

Please remember...

A child who is suspended from school cannot be at school, on any Fairfax County Public Schools property, or in attendance at any FCPS activities during the suspension without written permission. Your child can be charged with trespassing for doing so.

It is important for you to pick up your child's assignments from the school and return them. This will ensure that your child receives grades during the suspension.

Please note...

Student conduct is governed by the detailed information found in the current version of Regulation 2601, SR&R. In the event of a conflict between this document and SR&R, the SR&R shall be controlling in all cases.

You may wish to refer to the following regulations on the Fairfax County Public Schools web site:

<http://www.fcps.edu/Directives/>

- 2150 Prevention of Alcohol and Other Illegal Drug Use
- 2601 Student Rights & Responsibilities Booklet
- 2610 Removal of Students from School
- 2611 Procedures for Hearings and Appeals to School Board
- 2616 Questioning of Students by Police

Fairfax County Public Schools
Hearings Office
8115 Gatehouse Road
Falls Church, VA 22042
571-423-1280 phone
571-423-1287 fax

Revised October 2011

A Parent's Guide to Discipline Hearings



Hearings Office

My child has been recommended for expulsion, exclusion, or reassignment.

What do these terms mean?

Expulsion means a student is not permitted to attend any school within the school system for 365 calendar days. Only a School Board can expel a student. The School Board may permit an expelled student to attend an alternative educational setting during the expulsion. Not all students recommended for expulsion are expelled.

Exclusion means a student may be denied entry into FCPS if the student has been expelled or suspended from school for more than thirty days by a different public school system or a private school. Not all students recommended for exclusion are excluded.

Reassignment means a student is removed from his school and assigned to an alternative educational setting because the student has been charged with a certain serious criminal offense(s). Not all students recommended for reassignment are reassigned.

How does this begin?

Your child's principal makes an expulsion, exclusion, or reassignment recommendation to the Superintendent by forwarding a packet of information, including details of the reported misconduct and your child's school record. You may request a copy of that packet by calling the Hearings Office at 571-423-1280.

Why a hearing?

A student recommended for expulsion, exclusion, or reassignment has a right to a hearing before the Superintendent's Hearing Officer(s). After the hearing, you will receive a letter from the Hearings Office informing you of the decision.

Who attends the hearing?

It is important that both you and your child attend the hearing so that your child has an opportunity to provide his or her version of the incident. Your child's principal and/or assistant principal typically would attend. The principal may also have the school resource officer (SRO) or other school personnel attend. You are allowed to bring one other adult to the hearing. This might be a family friend, counselor, clergyman, or attorney. The hearing officer(s) will also be present.

Recording Hearings

All hearings are audio recorded. Additionally, you may elect, at your own expense, to have a court reporter attend and transcribe the hearing. Following the hearing, you may make an appointment to review the audio recording; however, you may not make your own recording during a hearing.

The Decision

The hearing officer's letter will explain whether the disciplinary recommendation was found to be warranted. Additionally, the letter will detail whether your child will be permitted to attend his base school, another regular school, an alternative school program, or in the case of an expulsion recommendation, if the recommendation is being forwarded to the School Board. Only the School Board can expel a student.

What if I disagree with the decision?

If you do not agree with a hearing officer's expulsion, exclusion, or reassignment decision, you may appeal the decision to the School Board. Information regarding your right to appeal will be included in the decision letter.

What about school work?

During this process, if suspended from school, your child will continue to receive assignments and to earn credit for all completed school work. Additionally, students will receive assistance from the Out-of-School Support Program. A teacher from the Out-of-School Support Program will contact you to provide academic assistance to your child during the term of his/her suspension.