



<b>TCSA POLICY</b>	
<b>TITLE</b>	Student Suspension and Expulsion
<b>POLICY NUMBER</b>	21-14-V1
<b>PROGRAM NAME</b>	JK-Grade 12
<b>DOMAIN NAME</b>	Education
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b>	11-December-2023
<b>NEXT REVIEW DATE</b>	<b>11-December-2026</b>
<b>APPROVAL DATE</b>	11-December-2023
<b>ISSUING AUTHORITY</b>	Tłıchǫ Community Services Agency (TCSA)
<b>ACCREDITATION STANDARD</b>	N/A

### **POLICY AND GUIDING PRINCIPLE**

The Student Suspension and Expulsion policy draws its authority from the NWT Education Act. The TCSA is committed to ensuring a safe and effective learning environment for all students and staff. In order to achieve this the TCSA believes in a multi-tiered approach when attending to the behaviour, mental health, and wellness of students with consistent and systematic consequences in response to inappropriate student behavior. All students, staff, parents, and community members must work together to promote safe and caring schools where students feel empowered to learn in a consistent and predictable environment. Suspensions and expulsions are intended to be used to ensure the safety of all staff and students and prevent the disruption of learning.

### **PURPOSE/RATIONALE**

The TCSA believes that the application of proactive practices that encourage appropriate student behavior is necessary in order to foster the development of a safe, respectful and caring school environment. However, it is equally recognized that suspensions and expulsions remain an option for principals when student behavior meets the criteria as identified in sections 35 and 36 of the Education Act. The purpose of this policy is to provide clear guidelines for student suspensions and expulsions to ensure the safety concern of the student, their peers, staff, and the learning of others is maintained.

### **DEFINITIONS**



**Expulsion** refers to the authority of the TCSA under the Education Act to expel a student from its schools for a school term or the remainder of a school term or the school year.

**In School Suspension** - refers to an alternative disciplinary measure, whereby a principal may remove a student from a class as part of a multi-tiered approach to behaviour. It is not a suspension under the Education Act.

**Suspension** refers to the authority of a principal under the Education Act to temporarily remove a student from the school for a period of up to 20 days consecutive school days.

### **SCOPE/APPLICABILITY**

This policy will apply to all students and staff in all TCSA schools, including alternative programming.

### **PROCEDURE**

1. The principal may suspend a student for a period of one to five days for inappropriate student conduct as identified in section 35 (1) of the Education Act.
2. Suspensions six days to a maximum of twenty days must consult with the Superintendent or the Director of Education and must include conditions in accordance with section 35(3) of the Education Act. The student may be provided with educational materials during this time.
3. The principal shall inform the parents of the suspension (in person or by phone), and provide a written notice of the suspension to the parents (see attached Suspension Letter). The principal shall also notify the classroom teacher(s), the TCSA Board Chairperson, the Superintendent, and the Director.
4. A suspension letter must describe the offense, note the violation in accordance with section 35 (1) of the Education Act, the time and date of the suspension, the time and date the student will return to school, conditions for their return, and inform the parents of their right to appeal the suspension in accordance with section 39 and section 40 of the Education Act.
5. In circumstances of repeat suspensions, the school principal shall refer the student to a school counselor if available, and notify the parents of the referral in writing.
6. A copy of the suspension letter will be placed in the student's cumulative file and their attendance appropriately coded in the attendance management system (ex: PowerSchool). If no related incidents occur, a principal shall remove information related to the suspension after three years, or expulsion after five years, from the cumulative file.



7. When it is in the recommendation of the principal and the Superintendent that a student should be expelled for the remainder of a school term or the remainder of a school year the process outlined under sections 36 and 43 of the Education Act, the GNWT Education Appeal Regulations, and the TCSA Appeals Committee Terms of Reference will be followed.
8. The student or the parent of the student may appeal a suspension or expulsion in accordance with sections 39, 40, and 43 of the Education Act, GNWT Education Appeal Regulations, and the TCSA Appeals Committee Terms of Reference.
9. Principals will ensure that students who have multiple suspensions receive a multi-tiered approach when attending to the behaviour, mental health, and wellness of students (see TCSA Student Behaviour Policy).

## **PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

NA

## **CROSS-REFERENCES**

TCSA Appeals Committee Terms of Reference  
TCSA Student Behaviour Policy 21-10-V1  
TCSA RCMP & Info Sharing Policy (4.314)  
TCSA RCMP Investigation of Students Policy (4.313)  
TCSA Safe and Caring School Policy (4.318)  
TCSA Safe Schools & Schools Surveillance Cameras Policy (4.035)  
TCSA Mature Student Policy (21-09-V1)

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Suspension Letter Template

## **REFERENCES**

- TCSA Act; NWT Education Act 35, 36, 39, 40, 43
- Territorial School Code of Conduct
- GNWT Education Act: Education Appeal Regulations
- GNWT Harassment Free and Respectful Workplace Policy
- GNWT Promising Practices for Respectful and Harassment-Free School Communities



**Tłı̨chǫ Community Services Agency**  
**Do, Nāke Lani Nāts'etso – Strong Like Two People**

## **APPROVAL**

Reviewed and Approved By:

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Kevin Armstrong  
Chief Executive Officer  
11-December-2023

Reviewed and Approved By:

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Ted Blondin  
TCSA Chairperson  
11-December-2023