

WHAT IS AN EXPULSION?

When the student is on a suspension pending expulsion, the principal must conduct an investigation to determine whether to recommend expelling the student.

Expulsions may apply to only the student's current school or all Avon Maitland board schools. If a student is expelled from only his/her school, he/she will not be permitted on school property or school buses, and will not be able to participate in any school-related activities.

Expulsions do not have a time limit. A student expelled from only his/her school will be assigned by the board to another school or alternative program and may only return to his/her prior school with permission. A student expelled from all Avon Maitland schools cannot return to school until he/she satisfies the objectives of an alternative program for expelled students (as outlined in the student action plan). The student will apply in writing to return. A school board committee will re-admit the student if he/she has successfully met the program objectives. A re-entry meeting is convened to return the student to an appropriate school placement.

CAN A SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION BE APPEALED?

Yes. All suspensions can be appealed to the school board. If an expulsion is not being considered, the suspension can be appealed within 10 school days of the beginning of the suspension. Suspension appeals will be heard orally, in camera, by the Discipline Committee of Trustees. Your child will remain suspended until the appeal is resolved.

The Child and Family Services Review Board is designated to hear and determine appeals of school board decisions to expel students. Should you wish to appeal an expulsion, you may contact the Child and Family Services Review Board at 1-888-728-8823. Your child will remain expelled until the appeal is resolved.

HOW WILL MY CHILD CONTINUE HER EDUCATION WHILE ON SUSPENSION/EXPULSION?

The board is committed to providing suspended and expelled students with an opportunity to continue their education by providing an educational program and support to help students in meeting their learning goals.

As has been done in the past, school work will be provided to all suspended students to help ensure program continuity. The Student Action Plan meeting for long-term suspensions and expulsions will provide development of academic and non-academic programs and supports on an individual basis.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

- Contact your child's principal or vice-principal
- Contact the Superintendent of Operations at 1-800-592-5437 ext. 113
- Administrative Procedures 353 Student Suspension and 354 Student Expulsion are available on the Avon Maitland District School Board website www.yourschools.ca

This brochure reflects the legislated changes required by Bill 212 and Bill 157.

A PARENT'S GUIDE TO THE:

Suspension & Expulsion Process



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Seaforth Ontario N0K 1W0
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Fax: 519-527-0222
E-mail: info@fc.amdsb.ca
Website: www.yourschools.ca

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

All students, parents, teachers, and staff members have the right to be safe, and to feel safe, in their school community. With this right comes the responsibility to contribute to a positive school climate. The promotion of strategies and initiatives such as Student Success and character development, along with the employment of prevention and intervention strategies to address inappropriate behaviour, fosters a positive school climate that supports academic achievement for all students. Boards and schools should therefore focus on prevention and early intervention as the key to maintaining a positive school environment in which students can learn and teachers can teach. (Ministry of Education, Policy/Program Memorandum No. 128, October 4, 2007)

SAFE SCHOOLS POLICY

The Avon Maitland District School Board's Safe Schools policy is based on the provincial Education Act and the Ontario Code of Conduct. It sets clear standards of behaviour for students, staff, parents, volunteers and any other individuals involved in public education. The school board has provided each school and student with a copy of the code of conduct based on provincial legislation and Avon Maitland board policies. You can get a copy of the code of conduct and safe schools policies from the school or at www.yourschools.ca.

Students who behave contrary to the Safe Schools policy and/or their school's code of conduct face a range of consequences, including, but not limited to, loss of privileges, detention, suspension and expulsion.

SUSPENSIONS

When a principal's investigation of an incident, which may include consultation with the adult student or parent(s)/guardian(s) and student, determines that a student has committed one or more infractions on school property, during a school-related activity or event, and/or in circumstances where the infraction has an impact

on the school climate, a principal will consider whether that student shall be suspended.

Principals may suspend a student for conduct off of school property or where engaging in such activity resulted in a negative school climate.

A student may be suspended only once for an incident and may be suspended for a minimum of one (1) school day and a maximum of twenty (20) school days.

A suspension of more than five (5) days is deemed a long-term suspension. Students who are suspended for six (6) to ten (10) days require a Student Action Plan (SAP), which will include academic support.

Students who are on a long-term suspension of eleven (11) to twenty (20) days require a Student Action Plan, which will include both an academic and a non-academic component.

WHAT ACTIVITIES *MAY LEAD TO* A SUSPENSION?

- *Uttering a threat to inflict serious bodily harm on another person;*
- *Possessing alcohol, illegal and/or restricted drugs;*
- *Being under the influence of alcohol;*
- *Swearing at a teacher or at another person in a position of authority;*
- *Committing an act of vandalism that causes damage to school or board property at the student's school, or to property located on the premises of the student's school;*
- *Bullying, including cyber-bullying;*
- *Any act considered by the principal to be injurious to the moral tone of the school;*
- *Any act considered by the principal to be injurious to the physical or mental well-being of any member of the school community; and*
- *Any act considered by the principal to be contrary to the board or school code of conduct.*

WHAT DO PRINCIPALS TAKE INTO ACCOUNT WHEN CONSIDERING A SUSPENSION?

In some situations, students involved in the same inappropriate activity may receive different consequences. Principals work through a careful and thorough process when deciding whether to suspend a student and for how long.

The principal must consider mitigating factors, which are defined by the Ministry of Education as:

- Whether the student has the ability to control his/her behaviour;
- Whether the student has the ability to understand the foreseeable consequence of his/her behaviour;
- Whether the student's continuing presence in the school creates an unacceptable risk to the safety of any other individual in the school;
- The student's academic, discipline and personal history;
- Whether other progressive discipline has been attempted with the student, and if so, the progressive discipline approach(as) that has/have been attempted and any success or failure;
- Whether the infraction for which the student might be disciplined was related to any harassment of the student because of his/her race, ancestry, place of origin, color, ethnicity, citizenship, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, ability or any other attribute;
- The impact of the discipline on the student's prospects for further education;
- The student's age; and
- If an IEP is in place.