

What if My Child Gets into Trouble & is “RPC’d,” Suspended or Recommended for Expulsion?

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PRINCIPAL’S OFFICE

Schools are supposed to follow progressive disciplinary measures and have been encouraged to provide disciplinary measures on their campuses.

Schools and school staff have the ability to offer different types of consequences unless it is a mandatory expulsion recommendation offense (battery to school employee, battery to a student with significant injury where a clear imbalance of power has been established, possession of firearms, arson, distribution of drugs, and violation of law). For these offenses, schools will refer to for expulsion and a child may be sent to a behavior or continuation school for a period of time.

If a child is not facing one of these offenses, schools should provide in-house disciplinary actions which may include:

- Required Parent Conferences (RPCs)
- In-house suspensions
- Requiring a student attend a behavior program offered on campus (such as a STAR ON program)
- Temporary removals from extra-curricular activities
- Or any other consequence available on campus

Typical Removals

RPCs, suspensions, and expulsions recommendations are the most typical removals for students. Each one involves a limited time out of school.

For RPCs, a child may only be removed the day of the incident and next day. For suspensions, a child may only be removed from three to 10 days. A school may recommend expulsion for a child but the child should not be out of school on a suspension pending the expulsion recommendation for more than 10 days.

All temporary removals (not expulsions) are supposed to be for gathering facts, determining safety measures and scheduling a parent conference. A school may suspend a child after an RPC if further investigation is needed, but it should only be long enough to conduct an investigation. If an incident is brought to a principal or dean’s attention, an Incident report and other forms should be filled out by school staff.

What You Can Do

As a caregiver or foster parent, you can request copies of any incident reports or paperwork and it will be provided to you. If you are concerned about something written in the incident report or think it is false, you or your child may provide an alternate statement to be added to the report from your perspective.

Also, if you feel your child is removed for an excessive period of time, ask if that time is needed for the investigation and remind the school that it is important your child attend school for consistency purposes.

Alternative Consequences

If your child gets in trouble and you do not like the recommended consequence, ask about alternative consequences available at school or creatively suggest your own fitting consequence that might right the wrong.

If your child is removed from school and this is hardship for you and/or you do not believe this is the right consequence for the child, also ask the school what on campus consequences are available.

Do not agree to an expulsion if you do not think it is the right consequence for your child. If your child is constantly getting removed from school or is recommended for expulsion, contact your child’s DFS caseworker or supervisor for possible assistance.



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