SUSPENSION SECONDARY OF STUDENTS
(REGULATION)

In accordance with the policy of the board of education, the following regulation shall govern the suspension of students from school.

The authority to suspend a student from school in this district is delegated to the program administrators who may delegate this duty to other certified personnel if, in his/her discretion, to do so would be in the best interests of the district.

1. Any student may be suspended for:
   - Violations of policy or regulations, including repeated violations of the attendance policy and the tobacco use policy (See policies CKDA and FDC)
   - Possession of an intoxicating beverage, low-point beer (37 O.S. §163.2) (See policy FNCE)
   - Possession of missing or stolen property if the property is reasonably suspected to have been taken from a student, a school employee, or the school during school activities
   - Possession of a dangerous weapon or a controlled dangerous substance (Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act) (See policies FNCE, FNCF and FNCGA)
   - Possession of a firearm shall result in out-of-school suspension at the discretion of the district (See policy FNCGA)
   - Any act which disrupts the academic atmosphere of the school, endangers or threatens fellow students, teachers, or officials, or damages property, including, but not limited to:
     - Commission of an offense that would be classified as a felony or misdemeanor under state laws, including burglary, larceny, robbery, theft, arson, vandalism, or similar juvenile offense
     - Extortion, blackmail, or coercion of fellow students or faculty
     - Repeated classroom disturbances
     - Interfering with school employees through striking or threatening to strike or otherwise abusing school employees
     - Participating in unauthorized and disruptive demonstrations on school property
     - Failure to identify self to appropriate authority in a crisis situation
     - Students in grades six through twelve found to have assaulted, attempted to cause physical bodily injury, or acted in a manner that could reasonably cause bodily injury to a school employee or person volunteering for a school shall be suspended for the remainder of the current semester and the next consecutive semester. The term of the suspension may be modified by the school district superintendent on a case-by-case basis.

2. A full suspension shall not extend beyond the present semester and the succeeding semester except for violations of the Gun-Free Schools Act which provides suspensions for up to one calendar year or longer. (See policy FNCGA.)

3. Except under circumstances which require the immediate removal of a student or students, the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) shall be informed before a student is released from school.

4. Any student who has been adjudicated as a delinquent for any offense and has been removed from a public or private school in this state or any other state for such act, will not be enrolled in the district until such time as that student no longer poses a threat to self, other students, or faculty.
SUSPENSION SECONDARY OF STUDENTS, REGULATION (Cont.)

5. Students suspended out-of-school who are on an individualized education plan pursuant to IDEA, P.L. No. 101-476, shall be provided the education and related services in accordance with the student’s Individual Education Plan. Consideration of a suspension of more than 10 days will be discussed with the special education teacher.

6. A student who has been suspended for a violent offense which is directed towards a classroom teacher shall not be allowed to return to that teacher’s classroom without the approval of that teacher.

It is the intent of the Pioneer Technology Center administration to involve the parents of secondary students early in the discipline process. Parental support is encouraged and solicited. In the event a minor student is suspended, the parents shall be notified by telephone and a written report of the charged violation shall be delivered or mailed to the parents.

Procedural Steps to Suspension

Before a student is suspended from school, the program administrator shall consider and apply, if appropriate, alternative in-school placement options that are not to be considered suspensions. Such placements can include an alternative school setting, reassignment to another classroom, or in-school detention. If such alternate placement is rejected, written justification must be placed in the student’s permanent record. Other penalties that may be assigned include in-school detention, extra work that cannot be associated with class work, or other penalty agreed upon by the student and the administrator as appropriate for the offense.

1. Probation: A student may be placed on probation with or without additional disciplinary action. If probation is elected by the administrator as a suitable alternative to suspension, both the student and the parent(s) shall be notified of the probation and the reasons therefor.

2. In-school Placement: In-school placement is an alternative to out-of-school suspension. In-school placement will be imposed by the student's program administrator and the student will be placed in a supervised, structured environment. This placement will not be considered suspension and may include an alternative school setting, reassignment to another classroom, or in-school detention. Both the student and the parent(s) shall be notified of the placement, the reasons therefor, and the right to appeal the placement to the suspension committee.

3. Out-of-school Suspension:

A student may be suspended from school for the remainder of the current semester and the entirety of the succeeding semester. If out-of-school suspension is prescribed, the administrator must justify in writing why in-school placement was not appropriate.

A. Both the student and the parent(s) shall be notified of the suspension, the grounds therefor, and the right to appeal the suspension to the board of education. A student suspended out-of-school will be placed in a supervised, structured environment in either a home-based school work assignment setting or another appropriate setting.
B. If a student is suspended out-of-school for five (5) days or less the district may provide an education plan. If a student is suspended for more than five (5) days and is found guilty of acts as described above (see also Policy FO), the school administration shall provide the student with an education plan designed for the eventual reintegration of the student into school which provides for the core units in which the student is enrolled.

- Core units, as applied to Pioneer Technology Center, consist of the minimum English, Mathematics, Science Social Studies and Art units required by the Oklahoma State Department of Education for high school graduation in grades nine through twelve. If the suspended student is not enrolled in any core units, no education plan is required.
- The plan shall set out the procedure for education and shall address academic credit for work satisfactorily completed.
- A copy of the plan shall be provided to the student’s parents or guardian, and the parents or guardian shall be responsible for the provision of a supervised, structured environment in which the parent or guardian shall place the student and bear responsibility for monitoring the student’s educational progress until the student is readmitted to school.
- No education plan is necessary for act which involve the possession of a dangerous weapon or controlled dangerous substance, as defined in the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act.

