

## Izard County Schools' Discipline Policy

### Purpose

The purpose of the Izard County Consolidated School District Disciplinary Guidelines is:

1. To remediate and correct any unacceptable student behavior.
2. To develop the student's character and power of self-control.
3. To interact with the student in ways so that the disciplinary action results in a positive and acceptable behavior change.

Each student has the right to:

- A free education in the most appropriate learning environment.
- Freedom of speech and of the press as long as the exercise of these rights is not disruptive.
- Security in his/her persons, papers, effects against unreasonable searches and seizures and privacy in regard to his/her possessions, unless there is reasonable suspicion that the student is concealing materials prohibited by law.
- A safe school environment with no fear of bodily harm.
- An appropriate environment conducive to learning.

Each student has the responsibility to:

- Be fully informed of school rules and regulations established by the local board of education and implemented by the school administrators and teachers.
- Respect the human dignity and worth of every other individual.
- Refrain from libel, slanderous remarks, and obscenity in verbal and written expression.
- Study diligently and maintain the best possible level of academic achievement.
- Be punctual and present in the regular school program.
- Dress and groom in a manner that meets reasonable standards of health, cleanliness, modesty, and safety.
- Help maintain and improve the school environment, preserve school property, and exercise the utmost care while using school facilities.
- Refrain from gross disobedience, misconduct, or other behavior which would lead to any physical harm or to the disruption of the education process.

- Respect the reasonable exercise of authority by school administrators and teachers in maintaining discipline in the school and at school sponsored activities.
- Obey the law and rules so as not to be subjected to ill effects or endanger others by the possession or the use of alcohol, illegal drugs, and other unauthorized substances.
- Carry only those materials which are acceptable under the law and accept the consequences for unacceptable articles stored in one's locker.

#### Definitions

**Certified Employee:** An individual employed by the school district who holds a certificate to teach issued by the Arkansas Department of Education.

**Dismiss:** Removal of a student from a specific classroom by a certified employee for that class period only.

**Expulsion:** Prohibition of a student from entering school or school grounds (except for a prearranged conference with an administrator) either until the end of the semester, the end of the current school year, or permanently, depending upon the severity of the offense, with loss of academic credit.

**Parent:** The term "parent" shall include every parent, guardian, or person in parental relation, having control, or charge of any student in attendance in schools of this district.

**Reasonable Force:** The minimum amount of force necessary to stop or restrain a student from conducting himself/herself in an unlawful manner or in a manner which could cause physical injury to an individual.

**Suspension:** Prohibition of a student from entering the school or school grounds (except for a pre-arranged conference with an administrator) for a period of time set by the principal or superintendent. Suspension normally will not be longer than ten school days including the day on which the suspension was ordered, unless it was deemed a long-term suspension, which must be determined by the Board of Education. Suspension does not carry with it a loss of academic credit for the semester.

**In-School Suspension:** Prohibition of a student from participating in the regular school program, but participating in an alternate program schedule as ordered by the principal, superintendent, or designee.

## Student Discipline

The following discipline situations have been identified by the Arkansas Department of Education as major problem areas:

Drugs Knife Gangs

Alcohol Pistol Vandalism

Truancy Rifle Insubordination

Fighting Shotgun Disorderly Conduct

Staff Assault Club Tobacco

Violators may be punished by use of corporal punishment, in-school suspension (ISS), at-home suspension or expulsion. The punishment will be determined by the severity of the violation. A student may be suspended or expelled for immorality, refractory conduct, insubordination, infectious disease, habitual uncleanness, or other conduct that would tend to impair the discipline of the school or harm the other pupils, regardless of whether the student's conduct occurs on or off campus and during or between school terms and regardless of whether a specific prohibition of the conduct is contained in this student handbook. (Act 742 of 1997)

As required by A.C.A. § 6-18-508, the Izard County Consolidated School District's alternative learning environment is provided at Izard County High School in Brockwell, AR. Assignment of students to the alternative learning environment is not subject to appeal or review to the Izard County Consolidated School District Board of Directors.

Assignment of students to ISS by school district administration is not subject to appeal or review by the Izard County Consolidated Board of Directors.

