

# — KNOW YOUR RIGHTS —

## Suspensions

### What is a suspension?

A suspension is school discipline that removes a student from class or school temporarily.

Suspensions can be “in-school,” where a student is placed in a supervised classroom away from other students, or “out-of-school,” where a student is sent home for the suspension period.



### When can a school suspend you?

- A school can only suspend students for behavior listed in the California Education Code.
- A school can only suspend student for behavior that happened at a school activity or the way to or from that school activity.

### When can't a school suspend you?

- Your school cannot suspend you for absences or tardiness.
- A school cannot suspend a student in grade 3 or below for willful defiance.
  - Starting July 1, 2020, this ban will also include students in grades 8 and below.

### What are your rights before, during, and after suspension?

- A school must try other interventions first, unless the behavior is serious or dangerous. Other interventions can include parent conferences and counseling referrals.
- Right to an informal pre-suspension conference (unless there is an emergency).
- Right to tell your side of the story and present evidence before suspension.
- Right to have your parents/guardians get written notice of the school's final decision on a suspension.
- Right to not have your suspension last for more than 5 days in a row or for more than 20 days total in one school year (or 30 days if the student transfers schools).
- You may have the right to appeal the school's final decision.



# Suspension Process Timeline

