



Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Recommendation for Expulsion - Arelius Jones, 11th Grade | 2 |
| Letter to Family | 4 |
| Statements & Evidence | 9 |
| Handbook Guidance | 23 |



Recommendation for Expulsion - Arelius Jones, 11th Grade

I. Recommendation for Expulsion

Kurt Bunnelle, Head of Schools, recommends 11th grader Arelius Jones (AJ) for expulsion from KIPP KC. Per KIPP KC's handbook, this recommendation must be approved by KIPP KC's Board of Directors.

II. Summary of Events

The following summarizes key events leading up to this recommendation. More information can be found in the attachments.

- Arelius Jones (AJ) brought a loaded weapon to the Homecoming football game at North Kansas City High School on 9/29/2023.
- At the time of discovery, the weapon's safety was turned off and there was a bullet in the chamber.
- Mrs. McRae, the high school Assistant Principal, found the weapon after interacting with AJ. They were talking and she noticed that he was not moving his arm. She asked him to go to a more private location with Mr. Swartzlander where AJ produced a gun from under his arm.
- Police were called immediately on 9/29, the night of the incident. The weapon was turned over to police at that time. A police report was filed by Ms. McRae.
- AJ reported that he found the gun in a bathroom at the stadium and decided to put it under his arm rather than turn it in. However, statements from students and staff, as well as video from the stadium, did not corroborate AJ's story.



III. Board Approval

Student expulsions from KIPP KC must be approved by KIPP KC's Board of Directors. After reviewing the information in this case, expulsion is

☐ Approved

☐ Not approved

Board Signature: _____

Date: _____



Letter to Family



Referral for Expulsion

Student: Arelious Jones (11th Grade)

Recommendation from: Josh Swartzlander (Principal), Amanda McRae (Assistant Principal)

Approved by: Kurt Bunnelle (Head of Schools)

Date: 10/18/2023

Dear Family of Arelious Jones,

Upon conclusion of our investigation, KIPP KC has decided upon an out-of-school suspension of 180 school days (beginning October 1st, 2023; returning August 30th, 2024). **This incident will be referred to the KIPP KC School Board for expulsion.**

Evidence: The following were the key facts of the investigation. We used statements from Arelious, other students, and teachers as well as video footage. We were guided by our handbook, precedent, and the Safe Schools Act.

- **Investigation:** The following are the key facts from the investigation:
 - On 9/29 at a football game (at North KC High School), Mrs. McRae felt something under AJ's arm. Mrs. McRae and Mr. Swartzlander along with Arelious' close family friend, Jay, were able to retrieve the loaded handgun. It had rubber bands tied around the handle.
 - A police report was filed and parents were contacted.
 - Mrs. McRae watched video of NKC HS stadium footage provided by NKC staff and admin.
 - Mrs. McRae collected statements from students who were with Arelious as well as AJ himself.
- **Precedent:** The closest precedent comes from September 2023 when a student was suspended for 180+ days for bringing a loaded gun to a school sanctioned event.



- **Handbook:** Our handbook states *"Possession of a dangerous weapon": Will follow Gun-Free Schools Act and Safe Schools Act, Police Report + Referral for expulsion."*

Reasoning: The course we are taking is a suspension of 180 days and further review for expulsion. This is aligned to our handbook. 180 days is the equivalent of one year and less than the maximum recommendation in our handbook (expulsion). Arelious has been forthcoming about his possession of the weapon. After initially resisting, he turned over the weapon to school administration. However, we must uphold a safe school culture that does not condone weapons on our campus at any time. The weapon brought to campus certainly qualifies as dangerous (it was loaded with bullets) and could have easily caused bodily injury or death.

Additional Notes:

- Please see the attached materials for information on how to appeal this decision.
- According to Missouri state law, The Gun Free Schools Act and The Safe Schools Act, this incident has been reported to the Kansas City Police Department for investigation.

Please reach out with questions, concerns, or to appeal this decision.

