

BLOOMSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT Policy Manual
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Section: PUPILS
Title: SUSPENSION/EXPULSION HEARINGS
Date Adopted: August 17, 1981
Date Last Revised: October 21, 2002

233. SUSPENSION/EXPULSION HEARINGS

- .1 The purpose of informal hearings is to enable the student to meet with appropriate school officials to explain the circumstances surrounding the event for which the student is being suspended, to demonstrate that there is a case of mistaken identity, or to show that there is some compelling reason why the student should not be suspended. The informal hearing also encourages the student's parents or guardian to meet with the principal to discuss ways by which future offenses can be avoided.
- .2 At the informal hearing, the following due process requirements are to be observed:
 - .21 Notification of the reasons for the suspension in writing, given to the parents or guardian and to the student.
 - .22 Sufficient notice of the time and place of the informal hearing.
- .3 In a case involving a possible expulsion, the student is entitled to a formal hearing. A formal hearing may be held before the Board or a duly authorized committee of the Board, composed of no fewer than three members of the Board. The hearing committee's decision is advisory to the Board when expulsion is recommended. A majority vote of the entire Board is required to expel a student.
- .4 At the formal hearing, the following due process requirements are to be observed:
 - .41 Notification of the charges in writing, sent to the parents or guardian by certified mail, and to the student.
 - .42 Sufficient notice of the time and place of the hearing.
 - .43 The right to an impartial tribunal.

- .44 The right to be represented by counsel.
 - .45 The right to be presented with the names of witnesses against the student, and copies of the statements and affidavits of those witnesses.
 - .46 The right to demand that any such witnesses appear in person and answer questions or be cross-examined.
 - .47 The student's right to testify and produce witnesses on his/her own behalf.
 - .48 A record must be kept of the hearing, either by a stenographer or by tape recorder. The student is entitled, at the student's expense, to a copy of the transcript.
 - .49 The proceeding must be held with all reasonable speed.
- .5 If requested by the student or student's parents, the hearing shall be held in private, although formal decisions shall be made in public.