From time to time, in order to comply with state law or district policy, state or local law enforcement may be notified of student misconduct or criminal acts. Students are advised that they have the legal right to decline to be questioned by a law enforcement officer until their parent or parents can be present. Administration will make every effort to notify parents that their child has been reported by the school district to law enforcement at the parents' daytime telephone number as reflected in district records.

## Things to Leave at Home

1. Cell phones, mp3 players, radios, computer games, CD players, tape recorders, pagers,

and/or walkie-talkies are not to be brought to school.

2. Games, trading cards (Pokemon), toys, toy guns, and/or toy knives are not to be brought to school.

3. Pets or live animals are not to be brought unless approval has been given from the principal.

4. Dangerous items such as knives, fireworks, matches, etc. are not to be brought to school.

5. Valuable items are not to be brought to school. These items are often lost or damaged. The school is not responsible for personal items brought to school.

#### Cell Phone Policy

Students are not permitted to use their cell phones to make or receive calls, send or receive texts, etc., at any time during the school day. Student caught using their cell phones or whose cell phones go off in class cause a disruption of instructional time and will be given the following punishment(s):

1st Offense- The phone will be taken to the office and remain in the office until a parent can pick up the phone. This may only occur at the end of the school day (3:10 or later).

2nd Offense- The student will receive two days ISS (in-school suspension). The phone will be taken to the office in accordance with the procedure stated above.

3rd Offense- The student will receive three days ISS. The phone will be taken to the office and remain there for seven school days.

4th Offense- Student will receive three days ISS. The phone will be taken to the office and remain there for fifteen school days.

5th Offense- Student will receive three days ISS. The phone will remain in the office for the remainder of the school year.

#### Forms of Punishment

It should be noted that all district personnel are responsible for the care and supervision of students and are authorized to hold every student strictly accountable for any disorderly conduct in school or on any property of the school, on any school bus going to or returning from school, during school sponsored activities, or between class periods.

### Teacher Options

- Verbal reprimand (warning)
- The student is moved within the classroom
- Withholding of recess time for elementary students. A conference is held with the student to obtain a commitment, either oral or written, for correcting the behavior.
- Parents of the student are contacted or a conference with the parents is held to inform them of the situation and obtain their assistance.
- The student is referred to the counselor and/or principal.

### Principal or Designee Options

- Verbal reprimand (warning)
- Placement of the student on probation
- Parents are contacted or a conference is held with parents and student for the purpose of accomplishing acceptable student behavior
- The student is assigned in-school suspension
- Corporal punishment
- The student is suspended out-of-school for a period of one to ten days.

In emergency situations reasonable force may be used by school personnel to restrain a student to protect the students, staff, and citizens.

Charges for illegal behavior may be filed against the student with appropriate authorities having jurisdiction.

When other remedial and corrective options have not been successful, or when suspension is specified, the student is suspended from school by the principal for a period of time not to exceed ten days. Students may be suspended a maximum of ninety days under the authority of the superintendent. Every effort will be made to notify parents in cases involving out-of-school suspension.

Student expulsion is recommended when all other actions have not been successful or the nature of the behavior violation requires this action. Punishment for each offense may vary according to the severity of the offense. Repeat offenses will result in more severe disciplinary action.

### In-School Suspension Rules

1. The student will report to the principal immediately upon arrival at school.
2. The student will bring all books and study material to the ISS room.
3. The teachers will provide homework assignments for the following day.
4. The student must be seated and studying at all times.
5. The student will not be permitted to talk.
6. Additional time may be added by the principal or designee for violations of the above rules and/or any other rules contained in this policy.

The above-mentioned policies are designed to be compatible with Arkansas statutes and all rules and regulations applicable to education in the State of Arkansas.

### Corporal Punishment

Reasonable discipline may include the administration of corporal punishment to a student in the exercise of sound discretion by a certified employee, provided that corporal punishment shall not be excessive or unduly severe.

