

Expulsion and Long Term Suspensions

Students may be expelled or Long Termed Suspended for:

1. Extreme violations of the Code of Conduct that significantly and demonstrably harm the educational environment of Somerset Prep Academy or harm the safety or security of Somerset Prep Academy students, staff, faculty, or others associated with Somerset Prep Academy or:
 - a. Repeated violations of the Code of Conduct after appropriate remediation or interventions have been attempted.
 - b. Violation of Disciplinary Probation or a Probation Contract.
 - c. Any violation of a Court Order Probation
 - d. The student exhibits violent behavior.
 - e. The student poses a threat to staff or other students.
 - f. The student substantially disrupts the learning process.
2. Any Tier IV or V violation

Appeals

The following procedures will be followed if a student is being reviewed for expulsion or long term suspension: The student will be suspended (the duration of which will be determined by the Dean or another member of the administrative team), pending potential expulsion or long term suspension. Prior to the suspension, an informal conference (which may occur by phone) will be provided as described for suspensions (above) regarding the Code of Conduct violation which could lead to expulsion. The student and family will be notified of the nature of the offense and possibility of expulsion or long term suspension. During the suspension, a meeting will be set up with the student, parent/guardian, and the Administration. The meeting consists of notification of charged offense(s), potential consequences, and procedures to be followed.

A Discipline Hearing will occur to review the incident(s):

Three faculty/staff members will serve as the Discipline Review Committee. The panel makes a recommendation to Somerset Prep Academy Administration regarding possible expulsion. During the hearing, one administrator will carry out the following procedures:

1. A statement of the Code of Conduct violation and summary of hearing procedures.
2. An explanation of the evidence or facts for which potential expulsion is being considered.
3. The students will be able to provide a statement or explanation and speak to the panel. The panel may ask the student questions regarding the matter. One or more advocates may speak on the student's behalf.
4. At the conclusion of the hearing the panel will make a recommendation regarding the expulsion and/or other consequence will be determined. If the panel

recommends expulsion, the recommendation will go to the Somerset Prep Academy Administration, which makes the final disciplinary decision.

5. The student/family will be informed of the decision via phone within 24 hours of the hearing, and written notification will be mailed within 48 hours of the hearing. This notice will contain information regarding appeal procedures.
6. Any student who is expelled has the right to appeal the decision in writing to the Somerset Board of Trustees Hearing Officer via the Principal, within five school days of the written notice of expulsion and to have an advocate present on his/her behalf at the appeal.

If a parent/guardian does not request a hearing, or fails to attend the hearing at the scheduled date, time, and place, without prior written notice, the child's right to a hearing will be waived. Therefore, the school will proceed with its determination regarding the proposed charges and the ruling of the Disciplinary Panel. The findings from the hearing will be approved and take effect immediately.

- The Board or panel of the Board generally will uphold the decision if there was a reasonable basis for the sanction such as: (1) the student was guilty of the alleged policy violation, (2) the school reasonably considered mitigating and aggravating factors, and (3) the school issued discipline within the scope of school board policy and public school law.

Reasonable Force. School personnel may use reasonable force, to control behavior or to remove a person from the scene in those situations when necessary for any of the following reasons:

1. To correct students;
2. To quell a disturbance threatening injury to others;
3. To obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects on the person, or within the control of, a student;
4. For self-defense;
5. For the protection of persons or property;
6. To maintain order on school property, in the classroom or at a school-related activity on or off educational property.