

# What does it mean if my child is suspended or expelled from school?

## What does suspension mean?

Suspension means that your child cannot go to school, or enter the school grounds for a number of days. You are responsible for your child's supervision while they are suspended. There are two types of suspension: short (up to 4 school days) and long (up to 20 school days). Only the principal can decide whether a student is suspended and for how long.

## What is the purpose of suspension?

Maintaining high standards of student behaviour is part of providing quality teaching and learning for all students. Suspension is one way of responding to serious, unacceptable behaviour. It is not intended as a punishment.

In most cases, a suspension is given for serious misbehaviour, or where other actions or support have not resulted in a change in behaviour.

Suspension allows time for the school to plan with parents and carers on how best to support the student in the future.

## What will happen if my child is suspended?

You will receive a letter from the principal telling you why your child has been suspended and how long the suspension will last. You will also receive a copy of the department's suspension procedures.

In the case of a long suspension, the school will provide a work program for your child to do while at home.

You will be asked to come to the school to resolve the suspension as soon as possible. You can bring a support person to the meeting if you wish.

## What does expulsion mean?

Expulsion means your child can no longer attend a particular school. There are two reasons for expulsion: serious misbehaviour of a student of any age, or unsatisfactory participation of a student who is over 17 years old.

## Can I appeal?

You can lodge an appeal if you think the suspension or expulsion is unfair, or that the procedures haven't been followed. School staff and the local school services office can provide information about the appeal process.

Find appeal forms in other languages at: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/going-to-a-public-school/translated-documents/suspension-expulsion-appeals>

Your child cannot go to school during the suspension, even if you do appeal.

## Where can I get a copy of suspension procedures?

From your school, or at this website: [https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/associated-documents/suspol\\_07.pdf](https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/associated-documents/suspol_07.pdf)

## Who can help?

Ask at the school office for an appointment with the principal, or for the telephone number of the local school services office.

## Telephone Interpreter Service

If you need an interpreter to assist you to contact the school or the local school services office, please call the Telephone Interpreter Service on 131 450 and ask for an interpreter in your language. The operator will get an interpreter on the line to assist you with your conversation. You will not be charged for this service.