

## Tips

- ▶ Failure to show up at a permanent exclusion hearing means that you waive your rights.
- ▶ You have a right to an attorney at a permanent exclusion hearing.
- ▶ Ohio schools are not required by law to provide you with education while you are out of school. However, you should **always** ask for assignments or make-up work!

**Don't let anyone make you feel like you don't have a choice just because you're a youth!**

## If you are in Transition or Experiencing Homelessness

- A special law exists that protects you from school policies that punish you *because of* your homelessness.
- Schools cannot have policies that act as **barriers** to your education. If you think this is happening, contact the homeless liaison in your district. To find your liaison, call 614-466-4161.



### Ohio State Legal Services

555 Buttlers Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43215  
614-221-7201  
800-589-5888  
www.oslsa.org

To get the contact information for your local legal aid office, call **1-800-LAW-OHIO** or visit [www.ohiolegalservices.org](http://www.ohiolegalservices.org)

### Equal Justice Foundation

88 E. Broad St., Suite 1590  
Columbus, OH 43215  
614-221-9800  
800-898-0545



### Youth Empowerment Program

Coalition on Housing & Homelessness in Ohio  
175 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 250  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
614-280-1984

## Facing Suspension or Expulsion?



## A Guide to Ohio Law and Procedures for Students Facing Removal from School

## How long is a Suspension?

Up to 10 Days

## How long is an Expulsion?

10-80 Days (*this can carry over to the next school year*)

## Is it possible to be expelled for longer than 80 days?

Yes, some expulsions can be as long as one year:

- ▶ Your school board can make local policies:

Offense	Time
Bringing a Firearm to School	1 Year
Bringing a Knife to School	1 Year
Making a Bomb Threat to a School	1 Year
Committing an act that would be a crime if committed by an adult	1 Year
Bringing a Firearm or Knife to extracurricular activities, or other school-related function	1 Year

**Note:** Each school policy is different.

**Note:** When you are suspended or expelled, you are not permitted to enter school property, do extra-curriculars, or attend school-sponsored events.

## STUDENTS IN



## HAVE RIGHTS!

“**Due Process**” = Schools must follow certain procedures when they take actions against you.

“**Privacy**” = Schools must respect your privacy (although they can still search you if they have an important reason)

## Can I get permanently expelled?

Yes, in certain cases, you can be expelled permanently:

- (1) if you are at least 16; AND
- (2) you are **convicted** of a delinquent act, such as having one of the following:

- \*deadly weapon in a school zone
- \*concealed weapon in a school zone
- \*drugs, other than minor drug offenses, on school property

***Permanent expulsion means that you cannot attend any public school in Ohio.***

## What must the school do before they SUSPEND me?

- Give you written notice of the intent to suspend you + reasons for the suspension
- Give you a chance to have an informal hearing

## What must the school do before they EXPEL me?

- Give you and/or your parent/guardian written notice of the intent to expel
- Give you a chance to appear in person before the superintendent and to challenge their reasons for expulsion

If you are found to be a continuing danger to people or property or if you are an ongoing disruption on school property, then the school can remove you before notice or a hearing. However, a hearing must be held within 3 days *after* removal.

**Note:** If you are facing an in-school suspension, then the school is **not** required to follow the procedures mentioned above.