Appellate Procedures

Any student who has been suspended under the steps listed above, or the student's parent(s), may appeal the suspension to the suspension appeals committee. If the suspension appeals committee does not withdraw the suspension, the student shall have the right to appeal the decision to the board of education. The following procedures shall govern the appellate process:

1. Any student who has been suspended for ten (10) days or less under the steps listed above, or the student’s parent(s), may appeal the suspension to the suspension appeals committee. The following procedures shall govern the appellate process:

   A. The student, or the student’s parent(s), shall notify the superintendent within ten (10) days following the suspension or the notice of the intent to suspend of their intent to appeal the suspension.

   B. Upon receiving notice of a student’s intent to appeal, the superintendent shall advise the suspension appeals committee. The suspension appeals committee shall hear the appeal within ten (10) days from the date the notice of intent is filed with the superintendent. The superintendent, at his/her discretion, may permit the suspended student to attend classes pending the outcome of the appeal.

   C. During the hearing of the appeal before the suspension appeals committee, the student or the student’s parent(s) shall have the right to provide evidence as to why the suspension, or the duration thereof, is inappropriate. The student shall not have the right to be represented by legal counsel, unless the school district is represented by legal counsel.
D. The suspension appeals committee shall determine the guilt or innocence of the student, and the reason-
ableness of the term of the suspension. The suspension appeals committee may uphold, overrule, or
modify the suspension. The student and the student’s parent(s) shall be notified within five (5) days of the
decision.

E. Decisions of the suspension appeals committee may not be appealed to the board of education. The
decision of the suspension appeals committee shall be final.

2. Any student who has been suspended for greater than ten (10) days under the steps listed above, or the
student’s parent(s), may request a review of the suspension with the administration. If the administration does
not withdraw the suspension, the student shall have the right to appeal the decision to the board of education.
The following procedures shall govern the appellate process:

A. The student, or the student’s parent(s), shall notify the superintendent within ten (10) days following the
suspension or the notice of the intent to suspend of their intent to appeal the suspension.

B. Upon receiving notice of a student’s intent to appeal, the superintendent shall advise the board of educa-
tion. The board of education may conduct the hearing or may appoint a hearing officer to conduct the
hearing. The board of education or hearing officer shall hear the appeal within ten (10) days from the date
the notice of intent is filed with the superintendent. The superintendent, at his/her discretion, may permit
the suspended student to attend classes pending the outcome of the appeal.

C. During the hearing of the appeal before the board of education or hearing officer, the student or the
student’s parent(s) shall have the right to provide evidence as to why the suspension, or the duration
thereof, is inappropriate. The student shall not have the right to be represented by legal counsel, unless the
school district is represented by legal counsel.

D. The board of education or hearing officer shall determine the guilt or innocence of the student, and the
reasonableness of the term of the suspension. The board of education or hearing officer may uphold,
overrule, or modify the suspension. The student and the student’s parent(s) shall be notified within five
(5) days of the decision. The decision of the board of education or hearing officer shall be final.

Suspension Appeals Committee

The suspension appeals committee will consist of administrators or teachers or a combination of administrators and
teachers. The members of the committee will be appointed by the superintendent and may include the superintendent. However, any member of the committee who initiated a suspension in a case shall be excused from the committee
during any appeal of that particular case.
SUSPENSION SECONDARY OF STUDENTS, REGULATION (Cont.)

Appeal for Reinstatement

Students who have been suspended for the remainder of a semester, or more, may petition the superintendent for reinstatement. The superintendent may, at his/her discretion, schedule an informal hearing with the concerned administrator. At the hearing, the student may present evidence of attitude or behavior modification which would support reinstatement. The superintendent and the appropriate administrator may recommend the reinstatement of the student or denial of reinstatement and submit a written report of the informal hearing to the board of education. The board shall take whatever action it deems appropriate.

SUSPENSION IMPOSED BY SENDING SCHOOL DISTRICT

When a sending school district suspends a student who, at the time of the suspension, is enrolled at Pioneer – the Superintendent or his/her designee shall promptly review the available information and determine whether the suspension shall also result in a suspension from Pioneer. In the event the student shall be suspended from Pioneer, for a reason involving suspension by the sending school, Pioneer shall follow its procedures for suspension including notice of the suspension, opportunity to respond, and (where applicable) right to a hearing. When Pioneer suspends a secondary student, it will likewise notify the sending school district of the suspension. Treatment accorded Pioneer’s suspension shall be the decision of the sending school district.

Records and Reports

The administrator or school official will keep written records of each suspension conference containing the date of the conference, the names of the persons present, the time duration of the conference, and the basis of rejection of alternative disciplinary options. Also, the administrator shall maintain records related to the Education Plan and the student and/or parent’s compliance or non-compliance with the Plan. (see policy FO-R1, Records of Student Disciplinary Actions and Procedures)

Return to School

Upon return to school after a suspension for disciplinary purposes, the student should report to the program administrator or the classroom instructor, if so assigned.

NOTE: 70 O.S. §24-101.3 (E) states that a student who has been suspended from a public or private school in the state of Oklahoma or another state for a violent act or an act showing deliberate or reckless disregard for the health or safety of faculty or other students shall not be entitled to enroll in a public school of this state, and no public school shall be required to enroll such student, until the terms of the suspension have been met or the time of suspension has expired.