

Dickson County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in March	Descriptor Term: Suspension	Descriptor Code: 6.315	Issued Date: 10/22/20
		Rescinds: 6.315	Issued: 10/24/13

1 REASON FOR SUSPENSION:

2 Any principal or assistant principal may suspend any student from attendance at school, including its
3 sponsored activities, or from riding a school bus for good and sufficient reasons including, but not limited
4 to:¹

- 5 1. Willful and persistent violation of the rules of the school;
- 6 2. Immoral or disreputable conduct, including vulgar or profane language;
- 7 3. Violence or threatened violence against the person of any personnel attending or assigned to any
8 school;
- 9 4. Willful or malicious damage to real or personal property of the school or the property of any
10 person attending or assigned to the school;
- 11 5. Inciting, advising, or counseling of others to engage in any of the action that would justify
12 suspension;
- 13 6. Marking, defacing, or destroying school property;
- 14 7. Possession of a pistol, gun, or firearm on school property;²
- 15 8. Possession of a knife or other weapons, as defined in state law, on school property;³
- 16 9. Assaulting a principal, teacher, school bus driver, or other school personnel with vulgar,
17 obscene, or threatening language;
- 18 10. Unlawful use or possession of barbitol or legend drugs as defined in state law;⁴
- 19 11. Engaging in behavior which disrupts a class or school-sponsored activity;
- 20 12. Making a threat, including a false report, to use a bomb, dynamite, or any other deadly
21 explosive or destructive device including chemical weapons on school property or at a school-
22 sponsored event;
- 23 13. One (1) or more students initiating a physical attack on an individual student on school property
24 or at a school activity, including travel to and from school;
- 25 14. Off-campus criminal behavior resulting in felony charges;

1 15. When behavior poses a danger to persons or property or disrupts the educational process; or

2 16. Any other conduct prejudicial to good order or discipline in any school.

3 Except in an emergency, a principal shall not suspend any student until that student has been advised
4 of the nature of his/her misconduct, questioned about it, and allowed to give an explanation.

5 If, as a result of an investigation, a principal/designee finds that a student acted in self-defense under a
6 reasonable belief that the student, or another to whom the student was coming to the defense of, may
7 have been facing the threat of imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury, then the student may
8 not face any disciplinary action.⁵

9 When a student is suspended, the principal shall notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the Director of
10 Schools/designee of the following:

11 1. Student's suspension;

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13 2. Cause for the suspension; and

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15 3. Any conditions for readmission which may include a meeting of the parent(s)/guardian(s),
16 student, and the principal.

17 If a student is suspended during the last ten (10) days of any term or semester, he/she shall be
18 permitted to take such final examinations or submit such required work as necessary to complete the
19 course of instruction for that semester, subject to conditions prescribed by the principal.⁶

20 **IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION⁷**

21 Any principal or assistant principal may suspend any pupil from attendance at a specific class, classes,
22 or school sponsored activity without suspending such pupil from attendance at school.

23 In-school suspension shall be offered to students as an alternative program (if applicable) to complete
24 academic assignments and receive credit for work completed.

25 Students given an in-school suspension in excess of one (1) day from classes shall attend special
26 classes attended only by students guilty of misconduct or be placed in an isolated area appropriate for
27 study. Personnel responsible for in-school suspension shall ensure that each student is supervised at all
28 times and has textbooks and classwork assignments from his/her regular teachers. Students given in-
29 school suspension shall be required to complete academic assignments and shall receive credit for
30 work completed.

31 Good and sufficient reasons for such in-school suspension shall include, but not limited to:

32 1. Attendance which adversely affects the safety and well-being of other pupils;

33 2. Behavior which disrupts a class or school sponsored activity; or

34 3. Behavior prejudicial to good order and discipline occurring in class during school-sponsored
35 activities, on the school bus or on the school campus.

1 SUSPENSIONS LONGER THAN FIVE DAYS⁸

2 If a suspension is longer than five (5) days, the principal shall develop and implement a plan for
3 improving the student's behavior.

4 SUSPENSIONS LONGER THAN TEN DAYS⁹

5 Before the principal suspends a student for longer than ten (10) days, he/she shall contact the Director
6 of Student Services in order to schedule a Disciplinary Hearing Authority meeting. The Disciplinary
7 Hearing Authority will hear the case to decide the appropriate consequences. The principal shall then
8 immediately give written notice to the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the student the time, date and location
9 of the Disciplinary Hearing Authority. Once the decision of the Disciplinary Hearing Authority is
10 rendered, the parent/guardian and students will be notified the right to appeal the decision and the
11 procedure to follow. All appeals shall be filed within five (5) days of receipt of the decision. These
12 appeals may be filed by the parent(s)/guardian(s), the student, or any person holding a teaching license
13 who is employed by the school district if requested by the student.

14 PROCEDURES FOR IN-SCHOOL AND OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION:

- 15 1. Unless the student's continued presence in the school, class or school-related activity presents
16 and immediate danger to the student or other persons or property, no principal shall suspend
17 any student until that student has been advised of the nature of his/her misconduct, questioned
18 about it and allowed to give an explanation.
- 19 2. Upon suspension of any student (in-school suspension in excess of one (1) day, the principal
20 shall make an attempt to personally contact the parent/guardian to inform them of the
21 suspension. The student shall not be sent home before the end of the school day unless the
22 parent or guardian has been personally contacted.
- 23 3. The principal shall notify the parent/guardian and the Director of schools/Designee in writing
24 of the suspension and the cause and a request for a meeting with the parent/guardian.
- 25 4. If the Suspension is to exceed five (5) days but is no more than ten (10) days, the principal shall
26 request a meeting with the parent or guardian and student within the first five (5) days
27 following the issuance of the suspension and shall develop and implement a plan for correcting
28 the behavior. At the time of the scheduled meeting, whether attended or not by the
29 parent/guardian and student, the principal shall determine the length of the suspension (up to
30 ten (10) days total) and the conditions for readmission.
- 31 5. If at the time of the suspension the principal determines that an offense has been committed
32 which, in the judgment of the principal would justify a suspension for more than ten (10) days
33 he/she shall immediately suspend the student to the disciplinary hearing authority.
- 34 6. If the suspension occurs during the last ten (10-) days of any term or semester, the student shall
35 be permitted to take such final examinations or submit such required work as necessary to
36 complete the course of instruction for that semester, subject to conditions prescribed by the
37 principal.
- 38 7. Students under suspension form one (1) school in the school system cannot enter another
39 school in the system or attend any school related events.

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Legal References

1. TCA 49-2-203(a)(7); TCA 49-6-3401(a)
2. TCA 39-17-1309(b)
3. TCA 39-17-1309
4. TCA 53-10-101; TCA 39-17-454
5. TCA 49-6-3401(i)
6. TCA 49-6-3401(d)
7. TCA 49-6-3401(b)(1)
8. TCA 49-6-3401(c)(3)
9. TCA 49-6-3401(a)-(c); *Goss v. Lopez*, 419 U.S. 565 (1975); 20 USCA § 1415

Cross References

Traffic and Parking Controls 3.403
Code of Conduct 6.300
Procedural Due Process 6.302
Interference/Disruption of School Activities 6.306
Drug-Free Schools 6.307
Bus Safety and Conduct 6.308
Zero Tolerance Offenses 6.309
Dress Code 6.310
Student Disciplinary Hearing Authority 6.317
Alternative Education 6.319