



AP L4 Student Behaviour and Discipline

Legislative References: *School Act*, Section 6, 11, 26, 76(3)

Policy Reference: 400 student discipline; Bylaw #3 Section 11 Appeals Procedures

Collective Agreement References: None

Date: November 15, 2025

The District shares a responsibility with parents and community to prepare students as responsible citizens, who contribute to a safe, caring and orderly school and a socially responsible society.

Clearly stated, well-publicised, and fairly and consistently enforced expectations play a role in supporting and sustaining safe and caring learning and working environments by

- promoting a sense of security
- promoting commitment
- reducing stress
- promoting students' capacity for self-regulation
- supporting classroom teachers' efforts to increase learning time
- facilitating communication and cooperation amongst staff, parents/guardians and the community

This administrative practice recognizes the First People's Principles of Learning and the importance of providing learning opportunities, restitution, and restorative practices as alternatives to suspension.

1. **Expectations of Behaviour**

- 1.1. Student discipline will, consistent with the *School Act*, be similar to that of a kind, firm and judicious parent, and not include corporal punishment.
- 1.2. Under the direction of the principal, schools will establish, publicise, enforce, review and revise, as necessary, clearly stated expectations for student behaviour. These will:
 - 1.2.1. be framed in positive language;
 - 1.2.2. form the basis of the schools' codes of conduct;
 - 1.2.3. emphasize and promote positive behaviour;
 - 1.2.4. address instances where students do not fulfil their duties as students;
 - 1.2.5. be in keeping with the students' age, abilities, and developmental levels;
 - 1.2.6. exist on a continuum in which the severity of consequences will match the severity of the behaviour concerned (in terms of intent, severity and frequency);



- 1.2.7. be, to the greatest extent possible, restorative rather than punitive;
 - 1.2.8. involve the use of alternatives which include counseling, mediation, and restorative justice measures whenever and wherever possible;
 - 1.2.9. maintain the dignity of all parties;
 - 1.2.10. apply to all activities at all times.
- 1.3. When other efforts have failed, or the severity of the behaviour warrants it, consequences may involve the suspension of privileges, including:
- 1.3.1. use of District transportation services including buses and water taxis;
 - 1.3.2. attendance in a program of the school; and/or
 - 1.3.3. attendance at school.

2. **Suspension of Students from School**

- 2.1. The school principal has the overall responsibility for the maintenance of student discipline and school rules. Under the general supervision of the Superintendent, and under the authority of the *School Act*, a principal or their designate may suspend a student or remove a suspension imposed on a student.
- 2.1.1. Alternative consequences should be considered in place of suspension where appropriate.
- 2.2. The principal, or designate, may suspend a student if:
- 2.2.1. a student willfully refuses to comply with the code of conduct and other rules and policies of the Board or the school, or
 - 2.2.2. the behaviour of the student has a harmful effect on or jeopardizes the safety and/or well-being of others.
- 2.3. Principals will, wherever practical, consult with staff and/or parents/guardians prior to suspending a student.
- 2.4. Principals will report to parents/guardians the circumstances of the suspension, its duration, and the conditions by which the suspension will be terminated. This can be done in person, by telephone, email, or another form of electronic communication.
- 2.4.1. The principal will follow up with a formal letter, a copy of which shall be forwarded to the Superintendent.
 - 2.4.2. A copy of the letter will be added to the student's cumulative file.
- 2.5. The suspension may take one of several forms, or some combination of these:
- 2.5.1. from a specific school program, or part of a program, commonly called an "in-school" suspension;



- 2.5.2. from attendance at school for either a full or a part day, commonly called an “out-of-school” suspension;
 - 2.5.3. from use of one or more District transportation services, including school buses and water taxis.
- 2.6. Students who are assigned an in-school suspension shall report regularly to school for the duration of the in-school suspension and shall work under the supervision of designated school staff.
- 2.6.1. Arrival and departure times, and break times, of in-school suspended students may be modified from the regular school timetable.
 - 2.6.2. Involvement in school-related social and extracurricular activities may be curtailed.
- 2.7. Students who are assigned an out-of-school suspension shall:
- 2.7.1. remain free and clear of the school, school grounds, and school functions whenever and wherever they occur, for the duration of the suspension, unless the principal or designate has made specific alternate arrangements;
 - 2.7.2. not participate in school-related social and extracurricular activities;
 - 2.7.3. not have the privilege of accessing student transportation services (bus or water taxi) for the duration of their suspension;
 - 2.7.4. report to the principal or designate at the end of the suspension period, to review any conditions of re-entry that may have been stipulated.
- 2.8. Students who are suspended from school per the *School Act* will have an educational program available to them while under suspension and will have the opportunity to complete work/assignments off site.
- 2.9. Should a suspension of greater than five (5) days be considered appropriate to the severity of the student’s behaviour, the Superintendent or their designate shall convene a suspension review committee meeting as soon as practical following notification the suspension.
- 2.9.1. The committee shall consist of the Superintendent or their designate, a principal or vice-principal (of a school other than the student’s), and one trustee. For at risk students, including Indigenous students and those students with an Individual Education Plan, the Principal of Indigenous Education and/or the Vice Principal of Learning Services shall be requested to sit on the committee to best represent the student’s educational needs.



