



School Discipline Policies

What *must* a student be suspended or expelled for?

May 2021

Forty-six states and the District of Columbia must suspend students for firearms/weapons possession. Assault and possession/sale/use of controlled substances were the next most common offenses for which students must be suspended or expelled.

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 must 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 must a student be suspended or expelled for?	Source
Alabama	Controlled substance possession/use Firearm/weapon possession Physical harm or threat of physical harm	Ala. Code § 16-1-24.1 Ala. Code § 16-1-24.3
Alaska	Firearm/weapon possession	Alaska Stat. Ann. § 14.03.160
Arizona	Firearm/weapon possession Threat to educational institution	Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 15-841

STATE	What must a student be suspended or expelled for?	Source
Arkansas	Firearm/weapon possession	Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-502 Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-507
California	Assault Controlled substance sale Firearm/weapon possession/sale/use Physical harm or threat of physical harm Sexual assault Theft/robbery	Cal. Educ. Code § 48915
Colorado	Conviction/adjudication of: Assault Drug use/possession/sale Firearm/weapons possession Robbery Boards of education must make policies of mandatory suspension for: Assault Destruction of property Making a false accusation (child abuse)	Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-32-109.1 Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-33-106 Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-33-106.5
Connecticut	Controlled substance possession/sale Firearm/weapon possession	Conn. Gen. State. Ann. § 10-233d
Delaware	Firearm/weapon possession	Del. Code Ann. tit. 11, § 1457

STATE	What must a student be suspended or expelled for?	Source
District of Columbia	Activating false alarm Contaminating food Destruction of property Fighting (resulting in injury) Firearm/weapon possession Firearm/weapon possession (imitation) Harassment Inciting violence Interfering with school authorities Sexual harassment Tampering with or altering school records Theft/Robbery Vandalism	D.C. Mun. Regs. tit. 5-B, § 2502
Florida	Firearm/weapon possession Making a false accusation Threat to educational institution	Fla. Stat. Ann. § 1006.09 Fla. Stat. Ann. § 1006.14
Georgia	Assault Firearm/weapon possession	Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-751.1 Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-751.6
Hawaii	Firearm/weapon possession/sale/use	Haw. Rev. Stat. § 302A-1134 Haw. Rev. Stat. § 302A-1134.6
Idaho	Firearm/weapon possession	Idaho Code Ann. § 33-205
Illinois	Firearm/weapon possession Firearm/weapon possession (imitation) If the student's presence poses a threat to school safety or a disruption to other student's learning opportunities Gross disobedience or misconduct on a school bus The governing body of any public school shall suspend or expel any pupil who is a member of or joins or promises to join... any public school fraternity, sorority or secret society.	105 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 5/31-3

STATE	What must a student be suspended or expelled for?	Source
Indiana	Firearm/weapon possession	Ind. Code Ann. § 20-33-8-16
Iowa	Assault Firearm/weapon possession	Iowa Code Ann. § 280.17B Iowa Code Ann. § 280.21B Iowa Code Ann. § 282.4
Kansas	Firearm/weapon possession	Kan. Stat. Ann. § 72-6132
Kentucky	Assault Controlled substance possession/sale Firearm/weapon possession	Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 158.150
Louisiana	Assault Committing a suspendable offense for the fourth time Failure or refusal to participate in assigned detention Firearm/weapon possession	La. Rev. Stat. Ann. 17:416
Maine	Controlled substance possession/sale/use Defiant or disruptive behavior Firearm/weapon possession/use Physical harm or threat of physical harm	Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 20-A § 1001
Maryland	Firearm/weapon possession	Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 7-305
Massachusetts	Not specified in statute or regulation. Gun Free Schools Act requirement exists in State Department of Education document.	
Michigan	Arson Assault Bomb threat Firearm/weapon possession Sexual assault	Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 380.1310 Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 380.1311 Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 380.1311a
Minnesota	Firearm/weapons possession	Minn. Stat. Ann. § 121A.44

STATE	What must a student be suspended or expelled for?	Source
Mississippi	Controlled substance possession/sale/use Firearm/weapons possession Membership in fraternity, sorority or secret organization	Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-18 Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-43
Missouri	Firearm/weapon possession	Mo. Ann. Stat. § 160.261
Montana	Firearm/weapon possession	Mont. Code Ann. § 20-5-202
Nebraska	Firearm/weapon possession	Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-263
Nevada	Firearm/weapon possession	Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 392.466 Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 392.467
New Hampshire	Firearm/weapon possession	N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 193:13
New Jersey	Assault Firearm/weapon possession	N.J. Stat. Ann. § 18A:37-2.1 N.J. Stat. Ann. § 18A:37-2.2 N.J. Stat. Ann. § 18A:37-8
New Mexico	Firearm/weapon possession	N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-5-4.7
New York	Firearm/weapon possession	N.Y. Educ. Laws § 3214
North Carolina	Firearm/weapon possession	N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 115C-390.10
North Dakota	Firearm/weapon possession	N.D. Cent. Code Ann. § 15.1-19-10
Ohio	Firearm/weapon possession	Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3313.66
Oklahoma	Assault Firearm/weapon possession Physical harm or threat of physical harm	Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 70, § 24-101.3

STATE	What must a student be suspended or expelled for?	Source
Oregon	Firearm/weapon possession	Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 339.250
Pennsylvania	Firearm/weapon possession Sexual assault	24 Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. § 13-1317.2 24 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 13-1318.1
Rhode Island	Assault Firearm/weapon possession Firearm/weapon possession (imitation)	200 R.I. Code R. 20-30-2.2 R.I. Gen. Laws Ann. § 16-21-18
South Carolina	Firearm/weapon possession	S.C. Code Ann. § 59-63-235
South Dakota	Firearm/weapon possession	S.D. Codified Laws § 13-32-4
Tennessee	Assault Controlled substance possession Firearm/weapon possession	Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3401
Texas	Arson Assault Controlled substance sale Firearm/weapon possession Kidnapping Manslaughter Murder Robbery Sexual assault	Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 37.0051 Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 37.006 Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 37.007
Utah	Controlled substance possession/use Controlled substance possession/use (imitation) Firearm/weapon possession Firearm/weapon possession (imitation) Physical harm or threat of physical harm	Utah Code Ann. § 53G-8-205
Vermont	Firearm/weapon possession	Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 16, § 1166

STATE	What must a student be suspended or expelled for?	Source
Virginia	Controlled substance possession/use Controlled substance possession/use (imitation) Firearm/weapon possession	Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-277.07 Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-277.08
Washington	Firearm/weapon possession	Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 28A.600.420
West Virginia	Assault Controlled substance possession/sale/use Firearm/weapon possession	W. Va. Code Ann. § 18A-5-1a W. Va. Code Ann. § 61-2-15 W. Va. Code Ann. § 61-7-11a
Wisconsin	Firearm/weapons possession	Wis. Stat. Ann. § 120.13
Wyoming	Firearm/weapons possession	Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 21-4-306