

Suspension/Expulsion of Handicapped Students

Special education students are neither immune from a school district's disciplinary process nor entitled to participate in programs when their behavior impairs the education of other students.

A special education student may be temporarily suspended from school if exclusion is warranted because of the student's disruptive activities and/or actions which present a physical danger to himself, other students, school personnel or school property.

A special education student whose behavior is determined to be a manifestation of his or her handicap may not be expelled but shall have his or her individual education plan (IEP) reviewed by the appropriate IEP team. The team shall review the IEP for appropriateness of services and the need for a more restrictive or alternate placement.

A special education student whose behavior creates a threat of physical harm to himself or other students may not be expelled if the actions creating the threat are a manifestation of his or her handicap. However the student shall be removed from the classroom to an appropriate alternative setting within the district for a length of time which is consistent with federal law. Within 10 days, the school in which the student is enrolled shall arrange for a re-examination of his or her IEP to amend the plan as necessary to ensure that the needs of the student are addressed in a more appropriate manner or setting which is less disruptive to other students.

Legal counsel and the special education director shall be consulted prior to consideration of expulsion of a special education student for misbehavior that is not related to his or her handicapping condition

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LEGAL REF.: C.R.S. 22-33-106 (1)(c)