



DOBCEL Suspension and Expulsion Procedures Appendix 6

Damascus College Expulsion Information for Parents and Care givers

Purpose of this document

This document is designed to assist you in understanding the process if the principal of your child's school is considering expulsion.

It also outlines how to appeal an expulsion decision.

Under what circumstances would a principal consider expulsion?

When a student's behaviour is of such significance that it poses a threat to their, and/or others health, safety and wellbeing in the school community, the principal may decide that expulsion is the most appropriate course of action to take.

What information does the principal have to take into consideration?

Before deciding to expel a student, the principal will:

- a. properly, fairly and without bias, consider all of the relevant matters, including the impact of the behaviour of the student on other affected parties, in making their decision;
- b. determine whether the expulsion is appropriate when compared to:
 - the behaviour for which the student is being expelled;
 - the educational needs of the student;
 - any disability of the student;
 - the age of the student;
 - the magnitude and impact of the student's actions; and
 - the residential and social circumstances of the student.

The principal will also ensure that any information or documentation provided by the student or yourself has been taken into consideration when making the decision regarding expulsion.

The principal will conduct a Behaviour Support and Intervention Meeting which you and your child will be invited to attend. The purpose of that meeting is to:

- a. advise the student and their relevant support person that the principal is considering whether to expel the student;
- b. ensure all available supports and interventions to support the behaviours of concern are considered for the student;
- c. outline the grounds for expulsion that are being considered and the evidence to support a finding that the student has engaged in relevant conduct;
- d. ensure the student and their relevant support person have the opportunity to be heard
- e. consider the impact of the behaviour of the student on other affected parties; and

- f. identify the future educational, training and/or employment options most suited to the student's needs and agree on a course of action in the event expulsion is decided.

What happens next if the principal decides to go ahead with the expulsion?

If the principal has considered all relevant information and decides to proceed with expulsion, you will be notified:

- *if you child is nine years of age or more* – within two business days of the conclusion of the Behaviour Support and Intervention Meeting
- *if you child is eight years of age or less* – within ten business days of the conclusion of the Behaviour Support and Intervention Meeting

The principal will provide you with a formal Notice of Expulsion which includes information about the grounds and reasons for expulsion. The principal will also provide a copy of an Expulsion Appeal form.

Following a decision to expel, the principal, where possible, will work in partnership with you and your child to support other educational and developmental opportunities.

The principal, where possible, will ensure that your child is participating in one or more of the following as soon as practicable:

- a. enrolled at another registered school;
- b. enrolled at a registered training organisation;
- c. engagement with an employment agency or other organisations that provides services that support the future employment of the student.

In the meantime, when requested, the principal will aim to provide your child with meaningful work, and monitor the completion of that work.

How can I appeal the decision to expel my child?

You can appeal the decision through the DOBCEL Executive Director.

Further information can be obtained through the Expulsion Appeal Information brochure which the principal will provided to you, which explains the appeal process from the DOBCEL office.