Mr. Bunnelle
kbunnelle@kippkc.org
KIPP KC



Attachment: Suspension and Expulsion Procedures

The following procedures apply to all students. However, additional procedures for discipline for students with disabilities are sometimes required, as discussed in Regulation V of the Missouri State Plan.

KIPP believes that the right of a child to attend free public schools carries with it the responsibility of the child to attend school regularly and to comply with the lawful policies, rules and procedures of the school. This observance of school policies, rules and procedures is essential for permitting others to learn at school.

Therefore, the administration may exclude a student from school because of violation of school rules and procedures, conduct which materially or substantially disrupts the rights of others to an education, or conduct which endangers the student, other students or the property of the school. Furthermore, if a student poses a threat to self or others, as evidenced by the prior conduct of such student, the administration may immediately remove the student from school. Such actions will be taken in accordance with due process and with due regard for the welfare of both the student and the school.

The terms "suspension" and "removal" refer to an exclusion from school that will not exceed a specific period of time and shall be subject to the due process procedures set forth for "suspensions" in this policy. The term "expulsion" refers to exclusion for an indefinite period.

The school may honor suspensions and expulsions from another in-state or out-of-state school district including a private, charter or parochial school or school district pursuant to law. If a pupil is attempting to enroll in KIPP during a suspension or expulsion from another in-state or out-of-state school district including a private, charter or parochial school or school district, a conference with the Executive Director or the Executive Director's designee may be held to consider if the conduct of the pupil would have resulted in a suspension or expulsion at KIPP. Upon a determination by the Executive Director or the Executive Director's designee that such conduct would have resulted in a suspension or expulsion in KIPP, the school may honor such suspension or expulsion from another school or district. Upon a determination by the Executive Director or the Executive Director's designee that such conduct would not have resulted in a suspension or expulsion in KIPP, the school shall not honor such suspension or expulsion.



Suspensions

The School Leader may suspend a student for up to ten (10) school days. The Head of Schools may suspend a student for up to 180 school days. Procedures for suspending a student are outlined below.

In the event that the School Leader recommends a suspension greater than 10 days, the School Leader shall impose the 10-day suspension and shall make a recommendation to the Head of Schools for additional suspension.

1. Before suspending a student, the School Leader or Head of Schools must (a) tell the student, either orally or in writing, what misconduct he or she is accused of; (b) if the student denies the accusation, explain, either orally or in writing, the facts that form the basis of the proposed suspension; and (c) give the student an opportunity to present his or her version of the incident.
2. If the School Leader or Head of Schools concludes that the student has engaged in misconduct punishable by suspension, the procedures described below apply. If the student has a disability as defined in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) as amended or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, additional procedural safeguards described in the policy dealing with the discipline of students with disabilities apply.
3. The School Leader should determine whether the student should be suspended or whether less drastic alternative measures would be appropriate. In many cases, the School Leader may decide not to suspend a student unless conferences (between the teacher, student and School Leader and/or between the parent, student and School Leader) have been held and have failed to change the student's behavior.
4. If suspension is imposed, the student's parents or guardians must be promptly notified of the suspension and the reasons for the action.
5. Any suspension by the School Leader must be reported, immediately and in writing, to the Head of Schools, who may revoke the suspension, either part or in full, at any time.
6. If a student is suspended for more than ten (10) school days, the following rules also apply:



- The student, his or her parents, guardians or others having custodial care have a right to appeal the Head of School's decision to the Board or a committee of the Board appointed by the Board chair.
- If the student gives notice that he or she wishes to appeal the suspension to the Board, the suspension shall be stayed until the Board renders its decision, unless in the Head of School's judgment, the student's presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disrupting the academic process. The notice of appeal must state with specificity the reasons for the appeal.
- All notices of appeal shall be transmitted, either by the appealing party or by the Head of Schools, to the secretary of the Board. Oral notices, if made to the Head of Schools, shall be reduced to writing and communicated to the secretary of the Board.
- The Head of Schools, when notified of an appeal, shall promptly transmit to the Board a full written report of the facts relating to the suspension, the action taken by the Head of Schools, and the reasons for the action.
- Upon receipt of a notice of appeal, the Board will schedule a hearing and within a reasonable time in advance of the scheduled date, will notify, by regular mail and certified mail, the appealing party of the date, time and place of the hearing and of the right to counsel (at the student's/parent's expense), to call witnesses, and to present evidence at the hearing.
- Hearings of appealed suspensions will be conducted as described in the section of this policy dealing with student disciplinary hearings.

