

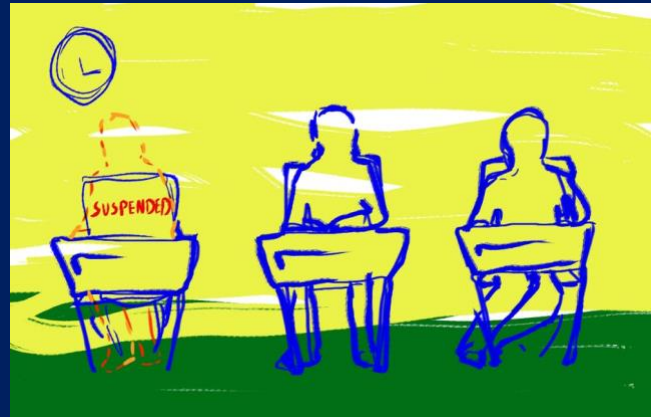
# — KNOW YOUR RIGHTS —

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

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

- Your school cannot suspend you for absences or tardiness.
- Your school cannot suspend you if you are in grade 8 or below for willful defiance.

### 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 get written notice of the school's final decision on a suspension.
- Right not to 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 if your district has a suspension appeals policy.



Neighborhood Legal Services  
of Los Angeles County

**For free legal help, please contact NLSLA:**  
NLSLAEducationTeam@nlsla.org | (888) 907-0444 |  
nlsla.org/services/education-rights

**All Services are Free of Charge**

# Suspension Process Timeline

