



## School Discipline Policies

### What *may* a student be suspended or expelled for?

May 2021

At least 32 states and the District of Columbia allow suspension or expulsion for defiant or disruptive behavior. At least 10 states allow suspension or expulsion for robbery/theft, destruction of property and physical harm/threat of physical harm. At least five states allow suspension or expulsion for bullying, profanity/vulgarity, inappropriate use of technology, membership in a fraternity/sorority/secret organization and vandalism.

Note: In this resource, “controlled substances” could refer to drugs, alcohol, tobacco or any combination of these. Similarly, references to firearm/weapons could refer to just firearms, just weapons or both. Please use the citations given to find more specific language on these policies.

This data point captures the offenses for which students may be suspended or expelled. To view other data points in this resource, click [here](#). The following information was gathered from state statutes and regulations only.

STATE	What may a student be suspended or expelled for?	Source
Alabama	Inappropriate use of technology	Ala. Code § 16-1-27
Alaska	Bullying Conviction of felony Defiant or disruptive behavior Harassment Intimidation Physical harm or threat of physical harm	Alaska Stat. Ann. § 14.30.045 Alaska Stat. Ann. § 14.33.200 Alaska Stat. Ann. § 14.33.250

STATE	What may a student be suspended or expelled for?	Source
Arizona	Defiant or disruptive behavior Firearm/weapon possession/use Truancy/Excessive absenteeism Vandalism	Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 15-841 Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 15-842
Arkansas	Assault or threatening assault Controlled substance sale/use Destruction of property Firearm/weapon possession Membership in a fraternity, sorority or secret organization Vandalism	Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-502 Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-515 Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-605
California	Bullying Controlled substance possession/sale/use Defiant or disruptive behavior Firearm/weapon possession/sale Firearm/weapon possession (imitation) Harassment Hate violence Hazing Intimidation Physical harm or threat of physical harm Profanity/Vulgarity Sexual assault Sexual harassment Theft/Robbery Threat to educational institution Vandalism	Cal. Educ. Code § 48900 Cal. Educ. Code § 48900.2 Cal. Educ. Code § 48900.3 Cal. Educ. Code § 48900.4

STATE	What may a student be suspended or expelled for?	Source
Colorado	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assault</li> <li>Controlled substance possession/use</li> <li>Defiant or disruptive behavior</li> <li>Destruction of property</li> <li>Endangerment</li> <li>Firearm/weapon possession</li> <li>Firearm/weapon possession (imitation)</li> <li>Making a false accusation</li> <li>Theft/robbery</li> <li>Physical harm or threat of physical harm</li> </ul>	Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-33-106
Connecticut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Controlled substance possession/sale</li> <li>Defiant or disruptive behavior</li> <li>Endangerment</li> <li>Firearm/weapon possession</li> </ul>	Conn. Gen. State. Ann. § 10-233c Conn. Gen. State. Ann. § 10-233d
Delaware	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arson</li> <li>Assault</li> <li>Bullying</li> <li>Commission of crime</li> <li>Controlled substance possession/use</li> <li>Defiant or disruptive behavior</li> <li>Destruction of property</li> <li>Firearm/weapons possession</li> <li>Gambling</li> <li>Inappropriate use of technology</li> <li>Physical harm or threat of physical harm</li> <li>Pornography</li> <li>Sexual assault</li> <li>Terroristic threats</li> <li>Theft/robbery</li> <li>Unauthorized presence on school grounds</li> </ul>	Code Del. Regs. 14 614

STATE	What may a student be suspended or expelled for?	Source
District of Columbia	Academic dishonesty Bullying Controlled substance possession/use Defiant or disruptive behavior Endangerment Extortion Fighting Firearm/weapon possession (imitation) Forgery Gambling Gang activity Hazing Inappropriate use of technology Leaving school without permission Lying to school staff Pornography Profanity/Vulgarity Sale or distribution of any item without authorization Sexual acts Threatening behavior Unauthorized presence on school grounds	D.C. Mun. Regs. tit. 5-B, § 2502
Florida	Controlled substance possession/sale/use Defiant or disruptive behavior Dress code violation Physical harm or threat of physical harm Firearm/weapon possession Firearm/weapon possession (imitation) Inappropriate use of technology Sexual harassment Violation of transportation policy	Fla. Stat. Ann. § 1006.07 Fla. Stat. Ann. § 1006.09
Georgia	Assault	Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-751.6
Hawaii	Behavior detrimental to morals... Controlled substance possession/sale/use Firearm/weapon possession/sale/use	Haw. Rev. Stat. § 302A-1134 Haw. Rev. Stat. § 302A-1134.6

