



INFORMAL DISCIPLINE FOR STUDENTS WITH IEPS TOPIC: WITHDRAW OR FACE DISCIPLINARY ACTION

DOES THIS SOUND FAMILIAR?

- Your child has severe behavior problems at school.
- The school gives you the option to either voluntarily withdraw your child from school or have your child long-term suspended or expelled.
- The school informs you that by withdrawing the student, the discipline will not appear on their formal record.

IF SO, ASK THE SCHOOL

- What formal disciplinary action is my child facing?
- Has the school followed all discipline due process procedures outlined in their policy manual?

IF YOU DO NOT AGREE WITH THE SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION

- Ask for an incident report detailing the reason for the suspension or expulsion.
- Ask for a Manifestation Determination Review and prepare for this meeting with evidence that supports your position that your child's behavior was related to their disability.
- Review the school's discipline policies, especially processes for appealing discipline decisions.

POINTS TO REMEMBER IF YOU WITHDRAW YOUR CHILD

- Only the school district within whose boundaries the child lives is required to educate that child. If you withdraw your child from their district of residence, they may not be able to attend school anywhere.
- Even if a child with an IEP is long-term suspended or expelled, they continue to have the right to receive a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in an Interim Alternative Educational Setting.
- Other schools may limit admission of students through the open enrollment process, especially students with a history of school discipline.
- Once you voluntarily withdraw your child, the school no longer has to provide a FAPE to your child.