

## **DISCIPLINE OF SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS**

All students are expected to meet the requirements for behavior as set forth in this handbook. Massachusetts Laws and Regulations require that additional provisions be made for students who have been found by an evaluation TEAM to have a disability and whose program is described in an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP). The following additional requirements apply to the discipline of these students.

1. Any modifications to the discipline code for a disabled student will be described in the student's IEP.
2. The Principal (or designee) will notify the Student Services Office of the suspended offense of a student with disabilities, and a record will be kept of such notices.
3. When it is known that the suspension(s) of a student with disabilities will accumulate to ten (10) days in a school year, a review of the IEP will be held to determine the appropriateness of the student's placement or program. The TEAM will make a finding as to the relationship between the student's misconduct and his/her handicapping condition and with parent/guardian approval will:
  - a. design a modified program for the student; or
  - b. write an amendment to provide for the delivery of special education services during the suspension or any needed modification of the IEP relative to discipline code expectations.

In addition, the Department of Education will be notified as required by law, and the procedures promulgated by the Department of Education for requesting approval of the alternative plan will be followed.

Copies of the Regulations and Parents' Rights brochure, which addresses the discipline of students with disabilities, are available in the Student Services Office.

4. If prior to the disciplinary action, the school had knowledge that the student may be a student with a disability, the school makes all protections available to the student until and unless the student is subsequently determined not to be eligible. Prior knowledge consists of:
  - a. The parent had expressed interest in writing.
  - b. The parent had requested an evaluation.
  - c. The school staff had expressed concern that the student has a disability.

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5. If the student's parent requests an evaluation subsequent to the disciplinary action, the school will conduct an expedited evaluation to determine eligibility.