Statements & Evidence

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Arelious Family Contact and Statement</p> | <p>Note: Arelious did not want his parents in the meeting. In order to get the statement from A, McRae called A and put Mr Bunnelle on the call as well as a second set of ears.</p> <p>Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What happened at the football game? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I got caught with a weapon that I had found. - What happened before that? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mrs. McRae came up and told me about the suspension about the puff bar. - When I first walked into the game (they were already playing). I came with some friends (Zafeer and the girls--Dejanae and Kaya). I went to the RR and saw the gun on the floor right by the trash can. (Was there anyone else in the restroom with you? No. Noone went to the restroom with me I went by myself.) - Was it just in plain sight? Yes it was noticeable right when you walked in. - What did you do with it when you saw it in the restroom? I put it under my arm. - How? Just under my arm. - Why? I don't even know why I picked it up. I guess I thought that would be the most secure thing to do. I was debating whether I should keep it or turn it in to the proper authorities. - About how long between you picking it up and me talking to you? After I picked it up I went into the stands to sit down then you came up to me and pulled me out of the stands. - What were you thinking then? What any other teenager would think. One side is saying turn it in the other side is saying keep it. - Why did you think I was pulling you out? I figured it was for drumline or the puff bar. I didn't think you were pulling me out because of the gun. My heart kind of started racing I was thinking dang they would come up to me right after. Then you started talking about the puff bar and I was like oh ok. - I am still learning, I'm still young and doing some dumb things, I didn't want to make a big disturbance of the game. When you were talking to me I had had it since I walked into |
|--|---|

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>the game, then I didn't say something for so long so when you talked to me I thought that it had been too long for me to say something and I didn't want to get in trouble by the police.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At the time when I pulled you the first time, did anyone know you had it? No - Did anyone know you had it in the stands? No. - Did you know whos it was? No - Did anyone walk out in front of you? No - After I picked it up in the bathroom I hurried up and put the rubber bands on it so my fingerprints wouldn't be on it. - Where did you get the rubber bands? I walk around with rubber bands. I use them to keep my hair out of my eyes--you know I use those to keep my hair out Ms. McRae. - What was your intent? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With the gun. After the game I was going to tell my uncle that I was with and I was going to see if we could take it to throw it in the river and toss it or take it to the police station bc I didn't want to get caught with it. I thought I would go to jail if I got caught with it. - I thought I was going to be in real big trouble when you caught me so I tried to get myself out the situation. I didn't want to turn it in at the game because I thought that I could not get in trouble if I waited until after the game. - What happened when we talked the second time? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I was scared, nervous, couldn't think straight. I can't really remember what you were saying. You said if you give it to me right now you could help me stay out of trouble. - Now I have trust issues because I am still going to go to jail or get caught by the police. So now I don't know if I can trust anyone. I don't even trust that if I go back to school that they won't get called. <p>Close with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thank you - From what we know right now this is at least a 10 day suspension (10/2-10/13). - We need to continue to investigate, which means we will gather statements, pull video footage and then follow up with statements. - We will let you know within 5 business days our findings |
|--|---|



