

Chapter 11: Suspension and Expulsion Procedures

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Introduction

The guidelines in this section are not binding for local education agencies (LEAs) or other entities except for the statutes, regulations, and court decisions that are referred herein. The information provided is taken from the California School Boards Association (CSBA) Board and Administrative Policy.

School administrators are presented with complex disciplinary issues. Some of these situations involve students with disabilities who are entitled to certain protections under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

The Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Suspension/Expulsion Handbook is a tool to develop LEA procedures for disciplining students with disabilities. The handbook provides step-by-step directions and sample forms that have been developed by LEAs and attorneys, and cites relevant sections of applicable laws and regulations.

Section A - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities)

A student identified as an individual with disabilities pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is subject to the same grounds for suspension and expulsion which apply to students without disabilities.

Section B – Procedures for Students Not Yet Eligible for Special Education Services

A student who has not been officially identified as a student with disabilities pursuant to IDEA and who has engaged in behavior that violated the LEA's code of student conduct may assert any of the protections under IDEA only if the LEA had knowledge that the student is disabled before the behavior that precipitated the disciplinary action occurred. 20 U.S.C. 1415(k)(5); 34 C.F.R. 300.534

The LEA shall be deemed to have knowledge that the student has a disability if: (20 U.S.C. 1415(k)(5); 34 C.F.R. 300.534)

- 1. The parent/guardian has expressed concern in writing to district supervisory or administrative personnel or to a teacher of the student, that the student is in need of special education or related services; and the parent/guardian has requested an evaluation of the student for special education pursuant to 34 C.F.R. 300.300-300.311; or
- 2. The teacher of the student or other LEA personnel has expressed specific concerns directly to the LEA director of special education or to other supervisory LEA personnel about a pattern of behavior demonstrated by the student.

The LEA would be deemed to not have knowledge that a student is disabled if the parent/guardian has not allowed the student to be evaluated for special education services, has refused services, or revokes

consent after consenting to the initial provision of services for their child. In addition, the LEA would be deemed to not have knowledge if the LEA conducted an evaluation pursuant to 34 C.F.R. 300.300-300.311 and determined that the student was not an individual with a disability. When the LEA is deemed to not have knowledge of the disability, the student shall be disciplined in accordance with procedures established for students without disabilities who engage in comparable behavior. 20 U.S.C. 1415(k)(5); 34 C.F.R. 300.534

If a request is made for an evaluation of a student during the time period in which the student is subject to disciplinary measures, pursuant to 34 C.F.R. 300.530, the evaluation shall be conducted in an expedited manner. Until the evaluation is completed, the student shall remain in the educational placement determined by school administrators. 20 U.S.C. 1415(k)(5); 34 C.F.R. 300.534

Section C – Suspension

The superintendent or designee may suspend a student with a disability for up to 10 consecutive school days for a single incident or misconduct, and for up to 20 school days in a school year, as long as the suspension(s) does not constitute a change in placement pursuant to 34 C.F.R. 300.536. E.C. 48903; 34 C.F.R. 300.530

The principal or designee shall monitor the number of days, including portions of days, in which a student with a valid individualized education program (IEP) has been suspended during the school year.

The LEA shall determine, on a case-by-case basis, whether a pattern of removals of a student from his/her current educational placement for disciplinary reasons constitutes a change in placement. A change in placement shall be deemed to have occurred under any of the following circumstances: (34 C.F.R. 300.536)

- 1. The removal is for more than 10 consecutive school days.
- 2. The student has been subjected to a series of removals that constitute a pattern because of all of the following:
 - a. The series of removals total more than 10 school days in a school year.
 - b. The student's behavior is substantially similar to his/her behavior in previous incidents that resulted in the series of removals; and
 - c. Additional factors, such as the length of each removal, the total amount of time the student has been removed, and the proximity of the removals to one another, indicate a change of placement.

If the removal has been determined to be a change in placement as specified in items #1-2 above, the student's IEP team shall determine the appropriate educational services. 34 C.F.R. 300.530

D/M SELPA Form 122 (Special Education Suspension Review) may be used by the LEA in determining whether or not a series of removals constitutes a change of placement.

Section D – Services During Suspension

Any student suspended for more than 10 school days in the same school year shall continue to receive services during the term of the suspension. School personnel, in consultation with at least one of the student's teachers, shall determine the extent to which services are needed as provided in 34 C.F.R. 300.101(a), so as to enable the student to continue to participate in the general education curriculum in another setting and to progress toward meeting the goals as set out in his/her IEP (20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(1)(A); 34 C.F.R. 300.530). The student must also receive, as appropriate, a functional behavioral assessment, and behavior intervention services or modifications designed to address the behavior so that it does not recur.