A. Corporal punishment can be administered according to the following procedures:

1. It will be administered in the presence of at least one certified employee in addition to the person dispensing it. An administrator must be present.
2. It will not be administered in the presence of other students, with malice or anger, or in excess.
3. Before corporal punishment is administered, the student shall be advised of the rule and infraction for which he/she is being punished, in the presence of the witness. If the student claims innocence, the certified employee will permit the student to state his/her position. School officials are not required to conduct formal hearings prior to corporal punishment.
4. Refusal to take corporal punishment may result in suspension or other disciplinary measures.
5. The principal will be notified when corporal punishment is administered, and a written report shall be filed in the principal's office.
6. Parents will be notified by telephone or notification slip sent with the student.

B. Act 904 of 1997 authorizes any teacher or principal to use corporal punishment in a reasonable manner and for good cause in order to maintain discipline and order within public schools.

C. In 1977, the U.S. Supreme Court held that spanking children as a means of maintaining school discipline did not constitute cruel and unusual punishment in violation of the Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

#### Unacceptable Behaviors

##### 1. Disregard of directions

A. A student shall comply with reasonable directions or commands of teachers, student teachers, substitute teachers, teachers' aides, principals, administrative personnel, superintendent, school bus drivers, or other authorized school personnel.

B. Students will be considered insubordinate when they refuse to obey any rule or regulations of the school or school district or the reasonable instructions of school district personnel.

##### 2. Disruption and interference with school

No student shall:

- Block the doorway or corridor.
- Prevent students from attending a class or school activity.
- Block normal pedestrian or vehicular traffic.
- Use violence, force, noise, coercion, threat, intimidation, harassment, fear, passive resistance or any other conduct intentionally to cause a disruption.
- Refuse to identify himself/herself upon request.
- Commit or encourage scuffling, loud, distracting, unsafe and rude conduct.
- Bring radios, walkmans or other electronic devices to school unless approved by the principal.
- Bring live animals to school without prior written consent from the classroom teacher or school principal.

##### 3. Profanity

A student shall not use abusive, vulgar, or inappropriate language on the school campus or on school sponsored trips at any time.

#### 4. Physical abuse or assault (fighting) Act 706 of 1997

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A student shall not cause or attempt to cause physical injury to a fellow student or any other individual. Students involved in a fight who fail to stop upon the verbal instruction of a teacher or school employee shall receive five additional days in-school suspension.

Assault Charges: The minimum punishment will be three swats, three days ISS, or three days at home suspension. Parents and local law enforcement will be notified and assault charges may be filed. For complete policy, request a copy from the principal's office.

#### 5. Bullying

The Izard County School District has an obligation to, and is committed to, providing a safe learning environment for each of its students. Bullying in any form is prohibited while in school, on school property, in school vehicles, on school buses, at designated school bus stops, at school-sponsored activities, or at school sanctioned events. What is or is not bullying will depend on surrounding circumstances. Bullying is any form of behavior by a student or a group of students that is intended to harass, intimidate, ridicule, humiliate, or instill fear in another child or group of children. Bullying can be the threat of, or actual physical harm; or it can be in the form of verbal abuse. Bullying can be a series of recurring actions committed over a period of time directed at one student, or successive, separate actions directed against multiple students.

Bullying includes, but is not limited to:

- Sarcastic or derogatory remarks about another student's personal appearance,
- Pointed questions intended to embarrass or humiliate,
- Mocking, taunting, or belittling,
- Non-verbal threats and/or intimidations such as "fronting or chesting" a person,
- Demeaning humor relating to a student's race, gender, ethnicity, or personal characteristics,
- Blackmail,
- Extortion,
- Demands for protection, money or other involuntary donations or loans,

- Blocking access to school property, classrooms, or facilities,
- Deliberate physical contact or injury to a person or property,
- Stealing or hiding books or belongings,
- Threats or harm to student(s) possessions, or others.

Bullying also includes “cyber bullying” which is sometimes referred to as Internet bullying or electronic bullying and is defined as the willful and repeated harm inflicted through the medium of electronic text. It may involve: sending mean, vulgar or threatening messages or images; posting sensitive, private information about another person; pretending to be someone else in order to make that person look bad; and intentionally excluding someone from an on-line group. Like other forms of bullying, cyber bullying is an effort to demonstrate power and control over someone perceived as weaker. Cyber bullying through cell phones, internet, or emails will not be tolerated.

