

Student Discipline

Disciplinary information

Open communication between principals and the professional staff is essential to accomplish the educational mission of the district. It is recognized that principals have access to information about individual students that may not be otherwise available to others because this information is not recorded as part of the student's education record. To assure that information is shared with the professional staff that may be important to understanding the particular needs of individual students and any potential risk that a student might pose to the safety or welfare of others, state law requires that the principal take steps to communicate this information to teachers and counselors who have direct contact with the student.

In addition, to make sure that the information communicated is accurate, state law gives students and parents/guardians the right to challenge disciplinary information.

Whenever the principal or designee determines that disciplinary information as defined in district policy must be communicated to a teacher or counselor, the following steps will be followed:

1. The principal will prepare a brief written statement which sets forth the information to be communicated to a teacher or counselor pertaining to an individual student. If disciplinary information regarding a disabled student is transmitted, the current IEP must also be included. The statement will indicate it is a confidential document. The source of the information will be noted, if applicable.
2. The principal will communicate the information in the statement to the teacher or counselor by providing a copy of the statement. Alternatively, the principal or designee may wait until the student or parent/guardian has had a chance to challenge the content of the statement before communicating the statement to any teachers or counselors. The teacher/counselor and principal or designee may discuss the information in the statement. The principal or designee will record the names of all individuals who are given a copy of the statement.
3. The principal or designee will take reasonable steps to see that the parent/guardian of a student under 18 years of age receives a copy of the written statement, by mailing it to the parent/guardian address provided on the student's registration records or by sending it home with the student. In either case, the principal or designee will take reasonable steps to reach the parent/guardian by telephone to alert them to the fact the statement has been mailed or sent with the student. If a student is 18 years old or older ("eligible

student”), the written statement will be provided directly to the student and will not be provided to the parent/guardian unless the student gives consent.

4. The written statement will indicate that the student and/or parent/guardian may challenge the accuracy of the disciplinary information on the basis that it is inaccurate, false or misleading unless the statement is solely a summary of an incident for which the student and parent/guardian has already been afforded a due process hearing prior to imposition of school discipline. In that case, the challenge procedures do not apply.

Challenges

The following procedures apply when an interested person challenges the statement of disciplinary information:

Step 1

A Step 1 review will be requested in writing within seven days after receipt by the parent/guardian of the written statement. If the interested persons fail to file an intent to challenge within seven days after receiving a copy of the statement, the statement will stand as written and there will be no further opportunity to challenge that particular statement. If the student or parent/guardian challenges any part of the statement, the principal should review the part of the statement being challenged and may, by mutual agreement with the person making the challenge, destroy, delete or add the information in question.

Step 2

If the principal does not agree to change the written statement as requested during the Step 1 review, the student or parent/guardian may request an informal hearing with the superintendent within 10 days after the principal’s decision not to change the written statement. This request must be in writing and will state the reasons for the request. The principal may file a written response to the request for a Step 2 review to be considered by the superintendent. The superintendent will make a decision within 10 school days after receiving the request for Step 2 review. The superintendent may take whatever steps necessary to make a determination about the content of the statement, including discussing the matter with the student and parent/guardian and/or principal and making independent inquiries to determine the veracity of the statement.

The superintendent may decide that the statement should be revised in accordance with the student or parent/guardian position or may decide to uphold the principal’s statement as accurate. The superintendent’s decision is final.

Once an appeal has been held on the disciplinary information contained in a statement, that statement may be communicated to teachers/counselors during
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school year without any further challenge. If the statement had been communicated prior to the conclusion of the challenge, and changes were made to the statement, the principal or designee will see that all those who received the original statement are provided a copy of the revised statement.

Any teacher or counselor who receives a statement containing disciplinary information will maintain the confidentiality of the information and will not communicate the information to any other person. A violation of this provision will result in appropriate disciplinary action.

Remedial discipline plans

1. The principal may develop a plan for any student who causes a material and substantial disruption in the classroom, on school grounds, in school vehicles or at school activities or events. The goal of the remedial plan shall be to address the student's disruptive behavior and educational needs while keeping the child in school.
2. To develop the plan, the principal will arrange for a meeting with the student, the student's parent/guardian and any members of the staff whom the principal believes should attend.
3. The purpose of the meeting will be to address the reasons for the student's disruptive behavior and cooperatively to establish goals, objectives and timelines to modify such behavior. A written plan will be prepared which addresses the student's disruptive behavior, educational needs and what steps are necessary to keep the child in school. The plan will include incentives for good behavior and consequences if the student is disruptive in violation of the plan.
4. The plan may be written in the form of a contract which the student and the parent/guardian will sign and date.
5. The parent/guardian will be provided a copy of the remedial discipline plan and it will be placed in the student's cumulative file.

Habitually disruptive students

A student will be declared "habitually disruptive" if suspended three times during the course of the school year for causing a material and substantial disruption in the classroom, on school grounds or at school activities or events because of student behavior that was initiated, willful and overt.

1. The principal will inform the superintendent if a student is suspended for a second time for causing a material and substantial disruption.

2. The student and the parent/guardian will be notified in writing of each suspension which counts toward declaring the student habitually disruptive. The student and parent/guardian will also be notified in writing and by telephone or other oral communication of the definition of “habitually disruptive student” and the mandatory expulsion of such students.
4. District procedures for expulsion will be initiated when the student is suspended for the third time. The period of suspension will be extended, if necessary, to conduct an expulsion proceeding.

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