

University Schools			
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General¹

University Schools shall operate an alternative program for students in grades seven through twelve (7-12) who have been suspended or expelled from the regular school program.

An alternative school is a short-term intervention program designed to provide educational services outside the regular school program for students who have been suspended or expelled.

An alternative program is a short-term intervention program designed to provide educational services outside the regular school program for students who have been suspended or expelled. Alternative programs may be located within the regular school or be a self-contained program within a school. Alternative programs shall include, but are not limited to, the following: in-school suspension.

The alternative school and/or program shall be operated in accordance with state laws and the rules of the State Board of Education, and instruction shall proceed as nearly as practicable in accordance with the instructional program at the student's regular school. The Executive Director of Academics shall develop procedures that provide appropriate educational opportunities for all students assigned to the alternative school or program. These educational opportunities shall adhere to Tennessee's academic standards.²

ASSIGNMENT

Students who have been suspended for more than ten (10) days or expelled shall be assigned to the alternative school or program if there is staff and space available.³ Availability of staff and space shall be determined at the time the disciplinary decision is rendered. The Executive Director of Academics shall make this determination by evaluating factors including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Level of supervision available;
2. Safety considerations; and
3. Type of infraction.

The Executive Director of Academics is not required to assign a student to the alternative school or program if the student committed one of the following:

1. A zero tolerance offense;⁴ or
2. An offense of violence or threatened violence, or an offense that threatened the safety of other students at the school if the location of the alternative school or program is on the same grounds as the school from which the student was disciplined or assigning the student to that location would endanger the safety of the students or staff.⁵

Consideration to assign these students to the alternative school or program will be determined by the Executive Director of Academics on a case-by-case basis.

Prior to the assignment of the student to the alternative school or program, the Executive Director of Academics/designee shall provide written notice to the student's parent/guardian stating the reason for the student's placement.⁶

Placement in an alternative education setting shall be reserved for students who significantly disrupt the educational process. If a student has an active Individualized Education Plan, a 504 plan, or is suspected of having a disability, all state and federal laws and rules and regulations related to special education shall be followed. The Executive Director of Academics shall develop procedures regarding placement of students in the program, taking into consideration the impact of exclusionary discipline practices.⁷

The Executive Director of Academics shall monitor and regularly evaluate the academic progress of each student enrolled in the alternative school.

REMOVAL⁸

A student may be removed from the alternative school or program if:

1. He/she violates the rules of the alternative school or program; or
2. He/she is not benefitting from the assignment and all interventions have been exhausted unsuccessfully.

ADDITIONAL OFFENSES⁹

Any new disciplinary offense committed during a student's original suspension or expulsion period shall be treated as a new and separate offense. These offenses shall not constitute an extension of the original suspension or expulsion.

TRANSITION PLAN¹⁰

The Executive Director of Academics shall develop procedures regarding the implementation of transition plans for the integration of students assigned to the alternative school.

Because every student attends University Schools on a transfer per TCA 49-8-1501 et seq., a student's transfer may be revoked under TCA 49-2-128 if they are disciplined and sent to an alternative school or program pursuant to this policy. Additionally, pursuant to University Schools enrollment policy, a student's continued enrollment at University Schools may be revoked and due to unsatisfactory attendance and/or conduct, a student will attend their zoned school.

Legal References

1. TCA 49-6-3402; TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.09
2. TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.09(9)(a)
3. TCA 49-6-3402(c)(1)(A)
4. TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.09(6)(a); TCA 49-6-3402(c)(1)(B)
5. TCA 49-6-3402(c)(1)(C)
6. TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.09(9)(i)
7. TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.09(9)(h)
8. TCA 49-6-3402(c)(2)(B)
9. TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.09(9)(g)(2)
10. TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.09(9)(m)