

Policy and Regulation

4.02.03 - Suspension and Expulsion

Policy Approved: 2002.12.11

POLICY

The Board of the Red Deer Public School District No. 104 recognizes the principle that teachers stand “in loco parentis” when pupils are in the charge of teachers, or other officials of the school district during classes, during extra-curricular activities that are under school sponsorship, during conveyance by school or chartered buses, or during any time whatsoever when a student is in school or on school premises. The Board recognizes that, to ensure a satisfactory climate for learning, rules and regulations must be observed by students and that teachers and principals must be empowered to enforce those rules and regulations.

The suspension or expulsion of a student is deemed to be a serious measure to be invoked when other measures have proved to be ineffective or when the seriousness of the offence warrants such action.

The Board of Trustees delegates the authority to expel students and to approve conditions of re-enrollment to the Student Discipline Committee.

REGULATION

The School Act requires and the School Board concurs, that students shall reasonably comply with the following code of conduct:

1. Be diligent in pursuing their studies;
2. Attend school regularly and punctually;
3. Cooperate fully with everyone authorized by the Board to provide education programs and other services;
4. Comply with the rules of the school;
5. Account to their teachers for their conduct; and
6. Respect the rights of others.

Students who do not reasonably comply with the code of conduct are liable to suspension and expulsion.

The reasons for suspension must rest mainly on the discretion of the teacher and the principal, both of whom should take into account the circumstances under which the pupil commits the offence. The following items may be considered as reasons for suspension, but this listing shall not be considered either complete or so prescriptive as to require that suspension follow when a pupil commits the offence:

1. Open opposition to the authority of the teacher, principal, school or school board;

Policy 4.02.03 - Suspension and Expulsion

2. Willful disobedience over a prolonged period or in a single instance where the disobedience endangers the pupils, teacher, building, or general climate of orderly behaviour;
3. Habitual neglect to do work that is assigned to the pupil and which is within his or her competence to complete;
4. Profane or indecent language in the presence of other pupils or staff;
5. Threats of physical violence or acts of violence against a teacher or a pupil;
6. Any act of indecency;
7. Failure to observe and to obey any reasonable rule, regulation, or procedure established by the teacher or by the principal for maintaining a climate of behaviour conducive to learning;
8. Willful or malicious damage to school property or equipment; and/or
9. Misuse of drugs or alcohol.

Procedures: Suspension and Expulsion of Students

In accordance with the School Act, the Board sets forth the following procedures for suspending or expelling a student:

1. A teacher may suspend a pupil from one class, but the suspension must be immediately reported to the principal.
2. A principal may suspend a pupil from class, from school, or from riding on a school bus for a period not exceeding five school days, in which case the principal shall immediately inform the student's parent of the suspension and report in writing to the student's parent, the circumstances of the suspension. The principal may refer the suspension to the Superintendent of Schools.
3. If, in the opinion of the principal, the suspension ought to exceed five school days, the full circumstances of the suspension and the recommendations of the principal in respect to it, shall be immediately reported, in writing, to the Superintendent of Schools.
4. On receipt of a recommendation from the principal that a suspended student not be reinstated within five school days, the Superintendent of Schools will refer the matter to the Student Discipline Committee or reinstate the student.
5. Within ten school days from the first day of suspension, the Student Discipline Committee shall reinstate the student or expel the student from the school or the school system. The student, the parent of the student and the school principal shall have an opportunity to make representations to the Student Discipline Committee prior to a decision being made. Other appropriate individuals may be invited to make representation by the Chairman of the Student Discipline Committee.
6. The principal may make recommendations regarding conditions of re-enrollment. The recommended conditions must be included in the written documentation, which is presented to the Student Discipline Committee.

Policy 4.02.03 - Suspension and Expulsion

7. The Board may impose conditions on re-enrollment for a student who is the subject of an expulsion. These conditions must be imposed at the time of the expulsion and must be fulfilled by the student before re-enrollment.
8. If a student is expelled, the Superintendent of Schools shall notify, in writing, the parent and, in the case of a student 16 years-of-age or older, the student, of his or her right to have the matter reviewed by the Minister of Education.
9. In handling all such matters, the principal must ensure that support is provided for students who are impacted by inappropriate behavior, as well as for students who engage in inappropriate behavior.

REFERENCES

School Act RSA 2000
Suspensions (s24)
Expulsions (s25)
Powers of Boards (s60)