

## EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

September 12, 2006

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee B. Esslinger, Planning and Policy Committee  
Trustee D. Fleming, Planning and Policy Committee, Chair  
Trustee K. Gibson, Planning and Policy Committee

SUBJECT: Board Policy IGD.BP – *Student Suspension and Expulsion*

ORIGINATOR: C. McCabe, Executive Director

RESOURCE  
STAFF: Dennis Huculak, Anne Sherwood

### RECOMMENDATION

1. That revised Board Policy IGD.BP - *Student Suspension and Expulsion* (Appendix I) be introduced.
2. That revised Board Policy IGD.BP - *Student Suspension and Expulsion* (Appendix I) be considered for the first time.
3. That revised Board Policy IGD.BP - *Student Suspension and Expulsion* (Appendix I) be considered for the second time.

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The intent of Board Policy IGD.BP – *Student Suspension and Expulsion* (Appendix I) and corresponding Administrative Regulation IGD.AR – *Student Suspension and Expulsion* is to define the terms "suspension" and "expulsion" for usage in the district and to identify circumstances when suspensions and expulsions can be implemented. In addition, the policy sets the framework for the delegation of authority to the superintendent of schools and members of a roster approved by the board for hearing "single school" expulsion recommendations. The board retains the authority to hear recommendations for expulsion from all schools in the district. The policy also specifies the procedures to be followed when dealing with requests for reinstatement.

The administration believes that the existing policy has served the district well. Results of the Web Survey (Appendix II) which was open for stakeholder input between May 15 and June 14, 2006, indicate a high level of support (29 of 32 respondents) for approval of the existing policy. Based on advice from the district's general counsel subsequent to the survey, two revisions are being recommended. The word "teacher" is being inserted in section 1 (a) to make the policy consistent with the corresponding regulation. Section 3 has been added for clarification.

The recommendation will be brought to the September 26, 2006 board meeting for consideration for the third time and final approval. Once Board Policy IGD.BP - *Student Suspension and*

*Expulsion* is approved, the corresponding Administrative Regulation IGD.AR - *Student Suspension and Expulsion* (Appendix III) will be affirmed.

DH:cg

APPENDIX I:	Board Policy IGD.BP - <i>Student Suspension and Expulsion</i>
APPENDIX II:	Summary of Results of Web Survey re: Reaffirmation of Board Policy IGD.BP - <i>Student Suspension and Expulsion</i>
APPENDIX III:	Administrative Regulation IGD.AR - <i>Student Suspension and Expulsion</i>

## Edmonton Public Schools Board Policies and Regulations

CODE: IGD.BP  
TOPIC: Student Suspension and Expulsion

EFFECTIVE DATE:  
ISSUE DATE:  
REVIEW DATE:

The board recognizes the role of discipline in maintaining a positive learning environment. The board supports suspension and expulsion of a student as required in response to inappropriate, disruptive, or dangerous student behaviour.

### 1. Definitions

- a. Suspension: The term used to describe an action by a principal *or teacher* which temporarily denies a student access to one or more of the following:
  - i. one or more class periods,
  - ii. one or more courses,
  - iii. school, or
  - iv. riding in a school bus.
- b. Expulsion: The term used to describe an action which temporarily or permanently denies a student access to one or more of the following:
  - i. course(s),
  - ii. one or more schools, or
  - iii. riding in a school bus.

### 2. Student suspension or expulsion shall be applicable for violation of the board regulation on student behaviour and conduct

- a. where other means of corrective action have failed to bring about orderly or appropriate conduct on the part of the student; or
- b. where the student's behaviour is so severe that lesser corrective action would be insufficient.

### 3. *Although a suspension cannot be appealed, a principal can reinstate a student who has been suspended.*

### 4. Upon receipt of the principal's recommendation regarding expulsion, the board or the superintendent of schools or any person(s) identified by the superintendent of schools under Section (5) shall within ten school days from the date of the student's suspension, either reinstate or expel the student, and shall specify the terms of any expulsion and any follow-up action to be taken regarding re-admittance of the student at a later date.

### 5. Recommendations for expulsions from all district schools shall be heard by the board.

6. Recommendations for all other expulsions shall be heard by the superintendent of schools or by any person(s) identified by the superintendent of schools and who is on the roster of persons approved to preside at student expulsion hearings. This roster shall be composed of persons recommended by the superintendent of schools and approved by the board. The person(s) who presided at the expulsion hearing shall direct a student who has been expelled from a school to an alternative placement. The superintendent of schools shall ensure that all duties and responsibilities of the board are carried out with respect to any hearings conducted under this section.
7. Notwithstanding the board's regulation on appeals [AB.BP](#), appeals of decisions made in the name of the board under Section (6) above shall be directed to the Minister of Education.
8. A student who is expelled from all schools by the board shall be provided with information regarding steps to be taken to seek reinstatement to the district. Conditions for reinstatement will usually include, but are not limited to, demonstrable progress in counselling programs, academic pursuits, and conduct.

The superintendent of schools or any person(s) named by him from the roster referred to in Section (6) shall:

- a. hear requests for reinstatement of students who have been expelled;
- b. determine that any conditions specified for reinstatement and any conditions which in the circumstances seem appropriate to the person(s) presiding at the hearing regarding the reinstatement request, are satisfied; and
- c. direct a student who has been reinstated to a placement within the district.
- d. The parents, and the student if required by law, shall be informed of any decision regarding an expulsion recommendation or reinstatement request and of their right to request that the Minister of Education review the decision.

