

**SAN LORENZO  
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS**

**Student**

AR 5144.2 (a)

**STUDENT DISCIPLINE**

A. Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process (Students With Disabilities)

A student identified as an individual with disabilities pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is subject to the same grounds for suspension and expulsion which apply to students without disabilities.

B. Procedures for Students Not Yet Eligible for Special Education Services

1. A student who has not been officially identified as a student with disabilities pursuant to IDEA and who has engaged in behavior that violated the district's code of student conduct may assert any of the protections under IDEA only if the district had knowledge that the student is disabled before the behavior that precipitated the disciplinary action occurred. (20 USC 1415(k)(5); 34 CFR 300.534)
2. The district shall be deemed to have knowledge that the student has a disability if one of the following conditions exists: (20 USC 1415(k)(5); 34 CFR 300.534)
  - a. The parent/guardian has expressed concern to district supervisory or administrative personnel in writing, or to a teacher of the student, that the student is in need of special education or related services.
  - b. The parent/guardian has requested an evaluation of the student for special education pursuant to 34 CFR 300.300-300.311.
  - c. The teacher of the student or other district personnel has expressed specific concerns directly to the district's director of special education or to other supervisory district personnel about a pattern of behavior demonstrated by the student.
  - d. The district would be deemed to not have knowledge that a student is disabled if the parent/guardian has not allowed the student to be evaluated for special education services or has refused services. In addition, the district would be deemed to not have knowledge if the district conducted an evaluation pursuant to 34 CFR 300.300-300.311 and determined that the student was not an individual with a disability. When the district is deemed to not have knowledge of the disability, the student shall be disciplined in accordance with procedures established for students without disabilities who engage in comparable behavior. (20 USC 1415(k)(5); 34 CFR 300.534)

- e. If a request is made for an evaluation of a student during the time period in which the student is subject to disciplinary measures pursuant to 34 CFR 300.530, the evaluation shall be conducted in an expedited manner. Until the evaluation is completed, the student shall remain in the educational placement determined by school authorities. (20 USC 1415(k)(5); 34 CFR 300.534)

C. Suspension

The district shall determine, on a case-by-case basis, whether a pattern of removals of a student from his/her current educational placement for disciplinary reasons constitutes a change of placement. A change of placement shall be deemed to have occurred under any of the following circumstances: (34 CFR 300.536)

1. The removal is for more than 10 consecutive school days.
2. The student has been subjected to a series of removals that constitute a pattern because of all of the following:
  - a. The series of removals total more than 10 school days in a school year.
  - b. The student's behavior is substantially similar to his/her behavior in previous incidents that resulted in the series of removals.
  - c. Additional factors, such as the length of each removal, the total amount of time the student has been removed, and the proximity of the removals to one another, indicate a change of placement.
3. If the removal has been determined to be a change of placement as specified in items #1-2 above, the student's IEP team shall determine the appropriate educational services. (34 CFR 300.530)

D. Services During Suspension

1. A "free appropriate public education" (FAPE) must be available to all children, including any student with disabilities who has been suspended for more than 10 school days in a year. The Analysis of Comments to the federal regulations, 71 Fed. Reg. 156, pg. 46716, clarifies that the district is not required to provide a student who has been suspended for more than 10 school days in a school year for disciplinary reasons exactly the same services in exactly the same setting as the student was receiving prior to the imposition of discipline. However, the special education and related services the student does receive must enable him/her to continue to participate in the general curriculum and to progress toward meeting the goals set out in his/her IEP. The Analysis of Comments, 71 Fed. Reg. 156, pg. 46717, clarifies that services need not be provided when a student is removed for 10 school days or less, as long as the district does not provide services to nondisabled students removed for the same amount of time.

2. Any student suspended for more than 10 school days in the same school year shall continue to receive services during the term of the suspension. School personnel, in consultation with at least one of the student's teachers, shall determine the extent to which services are needed as provided in 34 CFR 300.101(a), so as to enable the student to continue to participate in the general education curriculum in another setting and to progress toward meeting the goals as set out in his/her IEP. (20 USC 1412(a)(1)(A); 34 CFR 300.530)
3. If a student with disabilities is excluded from school bus transportation, the student shall be provided with an alternative form of transportation at no cost to the student or his/her parent/guardian, provided that transportation is specified in his/her IEP. (Education Code 48915.5)

E. Interim Alternative Educational Placement Due to Dangerous Behavior

The district may unilaterally place a student with a disability in an appropriate interim alternative educational setting for up to 45 school days, without regard to whether the behavior is a manifestation of the student's disability, when the student commits one of the following acts while at school, going to or from school, or at a school-related function:

1. Carries a weapon to school or to a school function.
2. "Weapon" means any device which is used for or is capable of causing death or serious bodily injury, but does not include a pocket knife with a blade of less than 2-1/2 inches.
3. Knowingly possesses or uses illegal drugs while at school or a school function.
4. Sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance while at school or a school function.
5. Has inflicted serious bodily injury upon another person while at school, or on school premises, or at a school function.