| | |
|--|--|
| <p>ZaFeer Family Contact and Statement</p> <p>10/2</p> | <p>Present during the statement: McRae, Mr. Jay (stepdad) on the phone, and AuTiana</p> <p>Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- What happened at the football game?<ul style="list-style-type: none">- I don't got nothing to say.- Did you come with Arelious?<ul style="list-style-type: none">- I don't got nothing to say.- Did you know he had a weapon?<ul style="list-style-type: none">- I don't got nothing to say.- What else? Did anyone else know?<ul style="list-style-type: none">- No. I don't got nothing to say.- Mr. J, do you have anything else to add? Or anything you would like to say? Any questions?<ul style="list-style-type: none">- No, I don't have any questions. <p>Close with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Thank you- From what we know right now, we need ZaFeer to stay home on Monday.- ***Zafeer did not stay home on Monday, this statement was taken Monday |
| <p>McRae Statement</p> <p>10/2</p> | <p>At the football game on Friday 9/29, Homecoming, I was alerted by two teachers, Gower and Bryant, that Arelious was at the game but they had thought that he was suspended. I pulled him to speak to him as it is our policy that any student who is suspended is not to attend games or extracurricular events. His suspension hadn't yet begun so I was letting him stay at the game. When I told him he said thank you and hugged me. When he hugged me I put my one arm, my right arm, over his left shoulder and felt something hard under his left arm. I told Swartz. At that point a parent was calling me to tell me that Arelious was holding something under his arm and he could tell that by the way he was walking. Swartz and I then took Arelious behind the concession stand and asked him about it. He said I was targeting him. Swartz and I then decided that he was acting like there was more to be alarmed about so we walked him across the street to the parking lot. At that point he said that he wanted someone there with him so he asked me to get his uncle Jay. This ended up being Zafeer's stepdad. I filled him in on the walk back to the parking lot through the stadium.</p> <p>When Jay got there we talked about what the night would look like if he</p> |



| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| | <p>turned it in vs. didn't turn it in.</p> <p>I then said, "Arelous for the love of God please just be honest with me and give me the gun," and through some further coaxing he did hand it to Jay who handed it to me. Jay then immediately emptied the clip and there was a bullet in the chamber. I took pictures of the gun and Swartz called Kurt. I sent Kurt the pictures of the gun. We then had to call the police. I kept Kurt on speakerphone when the police got there. I handed over the gun to them and filed a police report. Arelous and Jay then walked off before the police came.</p> <p>I called all parents on the way home. I couldn't reach mom for Arelous so I called dad. Both numbers are listed in IC. I then contacted Zafeer's mom. I worked with her to get statements from the boys. I ended up getting Arelous contact through his mother. His statement had to be taken over the phone and by himself as that is how he felt most comfortable. Mom agreed with this for him.</p> |
| Swartz Statement 10/2 | Aligned with McRae's statement |
| Deisjanae Jones (9) 10/2 | <p>Present during the statement: McRae and AuTiana Statement taken 11:45</p> <p>Zafeer picked me and Kaya up from my house. AJ and Deante were in the car (Deante is my cousin). Deante and AJ are friends. I didn't know he had a gun.</p> <p>We went to go sit down and then you came to go get AJ. It was like ten minutes after we sat down.</p> <p>Was he with you the whole time or did he leave you all at any point? He was sitting with us the whole time until you came to get him.</p> <p>Did he talk to anyone else besides who you came with? No.</p> <p>Did Jay come with them? Do you know him? No he came separate and no I don't know him I just know that's their daddy.</p> <p>Did you know AJ had a gun?</p> |



| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| | <p>No.</p> <p>Had they talked about it at all?</p> <p>No.</p> <p>Do you know why he might have had that?</p> <p>No.</p> <p>How did you get home?</p> <p>An Uber from Wendy's.</p> <p>Why did you take an Uber?</p> <p>They had to go somewhere. So we got an Uber home.</p> <p>Have you talked to either of them since?</p> <p>No.</p> <p>Had you called either of them to let them know you were home?</p> <p>No.</p> |
| <p>Kaya Hardy (10)</p> <p>10/2</p> | <p>Present during the statement: McRae and AuTiana</p> <p>Statement taken 11:20</p> <p>After school on Friday we went to QT and asked Feer to give us a ride. He called us later and said that he could come get us. We were with Daisajane's brother (Tay) he doesn't go to this school, Arelius, Zafeer and me.</p> <p>We came to the game and sat down. Then you came to get Arelious. We thought you grabbed him bc he was in the band. We didn't think that he had done anything bad. I guess that wasn't the case. Then Zafeer said, "Let's just leave." That's when you saw us outside in the parking lot. That's when you told us to go away. We came out there to come get him but you said to get away so we went to the car and waited in there.</p> <p>Had AJ texted you or how did you know he was outside the game?</p> <p>We knew you had taken him then we saw him in the parking lot.</p> <p>Was the only time you weren't together when I had taken AJ with me?</p> <p>Yeah. Except when we first got to the game he had went to go talk to his</p> |