Students are encouraged to report any behavior(s) they consider to be bullying to their teachers or administrator. Reports of bullying may be made anonymously. Teachers and other school employees who have witnessed, or are reliably informed of, any single or multiple incident of bullying shall report the incident(s) to a building administrator. After investigation by the administration, students found to be in violation of the anti-bullying policy shall be subject to disciplinary action.

The administration will take into account the age/grade of the student and the severity of the bullying incident when determining the appropriate punishment.

#### 6. Being out of class without permission

A student must be in the classroom to which he or she has been assigned during class time unless he or she has expressed written permission from the teacher or the principal, or unless he or she is involved in pre-approved activities such as club meetings.

#### 7. Appearance and appropriate dress

The Izard County Consolidated School administrators recognize that among those rights retained by the people under our constitutional form of government is the freedom to govern one’s personal appearance. When, however, dress and grooming substantially disrupts the learning process for the individual student, other students, or the learning climate of the

school, it becomes a matter subject to corrective action. Students are expected to dress in fashion that will not cause others to be distracted from academic pursuit during instructional time or at activities. Student dress, grooming, and appearance should be the responsibility of the individual and his/her parents under the following guidelines:

A. Dress and grooming should be clean and in keeping with health and sanitary practices.

B. Students may not wear clothing or accessories that can be hazardous to them in their educational activities.

C. Tops and bottoms must meet at the waist when arms are raised.

D. Any attire which causes undue attention may result in disciplinary action. Examples of such attire include unbuttoned shirts and blouses, tank tops, strapless blouses, blouses cut low enough to show cleavage, transparent or see-through apparel, pants with holes above the knee, baggy pants, short shorts or skirts, and other clothing that causes a distraction.

- Shorts and skirts are of acceptable length if the distance between the bottom hem and the top of the knee is not longer than a dollar bill's length. Straps on shirts must be at least the width of a dollar bill.

E. A student shall not wear or use emblems, insignias, badges, or other symbols which cause substantial disruption or the interference with the operation of school.

F. A student shall not wear clothing or accessories with vulgar language, suggestive captions, illegal substance, alcoholic or tobacco advertisement or that promote violence, aggression, or hate toward any particular group of people.

G. Caps or hats are not to be worn in any buildings of the IZARD County Consolidated School District.

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H. For the health and well-being of the student, parents are asked to refrain from allowing shorts to be worn to school in cold weather. Outdoor activities require clothing appropriate for the weather conditions. The principal of each school will determine appropriate dates for students to wear shorts to school.

8. Failure to dress out for classes requiring special dress

Students shall dress out for P.E., etc. The teacher may authorize a student not to participate

for justified reasons. Three failures to dress out will result in one day ISS.

9. Damage or destruction of school property

A. A student shall not cause or attempt to cause damage to school property.

B. The school district will attempt to recover damages from the student destroying school property.

10. Theft

A. A student shall not steal or attempt to steal property belonging to the school or public or private property of another person while under jurisdiction of the school.

B. Students shall make restitution of any property stolen by them and shall be subject to other disciplinary measures.

11. Inappropriate exhibition of affection

Courting is considered a private matter and inappropriate exhibitions of affection will not be tolerated.

12. Immorality

A student shall abstain from indecent and immoral acts.

13. Forgery of notes or signatures and/or falsification of general information

A student shall not forge a parent's name to any note, nor falsify telephone numbers and addresses on general information forms.

14. Gambling

A student shall not participate in any activity which may be termed gambling or wagering where the stakes are money or objects of value.

15. Fireworks

A student shall not possess, handle or store firecrackers, smoke bombs, cherry bombs or any other kind of fireworks that reasonably could be a danger to himself/herself or to other

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students, that could cause damage to school property or that could be disruptive to the learning climate of the school.

16. Persistent disregard for school rules

A student who persists in acts of misconduct after reasonable efforts have been made by the

school to secure the student's adherence to the established rules shall be recommended for expulsion.

17. Being off-campus without permission

A student under age 18 must be on campus during regular school hours unless he or she has expressed written permission from his/her parent/guardian, or unless he/she is involved in pre-approved off-campus activities such as field trips.

