

# A Parent's Guide to Discipline Hearings



Fairfax County Public Schools  
Hearings Office

# My child has been recommended for expulsion.

## Why?

Every student is expected to follow rules and regulations of the school system, county, state, and nation. Students are taught about their responsibilities as good citizens many times throughout their school careers. Additionally, each year, you and your child are asked to read and sign the current version of *Student Responsibilities and Rights*.

## How does this begin?

When a serious incident occurs, the principal of your child's school makes the expulsion recommendation to the Superintendent by forwarding a packet of information, including details of the investigated incident and your child's school record. You may request a copy of that packet by calling the Hearings Office at 571-423-1280.

## Suspension?

Any expulsion recommendation is accompanied by a 10-day suspension from school. During the suspension, the school will provide work to your child, which should be completed at home. You are responsible for picking up the work from the school and for returning it to the school for grading.

## What if I don't agree?

If you do not agree with the suspension assigned by the principal, you may appeal. You must submit your appeal to the Hearings Office in writing. The hearing officer will address your appeal at the hearing.

## Why a hearing?

Only the School Board can expel a student. The hearing scheduled for your child will be heard by two hearing officers representing the Superintendent. The hearing officers will decide if your child's expulsion recommendation will be forwarded to the School Board or if a different outcome is more appropriate. 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. Usually, the principal and assistant principal of the school attend. The school resource officer (SRO) may also attend. You are allowed to bring one other person. This might be a family friend, counselor, clergyman, or attorney. The two hearing officers, as well as a hearing assistant, will also be present.

## What if I disagree with the decision?

If you do not agree with the hearing officers' decision, you may appeal to the School Board. Information regarding your right to appeal will be included in the decision letter.

## Expulsion?

If the School Board expels your child, the expulsion may prevent your child from receiving any educational services from Fairfax County Public Schools for one year (365 calendar days).

## What then?

In approximately 10 months from the date of the expulsion, you may request in writing to have your child reenter Fairfax County Public Schools. A hearing will be scheduled to consider your request.

## Further Questions

If you have further questions, please contact the Hearings Office at 571-423-1280.

Please remember...

Your child cannot be at school, on the grounds of any Fairfax County Public Schools property, or attend any school activities during the suspension and hearing process. Your child can be charged with trespassing for doing so.

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

You may wish to refer to the following regulations in English on the Fairfax County Public Schools web site:  
<http://www.fcps.edu/Directives/>  
or contact your school.

- 2150 Prevention of Alcohol and Other Drugs
- 2601 Student Rights & Responsibilities Booklet
- 2610 Student Responsibilities and Rights
- 2611 Procedures for Hearings and Appeals
- 2616 Questioning of Students
- 4411 Student Exclusion/ Reassignment

Fairfax County Public Schools  
Hearings Office  
8115 Gatehouse Road  
Suite 5100  
Falls Church, VA 22042

571-423-1280 phone  
571-423-1287 fax



FCPS-Hearings Office-Brochure  
Revised October 2008

# A Parent's Guide to Discipline Hearings



Fairfax County Public Schools  
Hearings Office