dad.

Who was that?

That guy you guys were talking to, the one sitting in front of us that Feer called his pops.

When did he go talk to him?

We sat down where we were in the stands then he went to go talk to him in front of us in the stands.

So not out of your seats?

Yes. like right in front of us where you saw him sitting.

So AJ never left to go to the concession stand, or bathroom, get water, go talk to other friends?

No he never did because we were only there for like five or ten min before you came to get him.

How did you get home?

Wendy's then got an Uber.

What made you do that?

They said they had to do something. And we wasn't about to go with them. We had to go home. We had a curfew.

Did you know that AJ had a gun?

Ummmm....no. I knew that they had guns but I didn't know they had one in the game. I know they have them, what they be on all the time. Me knowing who they are I know they have them. I never saw one though.

Why would someone bring a gun to the game?

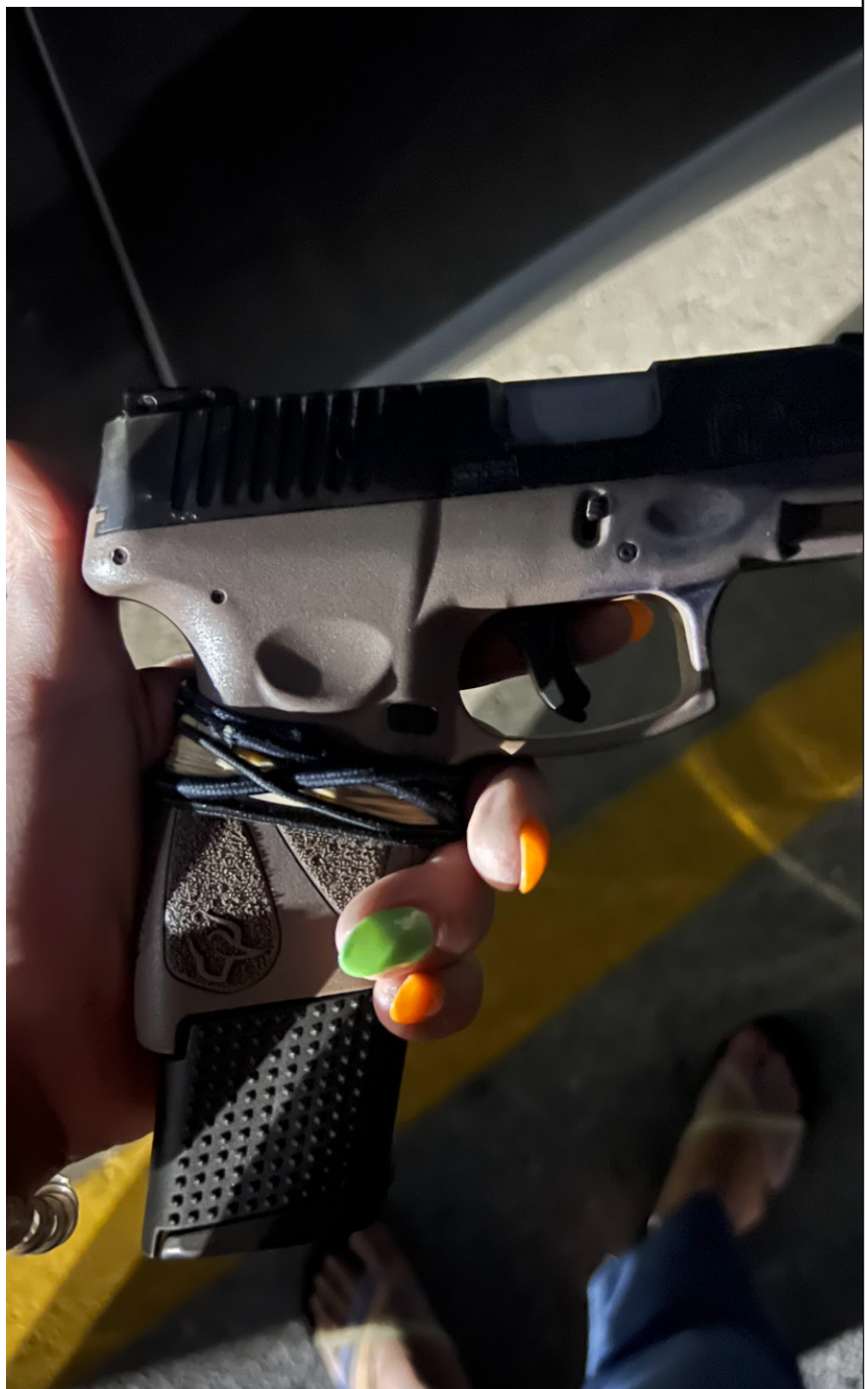
To protect themselves. There was a grown man 18/19 who came up to the school (he posted it) saying he was at the school looking for him. He was showing the school in his snapchat. He said their names and that he was outside waiting for them. His name is Terry. He just knows they go to school here. The three of them (AJ, Ameer, and Feer) are a group.