18. Possession of any firearm or other weapon prohibited on school property

A. Students shall not possess, handle, or transmit a knife, razor, ice pick, explosive, pistol, rifle, shotgun, pellet gun or any other object that can be considered a weapon or dangerous instrument.

B. A student shall not possess, handle or store contraband materials while on school property or at school sponsored events.

C. Police will be notified of violations for possible prosecution under Act 649 of 1989.

Students may be recommended for expulsion.

19. Using, offering for sale, or selling beer, alcoholic beverages or other illicit drugs by students on school property or at school sponsored activities

A. A student shall not possess, sell, use, transmit or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, alcohol, intoxicants or other controlled substances. This policy is consistent with sections 5145 of the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act as added by section 22 of the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act amendments of 1989 (P.L. 101-226).

B. Controlled substances may be possessed and used by a student who has a prescription for the substance, provided the substance remains in the container in which it was obtained from the pharmacist and is stored in the principal's office. A disciplinary sanction may include the completion of an appropriate rehabilitation program.

20. Cheating

Cheating in any form is strongly discouraged. Appropriate punishment will be administered.

21. Physical assault by a student on a school employee

A student who assaults and/or batters a member of the faculty or staff shall be recommended

for expulsion. Assault charges will be filed.

#### 22. Bomb threats

A student who calls in a bomb threat and/or other threat to the health and safety of students and employees will be referred to the legal authorities and will be disciplined accordingly.

#### 23. Gang and gang activity

Gangs, secret societies, or other similar groups, whether organized in the community or in other settings, are prohibited on the school grounds and campus and at school sponsored activities. (For complete policy, request copy from the principal's office)

#### 24. Sexual harassment Act 1108 of 1997

Sexual harassment is sex discrimination under Title IX. Sexual harassment, in any form, is not tolerated in this district. For complete policy, request copy from the principal's office.

#### 24. Tobacco use on school campus Act 779 of 1997

Students of the IZARD County Consolidated School District are not permitted to smoke or use tobacco products on campus or at school activities.

#### Discipline for the Handicapped

Handicapped students who engage in misbehavior are subject to normal school disciplinary rules and procedures so long as such treatment does not abridge the right to free appropriate public education. The Individualized Education Plan (IEP) team for a handicapped student should consider whether particular disciplinary procedures should be adopted for that student and included in the IEP. Handicapped students may be excluded from school only in emergencies and only for the duration of the emergency. In no case should a handicapped student be excluded for more than ten days per incident. After an emergency suspension is imposed on a handicapped student, an immediate meeting of the student's IEP team should be held to determine the cause and effect of the suspension with a view toward assessing the effectiveness and appropriateness of the student's placement and toward minimizing the harm resulting from the exclusion. The suspended student should be offered alternate educational programming for the duration of the exclusion. There is a person designated as a grievance officer for Act 504.

#### Rules Governing Day and Night Activities

1. Students may not return to an event after leaving.

2. During athletic events students are to remain inside the gym and shall not block the entrances.
3. Students removed from night activities for disciplinary reasons must leave the campus. A conference will be held the following school day to determine if the student may attend future activities.
4. Possession or use of tobacco products is not permitted on the campus (day or night) or on any school sponsored trips.
5. All rules established by the IZARD COUNTY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISCIPLINARY GUIDELINES pertain to day and night activities.

#### Behavior Not Covered Above

The school district reserves the right to punish behavior which is not conducive to good order and discipline in the schools, even though such behavior is not specified in the preceding written rules.

#### DUE PROCESS

According to Arkansas Stat. Ann. 80-1516, every student is entitled to due process in every instance of disciplinary action for which a student may be subject to penalties of out-of-school suspension or expulsion. Due process is afforded to students in disciplinary cases of some magnitude such as: out-of-school suspension, expulsion, statements removed from students' records, and clearing one's reputation. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1975 that, for every out-of-school suspension not exceeding ten days, the student has the right to be accorded the minimum requirements of the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States.

The due process right of the students and parents are as follows:

1. Prior to any out-of-school suspension, the school principal or designee, shall advise the pupil in question of the particular misconduct of which he/she is accused, as well as the basis for such accusation.
2. The pupil shall be given an opportunity at the time to explain his/her version of the facts to the school principal or designee.
3. Written notice of suspension and the reasons(s) for the suspension shall be given to the

parent(s) of the pupil.

