

EXPULSION (HEARING PROCEDURE)Date: July 27, 2004

Long-term suspension is defined as temporary removal of a student from a school campus and exclusion from all school-sponsored activities for a term in excess of 10 days. Expulsion is defined as suspension for a year or longer.

A student who has committed a violation of the discipline code which requires long-term suspension or expulsion, must be afforded due process rights before the Columbia County Student Discipline Tribunal (Ga. Code Section 20-2-751; 20-2-752; 20-2-753; 20-2-754; 20-2-755). The Hearing Officer shall be vested with the authority to hear and act on student disciplinary matters on behalf of the Columbia County Board of Education. This Hearing Officer, as designated by the Board of Education, carries with it all authority and full force of law accorded to local boards of education. The Hearing Officer shall be protected by liability insurance provided by the Board of Education.

The Board of Education shall appoint a Hearing Officer as recommended by the Superintendent. **Disciplinary Hearings shall be held no later than ten school days after the beginning of the student's suspension unless the school system and parents or guardians mutually agree for an extension.** The Hearing Officer shall be responsible for conducting the hearings, maintaining order, issuing any ruling during the hearing and on behalf of the Tribunal, issue the final decision. **Any teacher who is called as a witness by the school system shall be given notice no later than three days prior to the hearing. (Georgia Code 20-2-754)**

The Hearing Officer shall have the power and authority to impose the following defined disciplinary measures:

1. "Short-term Suspension" - meaning the suspension of a student from a public school for not more than 10 school days;
2. "Long-term Suspension" - meaning the suspension of a student from a public school for more than 10 school days but not beyond the current school semester or year.
3. "Expulsion" - meaning the expulsion of a student from a public school beyond the current school semester or year.

All rulings made by this Hearing Officer involving a long-term suspension or an expulsion shall carry a right of appeal to the Columbia County Board of Education, and in the event of appeal, the Superintendent of the Columbia County Board of Education may suspend enforcement of the long-term suspension or expulsion ordered, pending the outcome of any appeal to the Columbia County Board of Education.

**LEGAL REFERENCES: Georgia Code 20-2-751; 20-2-752; 20-2-753;
20-2-754; 20-2-755**

PROCEDURE: YES

**ADOPTED: 1/1/76
REVISED: 3/10/81;1/12/88;7/22/97;8/10/99
Columbia County Board of Education**