

Fremont County Joint School District No. 215

STUDENTS

3332

Student Conduct and Suspension

Philosophy of Discipline Policy:

Our schools are communities. They are miniatures of our larger society: places where our youth learn the fundamentals of citizenship and civility. The expectations or rules of the school community are the equivalent of laws in our larger society--established to protect individuals, to insure an orderly environment, and to provide opportunities for all.

Because our students are in the process of becoming responsible adults, their daily experiences in the school community play a critical role in how they will understand the meaning and respect the rules of society.

Discipline as Procedure:

The students of Fremont County schools will be expected to learn the role of responsible citizens. They will be helped in this learning process by a staff which will be expected to teach that role by example, by modeling, and by establishing a clear set of rules and consequences for behavior.

Those students who make poor choices will receive appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with this policy. Individual student discipline may include evaluations by trained professionals with consent of the parent and/or legal guardian. This may include psychological, psychiatric, drug and alcohol, physical/sexual abuse, or other evaluation initiated with the approval and consent of the student's parents or guardian.

Student Rights:

1. To be treated with respect.
2. To be given due process. He/she will be informed of any infractions or alleged infractions; will be given an objective opportunity to tell his/her side of the situation; will be provided a hearing process to appeal disciplinary action.
3. To be given equal educational opportunity regardless of race, sex, religious creed, or handicap.
4. To be allowed freedom of speech (within guidelines deemed appropriate for the best educational interests of the District.)

Student Responsibilities:

1. To respect self and others;
2. To take no action which will cause harm or injury to self, others, or to property;
3. To help create and maintain an environment in which learning can take place; and
4. To participate actively in the learning opportunities--to be in class and to come prepared.

Discipline as Consequences for Behavior:

It is the intent of the District to provide an orderly atmosphere in which students understand what is expected of them, and to know the possible consequences. Disruptive and/or inappropriate actions may include, but are not limited to, behaviors such as fighting, bullying, use or possession of controlled substances, insubordination, truancy, or other behaviors that violate state and/or federal laws. This may also include additional inappropriate behaviors as determined by each individual school. The teaching and administrative staff will be expected to work with and include parents in this process. Early, open communication and teamwork can often prevent misbehavior from escalating.

Willful Disregard for School Rules:

Any student who purposely breaks school rules, who is incorrigible, or is continually disruptive to the school climate may be placed in school detention, suspended or expelled from school. Final discipline for school rules infractions rests with the principal, vice-principal, or administrative designee. Students violating civil law will be subject to local, state, and federal statutes.

Willful Disregard for School Rules:

It is the duty of the Board of Trustees to provide an educational atmosphere conducive to learning and to protect the health, safety, and morals of students. Clothing or grooming habits that are disruptive of the educational process, have a detrimental effect on the safety and morals of students, or that depict illegal or immoral acts that are obscene, lewd, or indecent is prohibited. Also prohibited is clothing with any depiction or words describing or advertising alcohol, tobacco, or any illegal substance.

Examples of Disciplinary Action:

The following list of disciplinary actions which may be taken by the principal or his/her designee (or under his/her direction) is intended to be suggestive and not conclusive nor sequential. All disciplinary action should fit the misbehavior and the individual situation in order to best modify the behavior.

1. Conference: a meeting involving the student, parents/legal guardians, and school personnel

to discuss the student's behavior or learning process. The schools will seek the assistance of the parents/guardians in helping the student.

2. **Contract:** a written agreement between student, parents, and administrator which outlines specific expectations of behavior and consequences for noncompliance.
3. **Detention:** a restriction of a student to a closely supervised area during lunch, recess, before or after school for a period of time. The student is obligated to bring materials to the detention area to work on to improve his/her academic achievement.
4. **Guidance:** a conversation between the student and school personnel. The purpose of this form of meeting is to inform the student of the need for behavior to change so that his learning capabilities are not jeopardized or the rights of other students are not violated.
5. **Rearrangement of School Schedule:** an assignment of a student to a new schedule of classes and/or teachers when his/her behavior has been unacceptable.
6. **Restriction of Extra-curricular Activities:** a loss of privilege to participate in certain activities because of past or present behavior.
7. **School Clean-up:** an assigned work project given to student.
8. **Suspension:**

Temporary Suspension:

Students who cannot abide by school regulations and policies of the District, and who disrupt the educational atmosphere or interfere with the educational processes of the school, may be suspended temporarily. One purpose of suspension is to allow time for the student, parents/guardian, and the school personnel to establish a corrective procedure with cooperation between home and school.

1. **In-School Suspension:** The building principal may remove a student from a class or classes and temporarily place him/her in an alternative learning center within the school. Suspension from a class may be initiated by the classroom teacher with concurrence of the principal. Verbal or written notification to parents/guardians shall be provided by the principal or his/her designee. Suspension from one or more classes may be initiated by the building principal provided that verbal or written notification is given to the parents/guardians in a timely fashion. Students will be given credit for assignments completed during supervised in-school suspension.
2. **Out-of-School Suspension:** The building principal may temporarily suspend students from school for up to five (5) days. At the conclusion of the original (5) days, the superintendent may extend the suspension period for up to an additional ten (10) school days. Upon application to the Board by the building principal and/or superintendent and

a finding that readmission of the suspended student would be detrimental to the other students' health, welfare and safety, the temporary suspension may be continued for an additional five (5) school days by the Board. Suspension may be initiated by the building principal provided that verbal or written notification is given to the parents/ guardians in a timely fashion. Students may not be allowed makeup privileges for assignments missed as a result of being suspended out of school.

Reporting Violations:

Any teacher or other school personnel believing a student has committed a violation of the school regulations which constitutes grounds for suspension shall notify the building principal or his/her designee or superintendent of such violation.

Conditional Readmission:

The suspended student may be readmitted prior to the expiration of any suspension period either conditionally or unconditionally as determined by the principal or superintendent who imposed the suspension initially. If the readmission is conditional, it should be made clear to the student and his/her parents/guardians that the breach of any of the conditions imposed for readmission will constitute a separate act for which temporary suspension may again be ordered.

The superintendent or principal may prepare a written statement of the condition of readmission to be signed by the student before readmission. If readmission is granted orally, such readmission and any conditions imposed thereon shall be documented by and placed in the student's permanent record.

Challenge of Temporary Suspension Action:

The written notice to the parents/guardians of temporary suspension, in addition to stating the alleged misbehavior, the rules violated, and the action taken, shall also advise the parents/guardians of their right to challenge the action and to request a conference with the principal and/or a conference for review by the superintendent whose decision will be final.

Conference:

If a conference with the principal or superintendent is requested by the parents/guardians, it should be held within three (3) school days after receipt of the request by the superintendent or principal.

Legal Reference: I.C. § 33-205 Denial of School Attendance
 I.C. § 33-512 Governance of Schools

Policy History:

Adopted on: October 17, 2013

Revised on: