

Guiding Principles

The Public Schools Act and the Appropriate Disciplinary Consequences in Schools Regulation (M.R. 92/2013) permit the use of suspension. This policy directive is intended to expand upon both the legislation and regulation where suspension is determined to be the appropriate disciplinary consequence when a student's unacceptable conduct or disruptive behaviour is found to be injurious to the school environment and/or deemed an imminent safety risk to students and staff.

Policy and procedures must comply with the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and *The Human Rights Code of Manitoba*, as well as the rights and responsibilities related to education in Manitoba as defined in The Public Schools Act and The Education Administration Act and their related regulations, standards, and ministerial directives. Policies and procedures must align with the *Standards for Appropriate Educational Programming in Manitoba* (MEECL, 2022) and *Mamàhtawisiwin: The Wonder We Are Born With: An Indigenous Education Policy Framework* (MEECL, 2022) and the following guiding principles:

- Ensuring a safe, caring, and inclusive learning environment, policies and procedures must support Manitoba's Philosophy of Inclusion.
- Decisions shall appropriately address safety risk to students and staff, plan for a safe and orderly learning environment, and reflect the best interests of the students.
- Decisions shall respect the right and access to education for children and youth.
- Student success and well-being is a collective responsibility and requires active agency on the part of all who are responsible for children and youth.
- Appropriate measures shall be taken to ensure that school discipline is administered in a manner consistent with respecting the child's human dignity.
- Disciplinary alternatives are to be informed by research and best practices.
- Relationships matter in providing a sense of safety and belonging for all students.

It is expected that policies and procedures on the use of suspension are

- consistent with the guidelines in this document
- consistent with the school's discipline and behaviour intervention policies, including the disciplinary consequences for violations of the school's code of conduct
- applicable to all students
- consistent across schools
- in alignment with precepts of due process, procedural fairness, and natural justice
- discussed in consultation with parents*, who have the right to be informed of the discipline and behaviour intervention policies of the school or school division and to be consulted before the policies are established or revised

* The term *parents* refers to both parents and legal guardians and is used with the recognition that in some cases only one parent may be involved in a child's education or that the significant adult in the life of many students may not be their parent. This term may also apply to a student who has reached the age of majority.