
AURORA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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APS Code: JKD.1

DISCIPLINARY CLASSROOM REMOVAL BY TEACHER
(Suspension from Class)

To the extent authorized by Colorado law, a classroom teacher in this district is hereby given authority to remove a disruptive student from his or her classroom. Upon a third such removal from class, and provided that the legally required behavior plan has been developed and implemented, teachers are given authority to remove the student from class for the remainder of the term. The Superintendent is directed to adopt procedures to implement the purposes of this policy.

In exercising the right to exclude disruptive students, the Board of Education wishes teachers to be mindful that “a fair and effective discipline program is the shared responsibility of all stakeholders, including students, staff, parents and the larger community.” (See District Statement on Shared Responsibilities in Promoting Safe Schools, Policy ADHA*). In addition, the Board of Education expects that teachers will abide by the following principles, which are part of the District’s Philosophy Statement on Student Discipline (Policy ADH): “Greater attention should be given to the prevention of inappropriate behavior than to consequences for misbehavior,” and “good classroom management and thorough engagement of students in learning are among the most effective ways to reduce inappropriate behaviors.”

LEGAL REFS.: 22-32-109.1 (2)(a)(I)(B)

CROSS REFS.: ADH, District Philosophy Statement on Student Discipline
ADHA*, District Statement on Shared Responsibilities in Promoting Safe Schools

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DEFINITIONS

As used in this regulation, the term “disciplinary classroom removal” means the exclusion of a student from the classroom by a teacher for causing a material and substantial disruption in the classroom through behavior that is initiated, willful and overt on the part of the student. Teachers may exclude students from class without the incident being classified as a disciplinary classroom removal (e.g. through a pre-existing building referral process). A teacher must specifically identify a removal as a disciplinary classroom removal in district-provided documentation in order for the removal to be considered a disciplinary classroom removal. A disciplinary classroom removal is not a suspension from school. To be classified as a disciplinary classroom removal, all the requirements of this regulation and its accompanying policy must be followed.

As used in this regulation a “term” shall be defined as follows:

In elementary schools: a quarter

In middle schools: the grading period

In high schools: a quarter

As used in this regulation, the term “principal” shall refer to both the principal and any person designated by the principal to carry out the duties of the principal.

PROCEDURE FOR DISCIPLINARY CLASSROOM REMOVAL

The following procedures shall be followed with respect to any disciplinary classroom removal of a student.

1. A teacher may remove a student from the teacher’s classroom for the remainder of the class period for causing a material and substantial disruption in the classroom through behavior that is initiated, willful and overt on the part of the student. When a teacher removes a student from the classroom, the teacher shall direct the student to go to the

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school office or to any other place designated by the principal.

2. Except as otherwise set forth in this section, as soon as possible after a disciplinary classroom removal of a student from the classroom (and always before 24 hours has passed), the teacher shall complete the disciplinary classroom removal due process form and provide a copy to the principal. The principal shall have the power to overturn the removal decision of a teacher if he or she determines that the removal is contrary to law.
3. The teacher initiating the disciplinary removal of a student from the classroom, unless excused by the principal, shall provide the principal with assignments and other course work to be completed by the student as make-up work to account for the period of removal. The teacher shall contact the parent or legal guardian of the student as soon as possible after the removal and request the presence of the parent or legal guardian at a student-teacher conference. (The teacher shall notify the principal of the time and place of the meeting, so that the principal has the option to attend.)
4. The principal or his/her designee, with the teacher's input should the principal/designee desire such input, shall develop a behavior plan after a student's second one-day removal from the classroom during any term. (Such a plan may also be developed after a student's first one-day removal from the classroom during a term.) The teacher and school administration shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure that the behavior plan is developed and approved before the student is scheduled to re-enter class. However, the student shall not be excluded from class pending completion of the behavior plan. The behavior plan shall indicate that a third disciplinary classroom removal during a term may result in the student's removal from the classroom for the remainder of the term. As soon as possible, the teacher shall provide a copy of the behavior plan, as well as a copy of each revision thereto, to the student and the parent or legal guardian of the student. In order for a student to be removed from class due to a third disciplinary classroom removal, an approved behavior plan must have been in place prior to the class period during which the third event occurred. A copy of the behavior plan shall be given to the student and parent/guardian prior to the class period during which the third event occurred.

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5. For any student removed from the classroom for the remainder of a term as provided in paragraph 4 above, the teacher responsible for the removal shall provide the principal with lesson plans, assignments, other course work, quizzes and exams for the remainder of the term. Such material must be provided in a timely fashion. A teacher may be excused from the obligation of providing such material by the principal. The teacher must grade and return the work to the student within a reasonable time so as to allow the student to complete and receive credit for the course.
6. Disciplinary classroom removals shall not count as suspensions for purposes of declaring a student as “habitually disruptive” unless school administration takes the necessary steps under district policy JK.1.
7. Even where a disciplinary classroom removal has been imposed, a suspension or expulsion may also be imposed for the same behavior.
8. A teacher’s ability to remove a student with a disability from the classroom for disciplinary purposes shall be subject to governing law and the terms and conditions of the student’s IEP, Section 504 plan, or behavior plan. If the disciplinary classroom removal results in a change of placement, such removal must be preceded by a determination that the student’s alleged conduct was not a manifestation of his or her disability. This determination shall be made by the student’s IEP team or Section 504 team, whichever is applicable. In general, a one-day disciplinary removal of a student with a disability will not result in a change of placement unless the student has had a series of suspensions and/or classroom removals prior to the one-day disciplinary removal. Consistent with applicable law, the decision whether a change of placement would result from the proposed classroom removal shall be made by the principal in consultation with the special education teacher.

LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 22-32-109.1 (2)(a)(I)(B)

CROSS REFS.: JK.1, Student Discipline – District Conduct and Discipline Code