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Reference(s):

[AB.BP](#) - Appeals

[IGD.AR](#) - Student Suspension and Expulsion

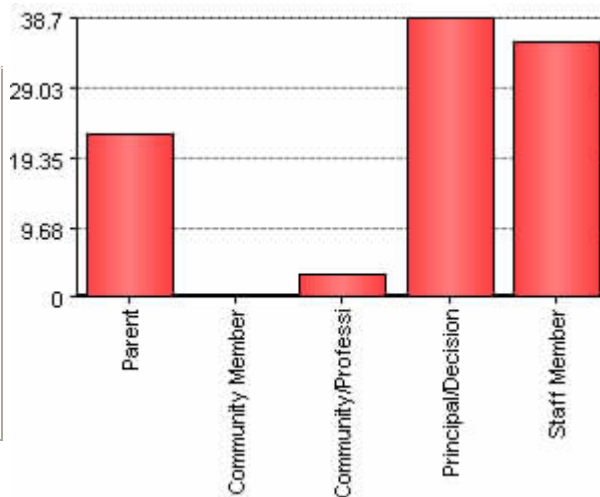
[School Act](#) Sections 12, 24 and 61(1)



## IGD.BP - Student Suspension and Expulsion

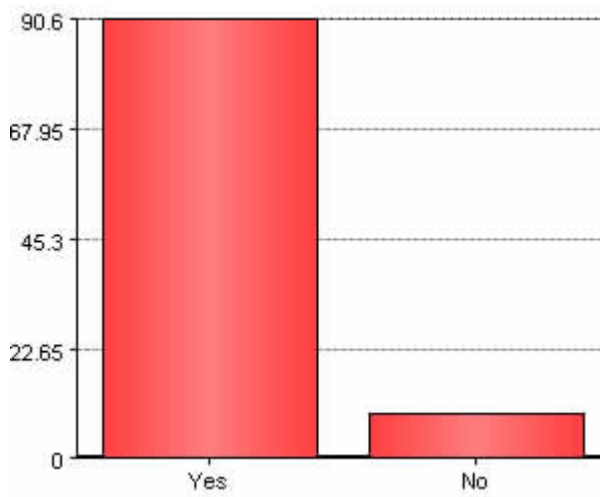
**Question 1:** Please select the one identifier that best describes the perspective from which you are providing feedback: (N=31)

Choices	Count	Percent
Parent	7	22.6
Community Member	0	0.0
Community/Professional Organization	1	3.2
Principal/Decision Unit Administrator	12	38.7
Staff Member	11	35.5



**Question 2:** Do you agree with the proposed reaffirmation of Board Policy IGD.BP - Student Suspension and Expulsion? (N=32)

Choices	Count	Percent
Yes	29	90.6
No	3	9.4



## Edmonton Public Schools Board Policies and Regulations

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### A. INTRODUCTION

1. A teacher may exclude a student for the duration of a class period.
2. A principal may suspend a student from one or more class periods, courses, or school programs, from school, or from riding in a school bus.
3. If a principal believes that the continued presence of a student will be detrimental to the operation of the school, the principal shall initiate a recommendation for expulsion.

### B. STUDENT SUSPENSION

1. When a student is suspended, the principal shall:
  - a. provide the student an opportunity to offer, whenever possible prior to the suspension, an explanation in defense or mitigation;
  - b. inform the student of the reasons for the suspension;
  - c. immediately inform the student's parent(s) by telephone if possible, followed by a letter signed by the principal or designate which shall contain all the circumstances including the grounds and the duration of the suspension;
  - d. provide an opportunity for the student's parent(s) to have a conference with the principal as soon as can be arranged after notification of the suspension.
2. If a student is not to be reinstated within five school days from the date of suspension, the procedure for expulsion shall apply.

### C. STUDENT EXPULSION

1. If a student is not to be reinstated within five school days from the date of suspension, the principal shall immediately:
  - a. inform the parent(s) and the student, in writing, of the recommendation for expulsion and that the suspension shall remain in effect until the expulsion recommendation is heard; and
  - b. report in writing to the superintendent of schools all information related to the recommendation for expulsion including both the extent and duration of the expulsion and, if required, a recommendation for any alternative placement.

2. The superintendent of schools shall inform the student and the student's parent(s), in writing:
  - a. when and where the recommendation for expulsion will be considered; and
  - b. that they have a right to be in attendance, to be heard, to provide written information, and to be represented by counsel or an advocate at that time.

#### D. EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

1. Principals may exclude students from participation or membership in a student organization, team, or club in accordance with administrative regulation HGDA.AR "Guidelines for Student Activities and Organizations". Such exclusion need not be made in accordance with the regulations governing student suspension and expulsion.
2. If a student participating in a school-sponsored activity (such as a field trip or athletic event) is deemed to have behaved in a manner that interferes with or detracts from the well being of the school or otherwise provides grounds for suspension or expulsion, the principal shall take formal disciplinary action in accordance with the regulations governing suspensions and expulsions.

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Reference(s):

[IGD.BP](#) - Student Suspension and Expulsion

[School Act](#) Sections 12 and 24

[HGDA.AR](#) - Guidelines for Student Activities and Organizations