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## Expulsion Part IV: Program for Expelled Students

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Today's blog is about the procedure that follows if, unfortunately, a pupil is expelled after an expulsion hearing, or after an appeal hearing in front of the Family Services Review Board.

The Ontario Ministry of Education has some answers at <http://edu.gov.on.ca/eng/safeschools/suspexp.html>.

Here are some excerpts from the website above:

### **What happens when students are expelled?**

When students are expelled from their school only, the school board will assign them to another school in the board.

When students are expelled from all schools in the school board, the school board must offer them a program for expelled students. When students complete the program, they can apply to return to school.

Parents will receive written notice of expulsion. It will give them information on the new school or the school board program the student can access. It will also include information on how to appeal the expulsion.

### **What programs and supports are offered when students are expelled?**

When students are expelled only from their school and moved to another school of the board, school boards must make supports and resources available to the student at that school where necessary. These supports could include anger management or individual/family counselling that are aimed to help engage and motivate students and encourage positive behaviour.

When students are expelled from all schools in the school board and agree to participate in the program for expelled students, the principal will hold a planning meeting with school and school board staff, the student, and parents (wherever possible) to identify the objectives of the Student Action Plan.

This plan identifies the academic component and supports to promote positive behaviour the student will receive in the program. The program will be based on the student's needs, the nature and severity of the behaviour, as well as mitigating and other factors. The plan should be reviewed regularly by the school to determine the student's progress in meeting the objectives of the plan.

### **Academic component**

This part of the program ensures that students have the opportunity to continue their education. Students will continue to follow the Ontario curriculum.

If students have an Individual Education Plan, the board must provide supports consistent with the plan.

### **Non-academic component (supports) to promote positive behaviour**

This part of the program will help students develop long-term positive attitudes and behaviours. It identifies services and supports students might need. These could include:

- anger management
- referral for substance abuse counselling
- individual/family counselling for secondary school students to help engage and motivate them, and encourage positive behaviour.

Will parents be able to discuss supports for their child?

Principals must invite parents to have a discussion about the supports that will be provided for their child.

School boards must also have a process in place for parents to follow if they have concerns about the supports provided to their child.

### **How can an expelled student return to school?**

Students who have been expelled from their school only may wish to return to that original school at a later date. Students can write to the school board asking to return. It is then up to the school board to decide whether the student can return to their original school.

Students expelled from all schools in the school board can apply to return to school with their original school board. Students may also attend a different school board if they are living in that board's area:

- If students successfully complete a school board program for expelled students, they may apply to be readmitted and the board must readmit them to school.
- If the school board staff who provides the program for expelled students believes that the students have met its program objectives through another route, such as work experience, then the school board must readmit them.
- If students have not successfully completed a program or met program objectives through another route, they remain expelled.
- A re-entry plan must be developed to help the student make the transition back into school. School and school board staff, the student, and his/her parents (wherever possible) will meet with the principal to develop this plan. The plan should include:
  - strategies to help make the student's return to school successful
  - identify any extra academic or non-academic supports to promote positive behaviour the student may need.

This column, written by Sandra Hsia, Staff Lawyer with the Kingston Community Legal Clinic provides general legal information only about current laws. If you need legal advice you should contact a lawyer. If you are living on a low income you may be eligible for free legal help. Contact your local community legal clinic if you need help with income programs, workers' or tenants' rights, consumer problems, or human rights. Call Kingston Community Legal Clinic at 613-541-0777 or visit [www.kclc.ca](http://www.kclc.ca). If have a criminal, family or immigration law problem, contact Legal Aid Ontario at 1-800-668-8258 or visit [www.legalaid.on.ca](http://www.legalaid.on.ca).