F. Manifestation Determination

The following procedural safeguards shall apply when a student is suspended for more than 10 consecutive school days, when a series of removals of a student constitutes a pattern, or when a change of placement of a student is contemplated due to a violation of the district's code of conduct:

1. On the date the decision to take disciplinary action is made, the parents/guardians of the student shall be notified of the decision and provided the procedural safeguards notice pursuant to 34 CFR 300.504. (20 USC 1415(k)(1)(H); 34 CFR 300.530)

A student who has been removed from his/her current placement because of dangerous behavior shall receive services to the extent necessary to allow him/her to participate in the general education curriculum and to progress toward meeting the goals set out in his/her IEP. As appropriate, the student shall also receive a functional behavioral assessment and behavioral intervention services and modifications that are designed to address the behavior violation so that it does not recur. (20 USC 1415(k) (1) (D); 34 CFR 300.530)

G. Manifestation Determination Review:

Immediately if possible, but in no case later than 10 school days after the date the decision to take disciplinary action is made, a manifestation determination review shall be made of the relationship between the student's disability and the behavior subject to the disciplinary action. (20 USC 1415(k)(1)(E); 34 CFR 300.530)

1. At the manifestation determination review, the district, the student's parent/guardian, and relevant members of the IEP team (as determined by the district and parent/guardian) shall review all relevant information in the student's file, including the student's IEP, any teacher observations, and any relevant information provided by the parents/guardians, to determine whether the conduct in question was either of the following: (20 USC 1415(k)(1)(E); 34 CFR 300.530)
  - a. Caused by or had a direct and substantial relationship to the student's disability
  - b. A direct result of the district's failure to implement the student's IEP, in which case the district shall take immediate steps to remedy those deficiencies

H. Determination that Behavior is Not a Manifestation of the Student's Disability:

If the manifestation determination review team determines that the student's behavior was not a manifestation of his/her disability, the student may be disciplined in accordance with the procedures for students without disabilities. (20 USC 1415(k)(1)(D); 34 CFR 300.530)

1. The student shall receive services to the extent necessary to participate in the general education curriculum in another setting and to allow him/her to progress toward meeting the goals set out in his/her IEP. As appropriate, the student shall also receive a functional behavioral assessment and behavioral intervention services and modifications that are designed to address the behavior violation so that it does not recur. (20 USC 1415(k)(1)(D); 34 CFR 300.530)

### I. Due Process Appeals

The district or the parent/guardian may appeal a placement decision by filing a due process complaint. In addition, a district may file a request that the hearing officer order a change of placement to an interim alternative setting for up to 45 days when the hearing officer determines that maintaining the current placement is substantially likely to result in injury to the student or others.

1. The burden of proof in due process hearings is on the party that is responsible for the issue going forward to the due process hearing officer, consistent with the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Schaeffer v. Weast*. Thus, if the district has requested that a hearing officer remove a student to an interim alternative educational setting, the burden of persuasion at the hearing is on the district.
2. If the parent/guardian disagrees with any district decision regarding placement under 34 CFR 300.530 (suspension and removal for dangerous circumstances) or 34 CFR 300.531 (interim alternative placement), or the manifestation determination under 34 CFR 300.530(e), he/she may appeal the decision by requesting a hearing. The district may request a hearing if the district believes that maintaining the student's current placement is substantially likely to result in injury to the student or others. In order to request a hearing, the requesting party shall file a complaint pursuant to 34 CFR 300.507 and 300.508(a) and (b). (20 USC 1415(k)(3); 34 CFR 300.532)
3. This due process hearing is the same as the impartial due process hearing held for other special education matters, except that the law specifies expedited timelines.
4. Whenever a hearing is requested as specified above, the parent/guardian or the district shall have an opportunity for an expedited due process hearing consistent with requirements specified in 34 CFR 300.507, 300.508 (a)-(c), and 300.510-300.514.
5. If the student's parent/guardian or the district has initiated a due process hearing under 34 CFR 300.532 as detailed above, the student shall remain in the interim alternative educational setting pending the decision of the hearing officer or until the expiration of the 45-day time period, whichever occurs first, unless the parent/guardian and district agree otherwise. (20 USC 1415(k)(4); 34 CFR 300.533)

### J. Readmission

Readmission procedures for students with disabilities shall be the same as those used for all students. Upon readmission, an IEP team meeting shall be convened.

### K. Suspension of Expulsion

The Governing Board's criteria for suspending the enforcement of an expulsion order shall be applied to students with disabilities in the same manner as they are applied to all other students. (Education Code 48917)

L. Notification to Law Enforcement Authorities

Prior to the suspension or expulsion of any student with a disability, the principal or designee shall notify appropriate city or county law enforcement authorities of any act of assault with a deadly weapon which may have violated Penal Code 245. (Education Code 48902)

1. The principal or designee also shall notify appropriate city or county law enforcement authorities of acts by any student with a disability which may involve the possession or sale of narcotics or of a controlled substance or possession of weapons or firearms in violation of Penal Code 626.9 and 626.10. (Education Code 48902)
2. Within one school day after a suspension or expulsion of a student with disabilities, the principal or designee shall notify appropriate city or county law enforcement authorities, by telephone or other appropriate means, of any act by the student which may violate Education Code 48900(c) or (d), relating to the possession, use, offering or sale of controlled substances, alcohol or intoxicants of any kind. (Education Code 48902)

M. Report to County superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent or designee shall report to the County Superintendent when any special education student has been expelled or suspended for more than 10 school days. The report shall include the student's name, last known address, and the reason for the action. (Education Code 48203)

N. Transportation

The Governing Board shall ensure that appropriate transportation services are provided for students with disabilities as specified in their individualized education program (IEP) or accommodation plan. The district shall make home-to-school transportation available for students at no cost to parents/guardians as specified in the student's IEP.

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