

BearPaw Legal

BearPaw Legal Education  
& Resource CentreNative Counselling  
Services of Alberta

Edmonton Public Schools: 780.429.8000  
 Edmonton Catholic Schools: 780.441.6000  
 Alberta School Boards Association: 780.482.7311

## WHO DO I CONTACT?

# MY CHILD HAS BEEN SUSPENDED OR EXPELLED FROM SCHOOL...



It is important to know that students and parents have rights related to attending school in Alberta, as well as suspension and expulsion from school...

## ATTENDING SCHOOL

Responsibilities of students & parents:

- According to the *School Act*, in Alberta students between the ages of 6 and 16 must attend school.
- Students may be required to attend school in an attendance area set by the school board. Students in the attendance area may be given preference over students who do not reside there.
- These laws also say students must attend school regularly and be on time
- There are exceptions for students who are unable to attend school, including those related to sickness and other unavoidable reasons, such as religious holidays, a suspension or expulsion still in effect, or if the school board feels the student's parents have enough evidence to keep them out of school.
- If there is reason to believe the student does not have a good reason to not attend school, an attendance officer may try to find the student and send them back to school and may accompany them if they believe they need to do so.

## SUSPENSION

What to expect:

- A student may be suspended from school if they are not following the rules about behaviour and conduct set out in the School Act.
- A teacher can suspend a student for one class period. A principal can suspend a student from the following: one or more class periods, other education programs, and from taking the school bus. The principal can return the suspended student to school.
- If a student is suspended by the principal, the principal must inform the student's parents about the suspension, send them a written report that includes all of the details of the suspension, make time to talk to the parents, and if they are over 16, the student, about the fairness of the suspension.
- If the student is not allowed to return to school within 5 school days, the principal must notify the school board and provide a written report about the circumstances of the suspension and recommendations.

**\*Find information on suspensions and expulsions in Alberta's *School Act* or your school board policies.**

## EXPULSION

The school board can expel a student after:

- Reading the report and recommendations from the principal; and
- talking to the student and student's parents.

The principal recommends expulsion and alternative education programs have to be offered to the student.

Expulsion must be for 10 days or more.

**NOTE: Before a student is expelled...**

**The school board must give *written notice* to the parents and, if they are 16 years or older, to the student about the following:**

- The expulsion
- The right to request a review according to Section 124 of the *School Act*

**Also, before the school board makes a decision about expulsion, the student and student's parents can speak to the board about the principal's recommendations.**

**Finally, the school board has the power to re-enrol a student who has been expelled.**