If a student with disabilities is excluded from school bus transportation, the student shall be provided with an alternative form of transportation at no cost to the student or his/her parent/guardian, provided that transportation is specified in his/her IEP. E.C. 48915.5

Section E – Interim Alternative Educational Placement Due to Dangerous Behavior

The LEA may place a student with a disability in an appropriate interim alternative educational setting (IAES) for up to 45 school days, without regard to whether the behavior is a manifestation of the student's disability, when the student commits one of the following acts while at school, or at a school-related function: (20 U.S.C. 1415(k)(1)(G); 34 C.F.R. 300.530)

- 1. Carries or possesses a weapon, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 930 going to or at school or a school-related function.
- 2. Knowingly possesses or uses illegal drugs.
- 3. Sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance as identified in 21 U.S.C. 812(c), Schedules I-V.
- 4. Inflicts serious bodily injury upon another person as defined in 18 U.S.C. 1365.

The student's interim alternative educational setting shall be determined by his/her IEP team. 20 $U.S.C.\ 1415(k)(1)(G);\ 34\ C.F.R.\ 300.531$

Section F – Manifestation Determination

On the date the decision to take disciplinary action is made, the parents/guardians of the student shall be notified of the decision and provided the procedural safeguards notice pursuant to 34 C.F.R. 300.504. 20 U.S.C. 1415(k)(1)(H); 34 C.F.R. 300.530

A student who has been removed from his/her current placement because of dangerous behavior shall receive services to the extent necessary to allow him/her to participate in the general education curriculum and to progress toward meeting the goals set out in his/her IEP. As appropriate, the student shall also receive a functional behavioral assessment and behavioral intervention services and modifications that are designed to address the behavior violation so that it does not recur. 20 U.S.C. 1415(k)(1)(D); 34 C.F.R. 300.530

The following procedural safeguards shall apply when a student is suspended for more than 10 consecutive school days, when a series of removals of a student constitutes a pattern, or when a change of placement of a student is contemplated due to a violation of the LEA's code of conduct:

- 1. Notice: On the date the decision to take disciplinary action is made, the parent/guardian of the student shall be notified of the decision and provided the procedural safeguards notice pursuant to 34 C.F.R. 300.504. 20 U.S.C. 1415(k)(1)(H); 34 C.F.R. 300.530
- 2. Manifestation Determination Review: Immediately if possible, but in no case later than 10 school days after the date the decision to take disciplinary action is made, a manifestation determination review shall be made of the relationship between the student's disability and the behavior subject to the disciplinary action. 20 U.S.C. 1415(k)(1)(E); 34 C.F.R. 300.530

At the manifestation determination review, the LEA, the student's parent/guardian, and relevant members of the IEP team (as defined by the LEA and parent/guardian) shall review all relevant information in the student's file, including the student's IEP, any teacher observations, and any relevant information provided by the parents/guardians, to determine whether the conduct in question was either of the following: (20 U.S.C. 1415(k)(1)(E); 34 C.F.R. 300.530)

- a. Caused by or had a direct and substantial relationship to the student's disability.
- b. A direct result of the district's failure to implement the student's IEP, in which case the district shall take immediate steps to remedy those deficiencies. (D/M SELPA Form 68P)

If the manifestation review team determines that a condition in either #a or #b above was met, the conduct shall then be determined to be a manifestation of the student's disability. 20 U.S.C. 1415(k)(1)(E); 34 C.F.R. 300.530

3. Determination that behavior is a manifestation of the student's disability: When the conduct has been determined to be a manifestation of the student's disability, the IEP team shall conduct a functional behavioral assessment, unless a functional behavioral assessment had been conducted before the occurrence of the behavior that resulted in the change of placement, and shall implement a behavioral intervention plan for the student. If a behavior intervention plan has already been developed, the IEP team shall review the

behavioral intervention plan and modify it as necessary to address the behavior. 20 USC 1415(k)(1)(F); 34 CFR 300.530

The student shall be returned to the placement from which he/she was removed, unless the parent/guardian and LEA agree to a change of placement as part of the modification of the behavioral intervention plan. 20 U.S.C. 1415(k)(1)(F); 34 C.F.R. 300.530