STATE	What may a student be suspended or expelled for?	Source
Idaho	Bullying Defiant or disruptive behavior Harassment Intimidation Truancy/Excessive absenteeism Threat to health	Idaho Code Ann. § 33-205
Illinois	Threat to educational institution	105 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 5/10-22.6
Indiana	Commission of a crime Defiant or disruptive behavior Firearm/weapon possession	Ind. Code Ann. § 20-33-8-14 Ind. Code Ann. § 20-33-8-15 Ind. Code Ann. § 20-33-8-16
Iowa	Controlled substance possession/use Violation of school rules	Iowa Code Ann. § 279.9 Iowa Code Ann. § 282.4
Kansas	Commission of crime Defiant or disruptive behavior Endangerment Violation of code of conduct	Kan. Stat. Ann. § 72-6114
Kentucky	Assault Controlled substance possession/use Defiant or disruptive behavior Destruction of property Firearm/weapon possession/use Profanity/Vulgarity Theft/Robbery Vandalism	Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 158.150

STATE	What may a student be suspended or expelled for?	Source
Louisiana	Controlled substance possession/use Bullying Conviction of felony Defiant or disruptive behavior Fighting Firearm/weapon possession Leaving school without permission Profanity/Vulgarity Truancy/Excessive absenteeism Vandalism Violation of school rules Violation of traffic/safety regulations	La. Rev. Stat. Ann. 17:416
Maine	Bullying Making a false accusation Membership in fraternity, sorority or secret organization Violation of school rules	Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 17-A, § 1001 Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 20-A § 4007 Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 20-A § 6554
Maryland	Not specified in statute or regulation. Requires the State Board of Education to establish a code of discipline for all schools.	Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 7-306
Massachusetts	Assault Charge/conviction of felony Controlled substance/possession/sale/use Firearm/weapons possession	
Michigan	Conviction of crime Defiant or disruptive behavior Sexual assault	Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 380.1311
Minnesota	Defiant or disobedient behavior Endangerment Membership in fraternity, sorority or secret organization Physical harm or threat of physical harm	Minn. Stat. Ann. § 121A.45 Minn. Stat. Ann. § 121A.70

STATE	What may a student be suspended or expelled for?	Source
Mississippi	Defiant or disruptive behavior Destruction of property	Miss. Code. Ann. § 37-11-18.1 Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-19
Missouri	Charge/conviction of felony Defiant or disruptive behavior Membership in a fraternity or sorority Physical harm or threat of physical harm	Mo. Ann. Stat. § 167.161 Mo. Ann. Stat. § 171.141
Montana	Defiant or disruptive behavior Destruction of property Physical harm or threat of physical harm Violation of district rules	Mont. Code Ann. § 20-5-201
Nebraska	Bullying Controlled substance use/possession Criminal behavior Defiant or disruptive behavior Destruction of property Firearm/weapon possession Intimidation Membership in fraternity, sorority or secret organization Physical harm or threat of physical harm Public indecency Sexual assault Theft/robbery Threat to health Violation of school rules	Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-2,102 Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-264 Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-265 Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-267
Nevada	Assault Charge of crime Controlled substance possession/sale Defiant or disruptive behavior Gang activity	Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 392.466 Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 392.467 Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 392.4635

STATE	What may a student be suspended or expelled for?	Source
New Hampshire	Behavior detrimental to health, safety, and welfare of others Bullying Defiant or disruptive behavior Destruction of property Firearm/weapon possession Physical harm or threat of physical harm Sexual assault Theft	N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 193:13
New Jersey	Assault Bullying Continued and willful disobedience Defiant or disruptive behavior Destruction of property Controlled substance possession/use Harassment Incitement of truancy Intimidation Physical harm or threat of physical harm Profanity/vulgarity Theft Unauthorized presence on school grounds	N.J. Stat. Ann. § 18A:37-2 N.J. Stat. Ann. § 18A:37-4
New Mexico	Student conduct may be regulated within legal limits by local school boards as they deem appropriate to local conditions.	N.M. Admin. Code 6.11.2.9 N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-5-4.3
New York	Behavior detrimental to morals or welfare of others Defiant or disruptive behavior Physical harm or threat of physical harm	N.Y. Educ. Laws § 3214
North Carolina	Physical harm or threat of physical harm Violation of code of conduct	N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 115C-390.5 N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 115C-390.11
North Dakota	Defiant or disruptive behavior Habitual indolence	N.D. Cent. Code Ann. § 15.1-19-09



