



FAQ – Student Suspensions Under the Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/10-22.6)

What are some behaviors that can get my child suspended under the School Code?

- The School Code provides that students may be suspended when they are found to be guilty of “gross disobedience or misconduct,” including “gross disobedience or misconduct on [a] school bus[.]”
 - Illinois courts have generally found that local school boards have authority to determine the acts and/or omissions that constitute gross disobedience or misconduct for the purpose of student suspension.
- Further, the School Code provides that students may be suspended for making internet threats that meet certain criteria.

How long can my child be suspended?

- The School Code provides that a student may be suspended for a period not to exceed 10 school days.
- However, the School Code provides an exception where a student found to be guilty of gross disobedience or misconduct on a school bus may be suspended “in excess of 10 school days for safety reasons.”

Can I ask the school to review my child’s suspension?

- The School Code provides that, upon request of a student’s parents or guardians, “the school board or a hearing officer appointed by it shall review such action of the superintendent or principal, assistant principal, or dean of students in relation to such suspension.

What must my child receive if they are suspended?

- The School Code provides that a suspended student is to receive a written suspension decision that, generally, must:
 - Detail the specific act of gross disobedience or misconduct,
 - Provide a rationale as to the specific suspension duration,
 - Document whether other interventions were attempted or whether it was decided there were no other appropriate and available interventions, and
 - Document whether services are to be provided or whether decided no other appropriate and available services [for suspensions of longer than four school days].
- Further, the School Code provides that school districts are to create a policy by which suspended students “shall have the opportunity to make up work for equivalent academic credit.”

Where can I find out more about student suspension?

- The provision generally covering student suspension may be found in [105 ILCS 5/10-22.6](#).
- Additionally, ISBE maintains a [resource](#) outlining/summarizing the various provisions regarding student suspension on its [School Discipline webpage](#) (under the “Illinois Guidance and Resources” tab).
- For information regarding disciplining students with disabilities, reach out to ISBE’s Special Education Department at ISBESpecED@isbe.net or call 217-782-5589. Additionally, ISBE’s Special Education Department maintains a [webpage](#) containing a selection of special educations laws, regulations, and guidance.

For any additional questions, please reach out to ISBE’s Student Care Department at studentcare@isbe.net or call 217-785-5585.

Last Revised: March 17, 2023 (V4)

*This ISBE published document is provided as a resource and does not constitute legal advice. You should consult with an attorney for legal advice specific to your situation.