

# 11. Dismissal Procedures and Suspension/Expulsion

## Dismissal

Any of the following student behaviors are grounds for disciplinary action, which may lead to dismissal of the student by the governing board.

1. The illegal use, possession, or sale of controlled substances by any student while the student is on school property or in attendance at a school function.
2. Possession of a firearm, a knife, a weapon, or an item that may be used as a weapon by any student while the student is on school property or in attendance at a school function.
3. Violence against any school personnel or another student.
4. Sexual harassment.
5. Vandalism (theft, defacing, misuse of school property)

## Suspension/Expulsion

### Suspension of Students

An administrator may suspend a student for up to three days for the following reasons:

1. The student's behavior disrupts normal school proceedings sufficiently that it hampers the right of other students to learn.
2. The student willfully and knowingly destroys school property or threatens to do so.
3. The student physically injures or threatens to injure himself/herself or others.

### Due Process

Public schools are bound by both procedural and substantive due process when a suspension becomes necessary. Any suspension should also be reasonably expected to help correct the problem for which it was necessary. Suspended students must remain on the school's membership rolls, and they must be counted as absent during the period of their suspension.

#### 1. Procedural Due Process:

**a. Notice:** The student must have had reasonable opportunity to know the expectations for acceptable conduct in the school.

**b. Hearing:** Parents/guardians must be notified immediately of the suspension. The student and parent/guardian have a right to explain what occurred, as they perceived it.

## **2. Substantive Due Process:**

Disciplinary actions imposed by school officials will not be arbitrary, capricious, or unfair.

### **Suspension for More than Three Days**

The AISU Disciplinary committee must authorize suspension of a student for longer than a three-day period. If a student is to be suspended he/she is entitled to the following rights of due process:

1. The student must have had reasonable opportunity to be informed of the rules and policies of the school.
2. The student must be advised of the violations against him/her that may be the basis for suspension and be given an opportunity to explain his/her version of the incident and respond to the allegations.
3. The parent/guardian of the suspended student must be given prompt written or verbal notice of the suspension and the reason for the action.

During the period of suspension the school shall maintain the student on its membership rolls and count him/her as absent. The school shall also make provisions for homework to be provided during the period of suspension. If a student is suspended on a Safe School Referral, the services offered to the student are different than when they are suspended for other reasons. The student suspended on a Safe School Violation is suspended from **all** services and activities, including receiving homework, until the Safe School Screening Committee processes the referral.

Expulsion from the school may result when a student has engaged in very serious or extreme behaviors. An expulsion for a minimum period of one calendar year may be imposed for any student who brings a firearm to school or is in possession of a firearm at the school or any school activity.

**Note:** AISU will adopt and adhere to procedural safeguards to protect the rights of students with special needs, specifically those who have or would qualify for IEPs.