



FFLIC

HOW DO I CHALLENGE A SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION?

Know the Facts and the Law

First, try to gather as much information as possible from your child regarding the incident. Explain that you will be able to help them better if they tell the truth. But don't assume they tell you everything or you might be surprised later when additional information comes out. Children can unintentionally or intentionally leave out important details. Do the best you can to gather the facts. Next, look again at the list of possible discipline actions for the violation. What other methods of discipline are available for the violation? Why would another method be more appropriate? Be ready to make your case.

You can find this information in the following sources:

- Your school's code of conduct
- The OPSB Manual for Disciplinary Procedures (for expulsions)

Also, students in special education and students receiving 504 Plan accommodations have additional rights and protections in suspension and expulsion proceedings. See the Advocacy Center's "Education Rights of Children with Disabilities in Louisiana: A Guide for Parents."



Identify Goals

Before challenging the suspension or expulsion identify some goals, or what you want to see happen to fix the issue at hand. Ask yourself:

- What do you want the end result to be?
- What are the best outcomes for the child?
- What does the child want to do?

Use the Whole Child Check-In to help you.

Make your case

Gather all of the information or documentation you can to prove what you are trying to get across. 1) Identify key people or organizations who can help you and/or support your case. 2) Gather additional supporting information, including information regarding your child's positive impact on the community. Examples: letters from a counselor, favorite teacher, coach, or pastor, and list of child's activities. 3) Be ready to talk about what discipline actions from the code of conduct would be more appropriate and why. 4) Do the Whole Child Check-In and be ready to talk about what additional changes you and your child are making to address the challenges. Especially in the case of expulsions, FFLIC recommends having an advocate or lawyer present.

Appeal

Every parent/guardian has the right to appeal a decision of suspension or expulsion.

Suspension

You must submit a written statement of appeal within 5 days of the decision to the OPSB superintendent or the superintendent's designee. Contact OPSB for information at 504-304-3520. Be sure to include a copy of whatever disciplinary paperwork the school provided you regarding the suspension. This will lead to a hearing on the merits of your appeal. The superintendent's decision is final, (R.S. 17:416).

Expulsion

You must submit a written statement of appeal within 5 days of the decision in writing to the to the OPSB superintendent or the superintendent's designee. Contact OPSB for information at 504-304-3520. If OPSB agrees with the school, you can appeal to the Orleans Parish Civil District Court within ten days of OPSB's decision to keep the suspension intact, (R.S. 17:416).

Need help
advocating for
your child?
Call FFLIC
504.708.8376.

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