determine the readmittance status of student to the school system.
 - b. Prior to the return to school the student must be assessed by a community agency or qualified professional approved by the Lafayette Parish Schools' Substance Abuse Prevention Program. Results of the assessment are to be made known to the Substance Abuse Prevention Program Supervisor and principal of the school where the disciplinary action was taken.
9. All students readmitted to school after a hearing for having been under the influence, but not in possession of any controlled dangerous substance governed by the Controlled Dangerous Substances Law or under the influence or in possession of alcohol and substances not exempted by the medication policy, shall meet the following conditions:
- a. Students must remain suspended for five (5) days.
 - b. Student in grades 6-12 must participate in a Substance Abuse Guidance Program structured by the Lafayette Parish School System that will include a total of twelve (12) hours of substance abuse education for the student and a minimum of four (4) hours must be attended by a parent of legal guardian as prescribed by the Substance Abuse Prevention Supervisor. Students in grades K-5 must comply with the recommendations of the Substance Abuse Prevention Guidance Program.
 - c. If the student and his/her parent/guardian do not complete the required Substance Abuse Guidance Program sessions, the student will be subject to expulsion.
 - d. Any second offense during the school session will result in an expulsion for the remainder of the school session.
 - e. The student must participate in a school-based support group upon return.
10. Students who are under the influence due to ingestion or inhalation of a substance intended to be mind or mood altering by the student, but not defined as a controlled dangerous substance, are subject to discipline including, but not limited to, expulsion for the remainder of the school year.
11. A student's agreement to receive treatment, for his/her substance abuse, as recommended by an approved professional, will be a positive factor in reconsidering the student's re-admittance to school (La. R.S.17.416.) Failure to comply with these procedures will result in an expulsion from school for the

remainder of the school year.

12. The Substance Abuse Prevention Policy establishes criteria to determine student impairment due to the influence of alcohol, controlled dangerous substances, or any mood altering substance as follows:
 - a. Slurred speech.
 - b. Difficulty with coordination, balance or walking.
 - c. Inability to talk coherently, i.e., to make sensible sentences and statements.
 - d. Agitated or violent behavior.
 - e. Lapses into unconsciousness.
 - f. Inability to focus physically or mentally on a simple task; such as looking at a face or hand, or remembering a two-digit number for 30 seconds.
 - g. Severe signs of physical distress, i.e., difficulty in breathing, chest pains, etc., peculiar A “drug” odor, i.e., alcohol, marijuana.

Note: Controlled dangerous substance examples would include such illegal drugs such as cocaine, marijuana, GHB; mood altering substances would include substances available but not illegal such as mini-thins, diet pills, etc. The Safe and Drug-Free Advisors assigned to the schools in the Lafayette Parish School System will follow-up on the assessment of these students as well as their attendance at the required twelve (12) hour educational program.

B. WEAPONS

1. Any student found carrying or possessing a knife or other dangerous instrument shall immediately be recommended for expulsion by the principal. In the case of a student in grades K-5 who is found carrying or possessing a knife for the purposes of involvement in a school class, school-approved co-curricular or extra-curricular activities, administrators should be encouraged to require knives and other implements for school approval co-curricular and extra-activities be retained within the classroom.
2. A student found carrying a firearm or other dangerous instrument, shall have the principal immediately recommend the student’s expulsion. Any student found guilty of being in possession of a firearm on school property will be expelled from school for a minimum period of twelve (12) calendar months. This period of expulsion may be modified on the recommendation of the Superintendent as per the provisions of Federal

legislation including the Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994, 18 USC921 Et.Seq. (Federal Law prohibits possession of firearms on any school campus).

3. A weapon may include any item capable of causing bodily harm, as well as an object, including a toy, that appears to be a weapon or that can be used to cause bodily harm. A weapon under subsection AC includes any object that can reasonably be used to inflict serious bodily injury when a

student uses such an item with intent to harm or intimidate someone or when there is no other reasonable purpose for possessing the object, except to use it as a weapon. In addition to the above, if a student possesses an instrument or a toy that appears to be a firearm and displays it with malice, a principal may suspend or recommend the student for expulsion. If a student possesses an instrument or a toy that does not appear to be a firearm or does not use or display it with malice, a principal may discipline the student pursuant to school policy.

C. ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Electronic devices in the possession of students are banned from all school facilities, grounds, and school buses, etc. unless authorized by the school principal or his/her designee. Electronic devices will be confiscated and returned to the parent. Cellular phones are banned on school campuses. Repeated violation of this ban shall be grounds for disciplinary action, including but not limited to suspension.

D. OTHER SERIOUS OFFENSES

1. A school principal may suspend or recommend expulsion for any student for good cause in accordance with federal and state laws and local policies.
2. A pupil suspended for damages to any property belonging to or contracted by the school system, any personal property of a school employee and/or other employee or student, or any school bus shall not return to school until damages are paid or until directed by the Superintendent of Schools.

II. HEARING & APPEALS

A. EXPULSION HEARINGS

Upon the recommendation by a principal for the expulsion of any student, the Superintendent or his/her designee shall conduct a hearing. Upon the conclusion of the hearing, the Superintendent or his/her designee, shall determine whether such student shall be expelled from the school system or if other corrective or disciplinary action shall be taken. At this hearing, the principal and/or teacher

concerned may be represented by any person appointed by the Superintendent. Until such hearing takes place, the student shall remain suspended from the school. At the hearing, the student may be represented by any person of his choice. However, it is preferable that the parents attend the hearing to facilitate cooperative efforts between the family and the school system. Requests for an expulsion hearing should be directed to the Office of Census and Attendance. When a student is not readmitted at the hearing, any appeal made to the Superintendent must be in writing.

B. SUSPENSION APEAL

1. When a parent requests an appeal of a suspension, the student remains in school until the appeal is heard unless the student is a danger to himself or to others. If a student has already served the term of suspension prior to a parental request for appeal, then attendance credit and make-up work will be allowed if the suspension is not sustained by the Superintendent or his/her designee.
2. Any request to appeal a suspension must be made within five (5) days of the receipt of the written notice of the principal's assignment of suspension as the disciplinary action for an offense. Requests for suspension appeals should be directed to the Office of Census and Attendance.

III. STUDENT ARREST

The principal or his/her designee may call law enforcement where circumstances in his/her judgment warrant such action.

IV. ASSAULT/BATTERY ON SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Any student who commits assault and/or battery on a school employee shall be expelled for the remainder of the school session. The administration of school level discipline does not supersede the right of the employee to pursue civil charges.

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LEGAL REF.:	LA.R.S. 17:416		
LEGAL REF.:	LA.R.S. 17:239		

Lafayette Parish Public Schools, Louisiana