4. Any parent(s), or legal guardian of a pupil suspended shall have the right to appeal to the superintendent of schools.
5. Prior to such suspension, the principal or designee shall inform the student either orally or in writing about the infraction.
6. If the student denies the charges, the principal shall explain to him/her the evidence which forms a basis of the charges and shall permit the student to present his/her side of the story.
7. When the principal considers that out-of-school suspension is proper, he shall mail a suspension notice requesting a student/parent/principal conference within twenty-four hours, if possible.
8. Additionally, the suspension notice shall include the reasons for the suspension, its duration, the manner in which the student may be readmitted to school, and the procedure for review of the suspension.
9. The principal or designee may require the attendance of the student involved at said conference as a condition for considering reinstatement.
10. When a student has been notified that he/she is suspended from school, he/she shall remain away from school premises until the principal or designee reinstates him/her, except that a suspended student may return to school premises when accompanied by his/her parent or guardian for a student/parent/principal conference.
11. If, in the conference, no decision is reached by the principal for reinstatement of the student or if any suspended student or his/her parent or guardian (when student is a minor) requests a hearing before the superintendent, the principal or designee shall extend the suspension of the student and shall furnish the superintendent of schools with a full report on the suspension within a period of five days from request.
12. The superintendent of schools or designee shall have the authority to revoke, terminate or otherwise modify the suspension and will notify the principal and parents of his actions within five days of receipt of the principal's request. This is the only appeal for suspensions of ten days or less.

- For suspensions of ten days or more, if the superintendent agrees with the suspension or modifies the suspension imposed by the principal and if the student or his parent so request, a hearing shall be scheduled before the school board within five days after the superintendent has notified the parent or student of his/her action. The board may revoke, terminate, alter or modify the suspension.

13. A suspended student will be readmitted to school after being suspended for ten school days including the day upon which the suspension was initially imposed, even if the appeal process has not been completed.

14. A suspension that does not amount to an expulsion for the remainder of the semester but is more than ten days is allowed if the student has been afforded notice, opportunity for a hearing, and the same procedural rights as for expulsion.

15. Notwithstanding the policy concerning suspension and expulsion, students may be suspended indefinitely with notice, hearing, and the other rights provided herein having been first given if the school is undergoing violent upheaval or if orderly educational processes have otherwise been substantially disrupted. This would apply only in rare instances such as riots or where emergency circumstances make it unreasonable for the administration and board to consider the case within the usual time. In all such cases, notices, hearings, and other rights shall be provided in accordance with the normal provisions at the earliest practical date after order is restored.

#### Expulsion Procedure

The principal of a school may recommend that a student be expelled from school with loss of credit. A written recommendation to the superintendent shall include a statement of the charges against the student. If the superintendent concurs with the recommendation, he/she shall schedule a hearing before the school board. The school board may expel a student for the remainder of the school year, or permanently, for conduct it deems to be of such seriousness as to make a suspension inappropriate, where it finds that the student's continued attendance at school would be unacceptably disruptive to the educational program, or would be attended with reasonable danger to other students and faculty members.

Permanent expulsion is appropriate only for those instances in which serious bodily harm

occurred or reasonably could have been expected to occur to another person.

The superintendent shall give written notice, mailed within ten calendar days from the alleged incident which caused the expulsion recommendation, to the parent if the student is a minor or to the student if he/she is an adult. Such a hearing will be conducted not earlier than three calendar days or more than seven calendar days following the date of the notice except that the superintendent and the student's parents may agree in writing to a date not conforming to this limitation. The notice also will state charges against the student in clear and concise terms, the names of witnesses who will appear against the student, and a brief statement concerning the nature of their testimony.

