



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Series: 2010-11
Circular Letter: C-6

TO: Superintendents of Schools

FROM: Mark K. McQuillan, Commissioner of Education

DATE: December 28, 2010

SUBJECT: Update on Guidelines for In-School and Out-of-School Suspensions

On July 1, 2010, Section 10-233c of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended by Public Act 10-111, Suspension of Pupils, went into effect. The amended statute requires that all suspensions from school shall be in-school suspensions unless school administration determines that:

“the pupil being suspended poses such a danger to persons or property or such a serious disruption to the educational process that the suspension should be out-of-school, or an out-of-school suspension is appropriate for such pupil based on evidence of: (A) previous disciplinary problems that have led to suspensions or expulsion of such pupil; and (B) efforts by the administration to address such disciplinary problems through means other than out-of-school suspension or expulsion, including positive behavioral support strategies.”

Previously, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) published the “*Guidelines for In-School and Out-of-School Suspensions*” (October 2008) to assist in determinations regarding the use of in-school or out-of-school suspension for students. This notice is to inform you that the document has been updated to reflect the changes per Public Act 10-111.

During the past two years, the CSDE has provided workshops to assist school districts in the implementation of the original guidance document and school district feedback indicated an interest in gaining additional ideas for developing effective in-school suspension (ISS) programs. Other comments addressed the need for more guidance in the development of ISS programs in districts with special characteristics (i.e., small and/or unified school districts). A number of respondents expressed an appreciation for the inclusion of case studies and requested that the CSDE provide additional scenarios to help inform and guide the decision-making process.

The updated guidance addresses the legislated changes as well as requests for more information. A new Appendix E, has been included which provides information regarding positive behavioral support strategies that have been beneficial in the development and maintenance of prosocial behaviors. An updated copy of the “*Guidelines for In-School and Out-of-School Suspensions*” (2010) document is available at http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/pressroom/In_School_Suspension_Guidance.pdf.

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The CSDE is presently planning several training sessions to address implementation of the statute and the updated guidance. Information regarding these sessions (i.e., dates and locations) will be forthcoming and shared via e-mail correspondence and posting on the CSDE Web site.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Jocelyn Mackey, Ph.D., at 860-807-2029 or jocelyn.mackey@ct.gov.

MKM;jm

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