- 2.10. The student and their parents/guardians and the principal and/or vice-principal will be invited to attend a portion of the suspension review meeting to receive and share information relevant to the suspension under consideration.
 - 2.10.1. The meeting date and time will be set in consideration of the parents'/guardians' and principal's/vice-principal's availability.
- 2.11. After meeting with the student and parents/guardians, the committee will make a decision regarding the suspension and outline a plan for school re-entry.
 - 2.11.1. The student shall not return to school until all criteria and required actions identified in the plan have been met.
- 2.12. The Superintendent or designate shall inform the parents/guardians of the committee's decision, in writing.
- 2.13. The Board will receive a formal report regarding the suspension review and terms for re-entry.
- 2.14. In extreme circumstances, a return to school may not be advisable. An educational program may be refused to a student 16 years of age or older if that student:
 - 2.14.1. has refused to comply with the code of conduct, other rules and policies, or
 - 2.14.2. has failed to apply themselves to their studies.
- 2.15. Principals are reminded that, consistent with the *School Act*, s. 11 and the Board Bylaw No. 3 Section 11 Appeal Procedures, a student or parent/guardian may appeal a decision involving a suspension that significantly affects the education, health or safety of the student.

3. Suspension of Student Transportation Privileges

- 3.1. Students making use of the District's transportation services are subject to their school's code of conduct and the disciplinary authority of the principal. Students will comply with all reasonable requests of operators including bus drivers and water taxi personnel.
- 3.2. Operators will report to the principal any instances where a student's behaviour negatively affects the safe and orderly operation of the service, or in which the safety or well-being of other students is threatened.
- 3.3. A principal, vice principal, or teacher-in-charge:



- 3.3.1. may suspend transportation privileges from a student for up to five consecutive school days provided notice is given to the parent or guardian prior to the withdrawal of the services, and/or alternate interim transportation is arranged.
 - 3.3.2. shall report the suspension of services to the Superintendent.
 - 3.3.3. may recommend a longer period of suspension to the Superintendent.
 - 3.3.4. where appropriate, shall arrange with the principal of another school (for example, the one on the student's home island, where that student travels by water taxi to and from a school on another island) for provision of an educational program.
- 3.4. For suspensions of service in excess of five days, the Superintendent or their designate shall meet with the principal and/or vice principal, and the Director of Operations to review the suspension and make a determination regarding reinstatement of the student's transportation privileges.
- 3.4.1. For at risk students, including Indigenous students and those students with an Individual Education Plan, the Principal of Indigenous Education and/or the Vice Principal of Learning Services may be requested to attend the meeting to best represent the student's educational needs.
- 3.5. The student and their parents/guardians and the boat operator and/or bus driver will be invited to attend a portion of the meeting to receive and share information relevant to the transportation suspension under consideration.
- 3.5.1. The meeting date and time will be set in consideration of the parents'/guardians' and principal's/vice-principal's availability.
- 3.6. In view of student safety considerations, the following guidelines are provided to assist principals and operators in dealing with student misbehaviour that results, or might result, in suspension of transportation services privileges:
- 3.6.1. **Morning:** If the misbehaviour occurs on the way to school, the operator shall convey the student to school and ensure that the school principal is notified as quickly as possible in the morning. If the misbehaviour by the student is severe enough to warrant immediate suspension of transportation privileges, the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student are to be notified by the school principal and requested to make other transportation arrangements for their child.
 - 3.6.2. **Afternoon:** When the misbehaviour occurs during the afternoon run, the student must be delivered to their appropriate drop-off point and informed that their behaviour is serious enough to warrant immediate suspension of transportation privileges, and that a recommendation to



that effect will be made to the principal. Following this, the operator/driver must notify the school principal of the problem. The school principal shall then notify the student's parents that the student's transportation privileges have been suspended. If the school principal cannot be contacted, the operator/driver shall notify their supervisor who will then be responsible for advising the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) that the student's transportation privileges have been suspended. Failing this, the operator/bus driver must notify the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) that transportation privileges are suspended until the matter has been addressed by the school principal.

4. **Suspension as a Result of Vandalism**

Where an act or acts of vandalism have resulted in a suspension, the suspension will not be lifted until restitution has been made, unless otherwise determined by the principal, in consultation with the parents/guardian and Superintendent or designate.