I would also add that Arelious is really influenced by other people he is around. When he is by himself he doesn't act like that. He probably wouldn't have even had that gun at the game. That is definitely some influence stuff. I never hear about him being in some stuff UNLESS it is with



| | |
|--|--|
| | the people he is around. |
| Video from North Kansas City Request 10/2 | 7:42PM Video 1 from football game--arrival to game 7:52PM Video 2 from football game McRae gets Arelious from stands at 7:59 |

Pictures from the
Night





| | |
|--|--|
| | |
|--|--|









Communication of

10/6/23 2:30PM



| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <p>Long-Term Suspension</p> | <p>McRae called Mom, Latoya, and Arelious on 3-way and communicated the decision to recommend over 10-day suspension and that we were pursuing a 180-day OSS which would put him back roughly this time next year. I let her know that Mr. Bunnelle could forward her the appeal process if she would like to appeal this decision and she said that she didn't want to appeal.</p> <p>Mom stated that she was moving him to job corps (and possibly Zafeer and Ameer as well although she was only speaking of her student) and she knew this was going to happen. McRae explained that we could connect her with resources or support as he was currently not going to school and wouldn't be for at least the time being. She said that would not be necessary. She said he should have run and that Mrs. McRae tricked him into never going to our school again. That's why students don't trust her now because she is a liar. Then Arelious ended the phone call.</p> |
|---------------------------------|---|



Handbook Guidance

Min/Max for Possession of Dangerous Weapon

| | | | |
|--|--|----|-----------------------------|
| Possession of a dangerous weapon including but not limited to firearms, knives | Immediate OSS and Investigation See section on Gun-Free Schools Act | NA | Expulsion and Police Report |
|--|--|----|-----------------------------|

Corrective Disciplinary Consequences

Suspension and Expulsion Procedures

The following procedures apply to all students. However, additional procedures for discipline for students with disabilities are sometimes required, as discussed in Regulation V of the Missouri State Plan.

KIPP believes that the right of a child to attend free public schools carries with it the responsibility of the child to attend school regularly and to comply with the lawful policies, rules and procedures of the school. This observance of school policies, rules and procedures is essential for permitting others to learn at school.

