

SCHOOL DISTRICT 82 (COAST MOUNTAINS)

Educational Administration

2115: Suspension of Students

Revised

Policy

It is the responsibility of every student to comply with their School's Code of Conduct, and with the Code of Conduct and other relevant policies of the Board of School Trustees of School District 82 (Coast Mountains) (the "Board"). It is the responsibility of every Principal to ensure that students are familiar with the provisions of these Codes of Conduct and Policies.

The Superintendent of Schools, and every school principal and vice-principal, are authorized to suspend students in accordance with the terms of this Policy and Regulations, and the applicable *School Act* provisions [ss.26, 85(2)(c)(ii), 85(2)(d), and 85(3)].

A principal or, vice-principal authorized by the principal, may suspend a student under the provisions of this Policy and Regulations where, in the opinion of the Principal or Vice-Principal the student has:

- a) violated the District Code of Conduct or other relevant Policy [Policy 2240: Illegal Drugs, Policy 2400: Firearms];
- b) violated any rule contained in the applicable School Code of Conduct or school rules.

REGULATIONS

Suspensions Of Up To 5 Days

1. A principal or vice-principal may suspend a student for a period of up to 5 days. The principal or vice-principal shall forthwith report the circumstances and duration of the suspension by double registered or hand delivered letter to the parent(s) or guardian(s) or the student. In addition, where possible, this information should be reported to the parent(s) or guardian(s) in person or by telephone. A copy of the letter shall be delivered immediately to the Superintendent of Schools.

2. In cases where a student has received more than one suspension of 5 days or less in the course of one school term (September to December or January to June), the matter shall be referred to the Superintendent of Schools for consideration.
3. The principal or vice-principal shall continue to make an educational program available to the suspended student for the duration of their suspension, in accordance with Section 85(2)(d) of the School Act.

Suspensions of More than 5 Days

4. In circumstances where a principal or vice-principal determines that a student's conduct warrants a suspension for a period of more than 5 days, the principal or vice-principal shall place the student on indefinite suspension. The principal shall, where possible, consult with the Superintendent of Schools prior to placing a student on indefinite suspension.
5. The parent(s) and/or guardian(s) shall be advised of the indefinite suspension in the same manner as provided in paragraph 1 above. In addition, the Superintendent shall immediately be notified in writing of all the circumstances surrounding the suspension.
6. Upon being notified of an indefinite suspension, the Superintendent shall, as soon as possible arrange for the following persons to appear at a meeting of the Suspension Review Committee:
 - a) the student and their parent(s) or guardian(s);
 - b) at the option of the parent(s) or guardian(s), an advocate acting on behalf of the parent(s) or guardian(s);
 - c) the principal or vice-principal who imposed the indefinite suspension.
7. The Suspension Review Committee shall consist of the Superintendent or delegate, and such other members of the School District administration, or other members, as the Superintendent considers appropriate.
8. The parent(s) or guardian(s) of the student shall be provided with all materials which are provided to the Suspension Review Committee in respect of their child's suspension a minimum of 2 days in advance of the Committee meeting.
9. After hearing from the principal or vice-principal, the student, and their parent(s) or guardian(s), and/or advocate, the Committee shall render a decision specifying the length

of the student's suspension, and may establish conditions to be met prior to, and upon, the return of the student to school. The Committee shall provide a report to the Board as an information item without inclusion of identifying references.

10. The principal or vice-principal shall continue to make an educational program available to the suspended student for the duration of their suspension, in accordance with Section 85(2)(d) of the School Act.
11. Suspensions of more than 10 days may be appealed directly to the Board in accordance with Policy 5500: Appeal By-Laws.

Refusal to Offer an Educational Program

12. The Board may refuse to offer an educational program to a student 16 years of age or older where that student:
 - d) has refused to comply with the school rules authorized by the principal of the school, with the code of conduct, or with other rules and policies of the Board, or
 - e) has failed to apply himself or herself to his/her studies; and
 - f) after due warning, does not make a reasonable effort to reform, in the opinion of the Superintendent of Schools and the principal of the school.
13. Due warning shall include:
 - a) recording the date and reasons for the warning in a book kept for that purpose,
 - b) informing the parent(s) or guardian(s) by letter that the student has been warned, and specifically advising the parent(s) or guardian(s), and student that failure to correct the behaviour in question could lead to the Board refusing to offer the student an educational program,
 - c) sending a copy of the letter to the parent(s) to the Superintendent of Schools,
 - d) arranging, when practicable, for an interview with the parent(s) or guardian(s) of the student at the school.

14. If, within a reasonable period of time after due warning, the student fails to make a reasonable effort to reform, the principal shall consult with the Superintendent of Schools and, if necessary, their joint recommendation shall be forwarded to the Board for consideration at a meeting to be attended by the student, and parent(s) or guardian, and/or advocate.

Miscellaneous Provisions

15. The Superintendent may initiate a student suspension in accordance with the provisions of this Policy. The Superintendent may terminate, or adjust, a period of suspension of a student at any time prior to the commencement of a meeting of the Suspension Review Committee under paragraph 6 of the Regulations.