

What can I do if I disagree with a short term or in school suspension?

For **short term or in school suspension** (less than 10 days), **asking for an informal meeting with the principal or other administrator** is the best option. You can make the request **at any time** after the school's decision. Written notice of discipline must be given within 1 school day of the initial hearing.

Long Term Suspension (10 or more days) or Expulsion

After an initial hearing, a school **must give written notice** of the suspension or expulsion **within 1 school business day**.

After receiving notice, you may **appeal** the decision within 5 school business days.

The school has 3 school business days to set a hearing. **A decision on appeal must be reached within 3 school business days**.

After a decision, **if you still disagree** with the decision, you may then **request** review by a school board **within 10 school business days**.

A written decision on review must be made within 10 school business days.

Emergency Removal (formerly called Emergency Expulsion)

Under the **new July 2025 Washington state rules**, student may be subject to an "emergency removal" from school if the student's behavior posed an "immediate and continuing danger" to other students or school personnel or an "immediate or continuing threat" of serious disruption to learning. **A student may not be emergency removed from school for more than 10 consecutive days**. However, **after 10 days**, the student's emergency removal may be **converted** to a long-term suspension or

expulsion after providing the student's parents with notice and due process.

Students with disabilities are entitled to extra process when they are disciplined. After 10 **consecutive days or 10 cumulative days** of suspension, a school must hold a manifestation determination review (MDR) meeting to determine if **either** the student's behavior was related to the **misconduct** or the school **failed to implement** the student's IEP. If the answer is "yes," to **either** question, the student must be returned to school.

How to File a Complaint

<https://ospi.k12.wa.us/student-success/support-programs/student-discipline>



School discipline can be a complex area of law. If you feel like you need additional assistance, please contact TOCLA or seek additional legal resources.

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**TULALIP OFFICE OF
CIVIL LEGAL AID**

YOUTH ADVOCACY

Advocating for Students in Response to School Discipline



360-716-4512