STATE	What may a student be suspended or expelled for?	Source
Ohio	Bomb threat Controlled substance possession Criminal behavior Destruction of property Disruptive behavior Endangerment Firearm/weapon possession Physical harm	Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3313.66 Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3313.662
Oklahoma	Bullying Controlled substance use/possession Firearm/weapon possession Theft Violation of school rules	Okla. Admin. Code 210:10-1-20 Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 70, § 24-101.3
Oregon	Defiant or disruptive behavior Destruction of property Controlled substance possession/sale/use Physical harm or threat of physical harm Profanity/vulgarity Theft	Or. Admin. R. 581-021-0055 Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 339.250
Pennsylvania	Defiant or disruptive behavior	24 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 13-1318
Rhode Island	Bullying Cyberbullying Defiant or disruptive behavior Threatening behavior	200 R.I. Code R. 30-10-2.8 R.I. Gen. Laws Ann. § 16-2-17 R.I. Gen. Laws Ann. § 16-21-21.1

STATE	What may a student be suspended or expelled for?	Source
South Carolina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Behavior detrimental to morals</li> <li>Controlled substance possession/use</li> <li>Criminal behavior</li> <li>Defiant or disruptive behavior</li> <li>Physical harm</li> <li>Inappropriate use of technology</li> <li>Theft/robbery</li> <li>Threatening behavior</li> <li>Unauthorized presence on school grounds</li> <li>Vandalism</li> <li>Violating school rules</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S.C. Code Ann. § 59-63-210</li> <li>S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-279</li> </ul>
South Dakota	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Controlled substance possession/use</li> <li>Defiant behavior</li> <li>Destruction of property</li> <li>Violating school rules</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S.D. Codified Laws § 13-32-4</li> <li>S.D. Codified Laws § 13-32-5</li> </ul>
Tennessee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Behavior detrimental to morals</li> <li>Charge of crime</li> <li>Controlled substance possession/use</li> <li>Destruction of property</li> <li>Disruptive behavior</li> <li>Firearm/weapon possession</li> <li>Physical harm or threat of physical harm</li> <li>Profanity/vulgarity</li> <li>Vandalism</li> <li>Violation of school rules</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3401</li> </ul>

STATE	What may a student be suspended or expelled for?	Source
Texas	Assault Bullying Certain criminal offenses Controlled substance possession/sale/use Defiant or disruptive behavior Firearm/weapon possession Harassment Inappropriate use of technology Public indecency Robbery Threatening behavior	Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 37.0019 Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 37.005 Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 37.0052 Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 37.006 Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 37.007 Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 37.0081
Utah	Behavior detrimental to welfare, safety, or morals of others Controlled substance possession/use Defiant or disruptive behavior Destruction of property Pornography Profanity/vulgarity	Utah Code Ann. § 53G-8-205
Vermont	Bullying Defiant or disruptive behavior Firearm/weapon possession Harassment Hazing Threatening behavior	Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 16, § 1162
Virginia	Adjudication of delinquency Conviction of crime	Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-277
Washington	Arson Defiant or disruptive behavior Destruction of property Endangerment Gang activity Harassment Kidnapping Physical harm or threat of physical harm	Wash. Admin. Code 392-400-510 Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 28A.600.455 Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 28A.600.460

STATE	What may a student be suspended or expelled for?	Source
West Virginia	Controlled substance possession/sale/use Defiant/disruptive behavior Destruction of property Physical harm or threat of physical harm Profanity/vulgarity	W. Va. Code Ann. § 18A-5-1a
Wisconsin	Bomb threat Defiant or disruptive behavior Endangerment	Wis. Stat. Ann. § 120.13
Wyoming	Behavior detrimental to morals Defiant or disruptive behavior Destruction of property Firearm/weapons possession Physical harm/threat of physical harm Profanity	Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 21-4-306