4. <u>Determination that Behavior is Not a Manifestation of the Student's Disability</u>: If the manifestation determination review team determines that the student's behavior was not a manifestation of his/her disability, the student may be disciplined in accordance with procedures for students without disabilities. 20 U.S.C. 1415(k)(1)(D); 34 C.F.R. 300.530

The student shall receive services to the extent necessary to participate in the general education curriculum in another setting and to allow him/her to progress toward meeting the goals set out in his/her IEP. As appropriate, the student shall also receive a functional behavioral assessment and behavioral intervention services and modifications that are designed to address the behavior violation so that it does not recur. 20 U.S.C. 1415(k)(1)(D); 34 C.F.R. 300.530

Section G – Due Process Appeals

If the parent/guardian disagrees with any LEA decision regarding placement under 34 C.F.R. 300.530 (suspension for greater than 10 school days in the same school year and removal for dangerous circumstances) or 34 C.F.R. 300.531 (interim alternative educational setting), or the manifestation determination under 34 C.F.R. 300.530(e), he/she may appeal the decision by requesting a hearing. The LEA may request a hearing if the LEA believes that maintaining the student's current placement is substantially likely to result in injury to the student or others. In order to request a hearing, the requesting party shall file a complaint pursuant to 34 C.F.R. 300.507 and 300.508(a) and (b). 20 U.S.C. 1415(k)(3); 34 C.F.R. 300.532

Whenever a hearing is requested as specified above, the parent/guardian or the LEA shall have an opportunity for an expedited due process hearing consistent with requirements specified in 34 C.F.R. 300.507, 300.508(a)-(c), and 300.510-300.514.

If the student's parent/guardian or the LEA has initiated a due process hearing under 34 C.F.R. 300.532 as detailed above, the student shall remain in the interim alternative educational setting pending the decision of the hearing officer or until the expiration of the time period specified in 34 C.F.R. 300.530(c) or (g), whichever occurs first, unless the parent/guardian and LEA agree otherwise. 20 U.S.C. 1415(k)(4); 34 C.F.R. 300.533

Section H - Readmission

Readmission procedures for students with disabilities shall be the same as those used for all students. Upon readmission, an IEP team meeting shall be convened.

Section I – Suspension of Expulsion

The Governing Board's criteria for suspending the enforcement of an expulsion order shall be applied to students with disabilities in the same manner as they are applied to all other students. *E.C.* 48917

Section J – Notification of Law Enforcement Authorities

Prior to the suspension or expulsion of any student with a disability, the principal or designee shall notify appropriate city or county law enforcement authorities of any act or assault with a deadly weapon which may have violated Penal Code 245. E.C. 48902

The principal or designee shall notify appropriate city or county law enforcement authorities of acts by any student with a disability which may involve the possession or sale of narcotics or of a controlled substance or possession of weapons or firearms in violation of Penal Code 626.9 and 626.10. E.C. 48902

Within one school day after a suspension or expulsion of a student with disabilities, the principal or designee shall notify appropriate city or county law enforcement authorities, by telephone or other appropriate means, of any act by the student which may violate E.C. 48900(c) or (d), relating to the possession, use, offering or sale of controlled substances, alcohol or intoxicants of any kind. *E.C.* 48902

Section K – Report to County Superintendent of Schools

The superintendent or designee shall report to the County Superintendent when any special education student has been expelled or suspended for more than 10 school days. The report shall include the student's name, last known address, and the reason for the action. E.C. 48203

APPENDIX A: SELPA Form D/M 122 – Special Education Suspension Review

DESERT/MOUNTAIN CHARTEI 17800 HIGHWAY 18 • APPLE VA (760) 552-6700 • (760) 242-5363 FA	LLEY, CA 9230			4
		ducation Suspension Revi	ew	
		School Year)		
		STUDENT INFORMATION		
Student Name:		Date of Birth:	Gender:	☐ Male ☐ Femal
School Site:			5357000000	Grade:
District of Attendance:	123	District of Residence	:	
Current special education placemer	ıt/services:			
CID O (APV OF PENOV	ALC EDOLLED	UCATIONAL DI ACEMENT DUDI	NC CUPPENT	CCHOOL VEAD
SUMMARY OF REMOV	ALS FROM ED	UCATIONAL PLACEMENT DURI	NG CURRENT	SCHOOL YEAR
Directions: Upon completion of t	he information	below, forward the complete packet (to the director of	special education.
Date EC V	iolation No.	Description of Infraction		No. of Days/
Date ECV	Iolation 140.	Description of Intraction		Accumulated No. of Day
2				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.		<u>. L</u>	1-1-	
The above information was comple	ted by:			
		Name/Title		Date
TO BE CO	MPLETED BY	DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCA	TION SERVICE	ES
	c 1: 1 :		1 0 0	
A review of the student's removal been conducted. Consideration was		ducation placement totaling	days for th	e current school year ha
•		avior is "substantially similar" across in	. aidanta	
		h removal fillable form	icidents	
•	the total number			
	the proximity of	removals to one another		
and the following determination wa	ıs made:			
The series DOES NOT constit	ute a pattern – no	change of placement. (NOTE: Must co	omplete and attac	h form D/M 124)
The series DOES constitute a p				
Special Education Director Signatu	TO:		Date:	