Therefore, the administration may exclude a student from school because of violation of school rules and procedures, conduct which materially or substantially disrupts the rights of others to an education, or conduct which endangers the student, other students or the property of the school. Furthermore, if a student poses a threat to self or others, as evidenced by the prior conduct of such student, the administration may immediately remove the student from school. Such actions will be taken in accordance with due process and with due regard for the welfare of both the student and the school.

The terms "suspension" and "removal" refer to an exclusion from school that will not exceed a specific period of time and shall be subject to the due process procedures set forth for "suspensions" in this policy. The term "expulsion" refers to exclusion for an indefinite period.

The school may honor suspensions and expulsions from another in-state or out-of-state school district including a private, charter or parochial school or school district pursuant to law. If a pupil is attempting to enroll in KIPP during a suspension or expulsion from another in-state or out-of-state school district including a private, charter or parochial school or



school district, a conference with the Executive Director or the Executive Director's designee may be held to consider if the conduct of the pupil would have resulted in a suspension or expulsion at KIPP. Upon a determination by the Executive Director or the Executive Director's designee that such conduct would have resulted in a suspension or expulsion in KIPP, the school may honor such suspension or expulsion from another school or district. Upon a determination by the Executive Director or the Executive Director's designee that such conduct would not have resulted in a suspension or expulsion in KIPP, the school shall not honor such suspension or expulsion.

Suspensions

The School Leader may suspend a student for up to ten (10) school days. The Head of Schools may suspend a student for up to 180 school days. Procedures for suspending a student are outlined below.

In the event that the School Leader recommends a suspension greater than 10 days, the School Leader shall impose the 10-day suspension and shall make a recommendation to the Head of Schools for additional suspension.

1. Before suspending a student, the School Leader or Head of Schools must (a) tell the student, either orally or in writing, what misconduct he or she is accused of; (b) if the student denies the accusation, explain, either orally or in writing, the facts that form the basis of the proposed suspension; and (c) give the student an opportunity to present his or her version of the incident.
2. If the School Leader or Head of Schools concludes that the student has engaged in misconduct punishable by suspension, the procedures described below apply. If the student has a disability as defined in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) as amended or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, additional procedural safeguards described in the policy dealing with the discipline of students with disabilities apply.
3. The School Leader should determine whether the student should be suspended or whether less drastic alternative measures would be appropriate. In many cases, the School Leader may decide not to suspend a student unless conferences (between the teacher, student and School Leader and/or between the parent, student and School Leader) have been held and have failed to change the student's behavior.



4. If suspension is imposed, the student's parents or guardians must be promptly notified of the suspension and the reasons for the action.
5. Any suspension by the School Leader must be reported, immediately and in writing, to the Head of Schools, who may revoke the suspension, either part or in full, at any time.
6. If a student is suspended for more than ten (10) school days, the following rules also apply:
 - The student, his or her parents, guardians or others having custodial care have a right to appeal the Head of School's decision to the Board or a committee of the Board appointed by the Board chair.
 - If the student gives notice that he or she wishes to appeal the suspension to the Board, the suspension shall be stayed until the Board renders its decision, unless in the Head of School's judgment, the student's presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disrupting the academic process. The notice of appeal must state with specificity the reasons for the appeal.
 - All notices of appeal shall be transmitted, either by the appealing party or by the Head of Schools, to the secretary of the Board. Oral notices, if made to the Head of Schools, shall be reduced to writing and communicated to the secretary of the Board.
 - The Head of Schools, when notified of an appeal, shall promptly transmit to the Board a full written report of the facts relating to the suspension, the action taken by the Head of Schools, and the reasons for the action.
 - Upon receipt of a notice of appeal, the Board will schedule a hearing and within a reasonable time in advance of the scheduled date, will notify, by regular mail and certified mail, the appealing party of the date, time and place of the hearing and of the right to counsel (at the student's/parent's expense), to call witnesses, and to present evidence at the hearing.
 - Hearings of appealed suspensions will be conducted as described in the section of this policy dealing with student disciplinary hearings.