

DANBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Danbury, Connecticut

POLICY

SUSPENSION ALTERNATIVES

Adopted: 5/10/2000

Policy No. 7-240

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The Board of Education and the administration subscribe to the belief that suspension from school should be a punishment of last resort. In keeping with this belief, it is the policy of the Danbury Public Schools that alternatives to suspension as described herein shall be considered when a disciplinary punishment must be imposed upon a student.

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

Principals are encouraged to develop preventative measures designed to remedy student misconduct prior to or in conjunction with the alternative measures in “Alternatives to Suspension” below. Such measures may include, but are not limited to, counseling services, parent/teacher/student conference, in-school peer group counseling programs, and services of school/community social and psychological agencies.

ALTERNATIVES TO SUSPENSION

Adjustment of Student’s Schedule

In lieu of suspension, a student’s class schedule may be adjusted solely to minimize contact between the student and a teacher or between the student and another student when there is evidence of an ongoing conflict provided such adjustment does not result in academic penalty against the student.

Denial of Extracurricular Opportunities

In lieu of suspension, students may be denied access to and participation in extracurricular activities, social events, intramural activities, as well as interscholastic sports activities.

Students may be denied these privileges for a period of time not to exceed 4 weeks or for the duration of a scheduled sport season, whichever is shorter in duration.

Detention

In lieu of suspension, students may be required to remain after school hours for a period of time not to exceed one hour per day.

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The number of days of detention shall not be for more than twice the number of days, which would have resulted from in-school suspension, or a maximum of ten days.

Students who are detained will not be permitted to attend or participate in extracurricular activities while on detention.

Probation System

A probation period may be established for students when a school principal determines that it would be better benefit the student to remain in the classroom than to incur an out-of-school suspension. A conference will be held with the student, the student's parents, an/or the student advocate, a counselor and the teacher involved with the student in order to develop a behavioral contract which will enable the student to remain in class. The contract becomes effective when signed by the student and the appropriate school personnel.

1. A contract form will be drafted in terms readily understood by the student. The contract will simply state the name and title of the persons entering into the contract; the expected or required behavior of the student; and the consequences of violation of the required behavior.
2. A breach of contract may result in imposition of a discipline method otherwise permitted by the Discipline Code.

In-School Suspension

In order to maintain greater control and provide more guidance for students who disruptive behavior forces their temporary removal from the regular classroom, in-school suspension shall be conducted in the secondary schools in conformance with the following guidelines:

1. The procedures governing suspension as set forth in the Discipline Code shall be adhered to.
2. Students will be assigned to in-school suspension by school administrators.
3. Students may be assigned to the in-school suspension unit for up to a maximum

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of 5 days.

4. The administration will inform staff members of the names of those students assigned to in-school suspension. This will include notifying the student's counselor and the school social worker.
5. The administration or designee will communicate directly with the parent/guardian that a student has been assigned to in-school suspension, giving the reason for such assignment. A conference may be held prior to the student's re-admittance to regular classes.
6. The in-school suspension teacher shall see that each student assigned to in-school suspension will have textbooks and class work assignments. If the student does not, the teacher shall make the necessary arrangements to have the student get this material.
7. Credit shall be given for all assigned class work completed during the period of suspension. This material is to be turned in the first day the student returns to regular class. The student may also make up any test or quiz given during their suspension. Evaluation of the class work and test/quiz shall be done by the classroom teacher.
8. Students who are suspended for a third time in any school year shall be referred to the suspending school administrator for an "in-school study" by members of the building Pupil Services Staff. The principal must, based upon the information provided in this study, refer the student for study by a Planning and Placement Team.
9. Students may return to the regular education program once assignment to the in-school suspension unit has been fulfilled or once they have acquired a specific number of credits earned for positive behavior, whichever occurs first.

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