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APPENDIX B: SELPA Form D/M 124 – Educational Services During School Suspension

	Ed	ucational Services During	School Suspens	ion		
	100-5500	STUDENT INFORM	IATION	10		
Student	Name:	Date of I	Birth:	Gender:	☐ Male	Femal
School S	lite:	V4	VII.		Grade:	
District	of Attendance:	Dis	trict of Residence:			
Parent C	uardian:	W/ W/	10			
Home P	none:	Work Phone:	Othe	r Phone:		4
Street A	ddress:	City:	State:		Zip Code:	
Mailing	Address:	City:	State:		Zip Code:	
A reviev	v of educational performa This review considered th	nce of the above-named student was one extent educational services are necessity				
A review	v of educational performat This review considered th The student appropriately The student appropriately As appropriate, the stu- modifications to an existin	nce of the above-named student was one extent educational services are necess progresses in the general curriculum, advances toward achieving the goals a dent receives a functional behavious plan designed to address the behavious	sary during the propose and objectives set out in al assessment and b	d dates of su his/her curre ehavioral ir	ispension to ent IEP.	ensure:
A review	v of educational performat This review considered th The student appropriately The student appropriately As appropriate, the stu- modifications to an existin	nce of the above-named student was on the extent educational services are necess progresses in the general curriculum, advances toward achieving the goals a dent receives a functional behavior	sary during the propose and objectives set out in al assessment and b	d dates of su his/her curre ehavioral ir	ispension to ent IEP.	ensure:
A review	v of educational performa This review considered th The student appropriately The student appropriately As appropriate, the stu modifications to an existin of these considerations, the	nce of the above-named student was one extent educational services are necess progresses in the general curriculum, advances toward achieving the goals a dent receives a functional behavious plan designed to address the behavious	sary during the propose and objectives set out in al assessment and b r so that it does not recu	d dates of su his/her curre ehavioral in m.	ispension to ent IEP.	ensure:
A reviet teachers	v of educational performat This review considered th The student appropriately The student appropriately As appropriate, the stu- modifications to an existin of these considerations, the	nce of the above-named student was one extent educational services are necess progresses in the general curriculum, advances toward achieving the goals a dent receives a functional behavious plan designed to address the behavious following determination was made:	sary during the propose and objectives set out in al assessment and b r so that it does not recu	d dates of su his/her curre ehavioral in m.	ispension to ent IEP.	ensure:
A reviet teachers	v of educational performat This review considered th The student appropriately The student appropriately As appropriate, the stu- modifications to an existin of these considerations, the A continuation of educat	nce of the above-named student was one extent educational services are necess progresses in the general curriculum advances toward achieving the goals a dent receives a functional behavious plan designed to address the behavious following determination was made:	sary during the propose and objectives set out in al assessment and b r so that it does not recu	d dates of su his/her curre ehavioral in	ent IEP.	ensure:
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A reviet teachers	v of educational performat This review considered th The student appropriately The student appropriately As appropriate, the stu- modifications to an existin of these considerations, the A continuation of educat Allow the student to mal Provide an opportunity of period of suspension.	nce of the above-named student was one extent educational services are necess progresses in the general curriculum advances toward achieving the goals a dent receives a functional behavious plan designed to address the behavious following determination was made: tional services is not necessary during the student to make arrangements were the student to make arrangements with the student to make arrangements and examples of the student to make arrangements are necessary during the student to make a student to make	sary during the propose and objectives set out in al assessment and b r so that it does not recu	d dates of su his/her curre ehavioral in	ent IEP.	ensure:
A reviet teachers	v of educational performate This review considered the The student appropriately. The student appropriately As appropriate, the studentian of these considerations, the A continuation of educate Allow the student to make the provide an opportunity of period of suspension.	nce of the above-named student was one extent educational services are necess progresses in the general curriculum advances toward achieving the goals a dent receives a functional behavious plan designed to address the behavious following determination was made: tional services is not necessary during the student to make arrangements were the student to make arrangements with the student to make arrangements and examples of the student to make arrangements are necessary during the student to make a student to make	sary during the propose and objectives set out in al assessment and b r so that it does not recu	d dates of su his/her curre ehavioral in	ent IEP.	ensure:
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D/M 124 Rev. 09/14

