

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

## School Discipline: Suspensions & Expulsions

### In the case of a suspension . . .

#### Parents have a right to:

- Be immediately notified of suspensions along with a full statement for the reasons for the suspension and a notice of right to review.
- Have the action of the suspending school official reviewed by the school board or its designated hearing officer.

#### Students have a right to:

- Some form of hearing whenever a student is deprived of access to educational services for disciplinary reasons. This hearing can be informal, but it must include a statement of charges and evidence and must allow the student to explain his version of events if charges are denied.
- Be informed of the beginning and end dates of any suspension, and for this period to not exceed ten days (except for bus suspensions for safety reasons).

### In the case of an expulsion, parents have the right to:

- Have a meeting with the school board or an appointed hearing officer to discuss the student's behavior before the expulsion takes place.
- Receive notice of hearing via registered or certified mail that states the time, place, and purpose of the meeting.
- Have the reasons for the expulsion clearly stated and the effective date on which the expulsion is to become effective at the meeting.
- Consult with counsel at the student's or parent's expense.
- Have adequate time to prepare a defense.
- Call and examine witnesses, cross-examine opposing witnesses, and to introduce evidence at a hearing.
- Have the final decision on whether a student is expelled be made by the school board based upon the evidence presented.
- Appeal the decision of the school board in court.

**Note: Students do not have a right to privileged communication with school officials and school officials (including guidance counselors) may be required to testify in court as to the content of their conversations with students.**

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