

TEMPORARY EXCLUSION OF STUDENTS FOR MEDICAL OR SAFETY REASONS

Background

Northwest School Division is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy learning and work environment. Schools support a wide range of students with intensive needs or who exhibit complex behaviours. In the process of accommodating students, a temporary exclusion from school may need to be enacted until the division receives additional medical information clearly setting out any medical restrictions faced by the student, and the student is stabilized and able to access education.

The exclusion of a student will only be appropriate when:

- Student health and safety are a significant concern;
- Additional accommodations are needed to address the safety/medical needs of the student;
- Training of staff or additional support is needed to implement the student's safety and/or medical plan.

The exclusion of a student should be considered only as a last resort and only after ongoing consultation with caregivers, the Superintendent of Student Services or designate, and the school-based student services team. Exclusion is intended as a temporary safety measure put in place only for as long as necessary and is distinct from a disciplinary response to behaviour.

Procedures

1. The Director and Superintendent of Student Services, in consultation with the Principal and the school team, in connection with the student's programming, may exclude a student from school for a temporary determined period of time if the team reasonably believes that:
 - 1.1 The student's behavior is of such a nature that the school cannot ensure the safety of the student and/or the safety of others due to the behaviour of the student; or
 - 1.2 The student has a disability as defined under The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code and the school does not have sufficient medical information to put appropriate supports in place to assure the safety of the student.
2. The temporary exclusion may continue only until such time as:
 - 2.1 The Division has prepared a plan for the safe return of the student to the school or program with any required accommodations in place; and
 - 2.2 The Division has received any necessary and appropriate medical information clearly setting out any medical restrictions faced by the student.

3. The Superintendent shall ensure the parent/caregiver is immediately informed of the temporary exclusion and that a formal letter is sent to the parent/caregiver which addresses:
 - 3.1 The reason for the temporary exclusion;
 - 3.2 What medical information they are required to provide to the Division
 - 3.3 The ways in which they can provide input to the plan so that the school can best prepare for the safe return of the student; and
 - 3.4 The ways in which educational supports may be available during the period of exclusion.
4. The Division will make its best effort to provide education supports to the student while the student is excluded from the school, which may include but are not limited to:
 - 4.1 Providing access to distance learning education (Sask DLC)
 - 4.2 Providing parents with information, assignments and other instructional materials for the student;
 - 4.3 Providing parents with access to a teacher to discuss student work and assignments.
5. Immediate Serious Threat:
 - 5.1 In situations where the principal reasonably believes that a student's behavior presents an immediate and serious threat to the safety of students, self and/or staff, the principal shall immediately inform the Superintendent, who may enact a temporary exclusion of the student.
 - 5.2 The principal will proceed with the relevant procedures outlined in our Northwest School Division Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol.

Reference: The Education Act, 1995
The Accommodation Process for Students, SSBA (available upon request)
Duty to Accommodate Students Guide, SSBA (available upon request)
Northwest School Division Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) and Assessment of Risk to Others (ARTO)

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