

If your child is being suspended or expelled from a Metro school, the school must follow certain rules.



Knowing the rules will help you advocate for your child and will help your child succeed in school!

***Note:* If your child has a disability or gets special education services, he or she is also protected in the discipline process by state and federal law. Contact us for more information.**

*Still have questions?
Call us!*



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Has your child been suspended or sent home early? Know your child's rights!



***Suspensions in
Metro Nashville
Public Schools***

What happens if my child gets in trouble at school?

If your child breaks the school rules, the school can decide to send your child home for up to ten days. This is called **suspension**.

If the school sends your child home, they must follow these rules:

- **The principal must *investigate* to decide if your child broke the rules.** The principal must ask your child what happened. The principal may also ask teachers or other kids what happened.
- **The principal must ask your child to tell her side of the story.** Metro policy says the school must give your child a chance to *write down* the story.
- **The school must tell your child WHY he is being suspended.** They must tell him WHAT rules he broke.
- **Parents should get a phone call and a report.** When the principal decides to suspend, he or she must call you within **24 hours** and mail home a report **the same school day**.
- **Summary Suspension** - The school can suspend your child for **two days** while they investigate. This is called a summary suspension. **After two days, the principal must tell you the decision and when your child can come back to school.**

What behaviors can lead to suspension?

A student can be suspended for anything that breaks the rules in the **MNPS Student-Parent Code of Conduct & Handbook**. A student can be suspended for:

- Cutting class or missing too many days of school
- Not wearing Standard School Attire (uniform)
- Using a cell phone during class
- Fighting
- Having or using drugs at school
- Bringing weapons, like a knife or gun to school
- *And other things.* **Get a copy of the Code of Conduct for the whole list. Ask for one at your child's school.**



What if the school asks me to pick up my child early?

Or asks me to keep him at home?

Ask, "Has my child been suspended?" If the answer is "NO," you do not have to pick up your child. Tell the school you will not pick your child up unless he has been suspended.

What if my child is suspended for more than five days in a row?

When your child returns to school, the law says the principal must make a plan to help your child improve his behavior.

What if my child is suspended during the last 10 days of the school year?

She should be allowed to take her finals and to hand in any work she needs to pass her classes.

What if my child is suspended for more than 10 days?

If your child is suspended for more than 10 days, this is called **expulsion**. The principal must tell you about your right to **appeal**. Your child can attend an Alternative Learning Center (ALC) while you wait to appeal and while she is expelled. Call 259-8757 and ask the discipline coordinator about an ALC. See our brochures about **Expulsions and Zero Tolerance Expulsions**.

What if my child has a disability or gets exceptional education ?

Children who get exceptional education services are protected by a set of laws that provide protections in the discipline process. These laws work to make sure that children are not punished for behaviors related to their disabilities. They also provide tools to help student with behavior problems succeed in school. Contact us for more information.