APPENDIX C: Suspension Flowchart

Type 1	Type 2	Type 3	Type 4		
Short term removals of 10 days or less	A series of short term removals totaling more than 10 cumulative days that does not form a pattern	A series of short term removals totaling more than 10 days that does form a pattern	A <u>long term</u> removal of 10 days of more consecutive days		
	No Change in Placement	Change of Placement	Change of Placement		
A school district need not provide services during periods of removals for 10 school days or less if services are not provided to non-disabled children who have been similarly removed. Note: Partial days of removal are to be considered in making the change of placement determination (SELPA Form D/M 122). Suspension from transportation resulting in missed school days counts as days of removal if special transportation is included in the student's IEP.	EDUCATIONAL SERVICES On the 11th day and for each subsequent incident of removal, district personnel in consultation with at least one of the child's teachers must 1) Provide educational services to the extent necessary to (SELPA Form D/M 124) — • Enable the child to participate in the general curriculum • Enable the child to progress toward meeting the goals in the child's IEP • Allow the child to receive, as appropriate, a functional behavioral assessment and behavioral intervention services or modifications designed to address the behavior so that it does not recur 2) Determine if a change of placement has occurred when considering (SELPA Form D/M 122): • If the behavior is "substantially similar" across incidents, • The length of each removal, • The total number of removals to one another.	 if the conduct in question relationship to the child's dis 	must notify the parents and provide guards (SELPA Form D/M 77). DETERMINATION ms D/M 68P) ision to change the placement of a parent, and "relevant members" of a student's file vided by the parents the relationship between the child's to disciplinary action. The team as caused by the child's disability, or on had a direct and substantial ability, or was the direct result of the district's inifestation of his/her disability? NO Apply relevant disciplinary procedures in the same manner as applied to non-disabled students. The IEP Team determines the provision of educational		

APPENDIX D: SELPA Form 68P - Manifestation Determination

Page 1 of 3

			. 1	IANIFESTATION DETERMINA	TION	
dent's Age:	Grade:		Gender: Male Female	School Site:	LEA of Attendance:	
MARY OF STUDEN	IT'S ALLEGEI	MISCOND	UCT:	***************************************		
			ITY AND BEHAVIOR SUBJECT			
ummary of evaluation	n and diagnost	ic results and	d relevant information in the stude	nt's file: (include information presented	d by parents)	
ummary of observati	ons:					
urrent IEP placemen	t/services:					

		TION DETERMINATION TEAM BASED ON THE PRECEDING RE the conduct in question caused by or directly and substantially re					No 🔲	Yes	Checking YES in a	or h will result	
						570 1656251		ļ	determination that t	ne student's beha	Mic
		the conduct in question the direct result of the LEA's failure to imple	ment the IEP? 34 CFR §	300.530	(e)(1)((II)	No 🔲	Yes 🔲	was a manifestation	or mismer diseomi	
		ESTATION DETERMINATION TEAM FINDS:									
		tudent's behavior was not a manifestation of his/her disability. Forw					e IED process s	with require	d IED team member		100
		Functional behavioral assessment and implement a behavior inter Review and modify an existing behavior intervention plan as nece		on and conduct the following via the IEP process with required IEP team members. Continue educational program as per current IEP Schedule follow-up IEP to consider special education program alternatives						1000	
THE FO	LLO	WING INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATED IN THIS MANIFESTATION		EW MEE	1						200
EA Re	prese	entative	Date	Othe	er/Title					Date	
Special Education Teacher			Date	Other/Title				Date	200		
sychol	logist		Date	Other/Title					Date		
General	Edu	cation Teacher	Date	Othe	er/Title					Date	
I have been advised of and given a copy of Special Education Procedural Initial Safeguards/Parents Rights this school year.					nitial	The Manifestation Dete	ermination Revie	w has been	nterpreted orally by (when appropria	te)
L.S.	I request a copy of this Manifestation Determination Review to be provided in my primary Initial language									Date	200
initia	aı	language									
arent			Date	Stud	Student				Date		
arent	01.01.01		Date								
	ents:										

