



March 5, 2019

Dear Parents or Guardians:

I am writing to notify that we were required to amend a few items in our Discipline Code in order to ensure that all of the language and timelines are consistent with state law and regulations. The Amended Discipline Code is posted under Community – Policies on the Lawrence Public Schools website (www.lawrence.k12.ma.us).

The amendment was completed to address three main items:

- 1) Section 9.4 was revised to note that any long-term suspension that may be imposed cannot extend beyond the end of the school year.
- 2) Section 10 was revised to clarify that any student, who is placed on a long-term suspension or expulsion, still has the opportunity to access educational services in order to continue to make academic progress. This opportunity includes the ability to make up assignments, homework, quizzes, exams, papers, and projects in order to earn credits missed. Options for accessing educational services will be provided to the student and his/her parent in the form of a school-wide educational services plan by the School Principal. The student and parent will then select the option that best allows the student to access educational services.
- 3) Section 11.3 was revised to clarify that the student and parent have a ten (10) day period in which to appeal a hearing decision when outcome is a recommendation of expulsion for the student. This section also adds language that the appeal hearing subject matter shall not be limited solely to a factual determination of whether the student has violated any provisions of M.G.L. c. 71, § 37H. The hearing process allows for inclusion of other relevant information to assist the Superintendent or his/her designee, who is conducting the hearing, to specifically determine if there was sufficient evidence to find that the alleged violation occurred and if the penalty imposed was appropriate for the violation.

You will also notice that we have revised our discipline notices and letters to include more detailed information about student and parent rights, as well as, the specific reason for imposing a disciplinary consequence.

This information is being sent to you, so students and parents are clear about the disciplinary processes, should you find yourself needing to participate in a disciplinary meeting or hearing.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Paris
Superintendent