The school administration has the responsibility to present the evidence to the board and the administration is entitled to open and conclude the hearings. The president of the board or the presiding officer has the authority to limit unproductively long or irrelevant questioning by nonboard members. In every case of a hearing held by a school board regarding the expulsion of a student, the president of the board, or, in his/her absence, another member selected of the board shall preside at the hearing. The student shall be entitled to representation by an attorney or lay counsel. The superintendent shall present evidence and may present witnesses or statements of those persons who have personal knowledge of the events or circumstances which give rise to the expulsion recommendation at the hearing. The student or representative may then present witnesses or statements by witnesses with personal knowledge of the events and circumstances relevant to the issues. Normally, formal cross-examination will not be permitted. If during the course of the hearing the board determines that the credibility of any of the witnesses is an issue, cross-examination by the student, superintendent, or their representatives will be permitted. Cross-examination should ordinarily be limited to the question or questions on which the credibility of the witness has become an issue. The student may observe all evidence offered against him/her. Members of the board may question any witness. At the conclusion of the hearing, the board may discuss the matter and dispose of it by vote.

If the board does not expel the pupil with loss of credit, it may impose less severe disciplinary actions, such as long-term suspension, which may be with or without opportunity for make-up of school work. The board shall briefly state its findings in writing within ten days after the

hearing.

The board shall make a record of the evidence taken at the proceedings by use of either a court reporter or a tape recorder. If the student wishes, the record will be transcribed and a copy furnished to the student. Copies of all statements used as evidence will be included with the record.

#### Group Hearings for Suspension or Expulsion

When two or more students are charged with violating the same rule and have acted in concert and the facts are basically the same for all such students, a single hearing may be conducted for them if the president of the board believes the following conditions exist:

- Single hearing will not likely result in confusion, and
- Student will not have his/her interest substantially prejudiced by group hearing.

If during the hearing, the president finds that a student's interest will be substantially prejudiced by the group hearing, a separate hearing may be ordered for that student.

#### SEARCH AND SEIZURE

Students have the right to be protected from unreasonable search and seizure by either state, federal, or school officials. School administrators have the responsibility to make a determination of the point at which the student's right to protection against unreasonable search and seizure is in conflict with the administrator's official duty to maintain a safe, orderly, and efficient school. Search and seizure by the administrator and/or his designee may occur when reasonable suspicion exists. School authorities may search a student's locker or make a personal search and seize any illegal contraband, dangerous weapons, or stolen property. Lockers belong to the school district; the locker is subject to periodic search within a legal framework. Search and seizure by law enforcement officials shall occur only when a warrant exists.

#### INTERROGATION AND/OR REMOVAL FROM SCHOOL BY LEGAL AUTHORITIES

Students have the right to be advised of their rights, to know why they are being questioned, to remain silent, and to know that anything he/she says may be held against him/her in court. Any interrogation shall take place in the presence of an official school representative. The student will not be removed from school unless he/she has been observed violating a law by a law

enforcement officer and/or the official school representative is presented a warrant or other valid reason for arrest. School administrators have the responsibility to notify parents of pending or past interrogation, to be present in the absence of parents during an interrogation and assure that the student is aware of his/her rights. The principal must notify parents immediately if the student is removed from the school by legal authorities.

#### COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

The IZARD County Consolidated School District utilizes the chain of authority for the processing of complaints, problems, or grievances of parents concerning discipline and grades of their children. In order to satisfactorily alleviate the problem, the following procedure shall be followed:

1. In problems concerning grades or discipline of a student and a teacher is involved, the principal shall arrange a conference between the parent and the teacher concerned.
2. If the parent is not satisfied with the teacher's explanation, the parent may request a conference with the principal.
3. Parents not satisfied after the conference with the principal may request a conference with the superintendent.
4. Teachers are not required to talk either directly or by telephone to parents who are irate, abusive, threatening, or using foul language. They should be referred to the principal. Letters or notes from parents with the same motive or attitude are not to be answered, other than to refer them to the principal. The principal may ask parents who are irate, abusive, threatening, or using foul language to leave the campus and schedule an appointment for future date when concerns may be more rationally discussed.

#### GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Students and employees who wish to file a grievance against the school district regarding Title VI (Race), Title IX (Sex), and Section 504 (Handicap) discrimination complaints should contact the district Equity Coordinator through the principal's office. This policy was adopted by the IZARD County Consolidated School District Board of Education on August 8, 1994. Revised: August 1997, 2001