



Caregiver Guidance for Supporting Children in Educational Disciplinary Procedures

Updated November 2025

Hello Caregivers!

First of all, thank you for all you are doing for the children in your home. We know that you all have busy lives and are juggling so many life happenings so please know we appreciate you and are here to help you!

We wanted to inform you of some school-related information that may affect your children. During the 2025 Legislative Session, changes were made to school discipline laws and procedures. *As you are often the first contacts for schools and experience what is happening with your children on the front lines, we cannot monitor or advocate without you!*

Every child in foster care is appointed an Educational Decision Maker/EDM who represents the child in educational decisions. EDMs may be a:

- **Parent, Relative, or Fictive Kin**
- **Foster Parent**
- **Court Appointed Special Advocate or CASA**
- **Volunteer Educational Advocate (VEA) through the Legal Aid Center**

Your child's EDM will represent your child and help you with any issues you are having with your child's school. If you do not know who the EDM is for your child, ask your child's caseworker.

Your role in communicating with the EDM and the rest of the child's team is vital.

Here are some things you need to know and ways you can help ensure the educational rights of the children in your care if they get in trouble at school.

Your child's EDM, caseworker, and CAP Attorney are all there to support you in helping your child so please keep them updated in real time so they can support you and your child and help to ensure your child's rights are being met.

For more in-depth information about removals, suspensions, expulsions, and disciplinary procedures, please visit www.qpnevada.org and view our School Discipline: Removals, Suspensions, Expulsions, and Parents Rights Explained Training!



Tips for Before/When Your Child is Being Sent Home for Any Discipline:

- **Ask the school to contact you as soon as your child is about to be sent home/removed, not after they are removed.** A new law only requires the school to contact someone within 24 hours of removal. *Explain that knowing when your child is removed in real time can help you get support your child needs and help you to ensure that there is care for your child at home upon removal.*
- **Ask for any documents that give information about the reason your child is being sent home and about information surrounding the incident.** These documents are often titled as Notices and Reports on the top of school forms given to you. *Ensure these documents were provided to the EDM as well.* If the school says they cannot give you the documents due to other children's names on them, request the school give you the documents and redact or remove the other children's names. You are allowed to have any documents regarding your child with other children's names removed.
- **Make sure the school has the following information correctly on the documents sent to you and the EDM:** the reason the child is removed; the correct day your child was first sent home on; how long the removal from school is; and when the child can return to school.
- **If you are notified that there is a required parent conference needed as a step for your child to get back into school, please contact your child's EDM, Caseworker, and CAP Attorney and let them know of this request.** Also contact the above team if the school is not letting your child back into school after the date noted on the paperwork or you feel your child is out of school for a long period of time without educational services.
- **Contact your child's EDM, Caseworker, and CAP Attorney to let them know your child was sent home and let them know about any required conferences and/or disciplinary meetings being arranged for your child.**

Tips if Your Child is Suspended/Recommended for Expulsion

Contact your child's EDM, Caseworker and CAP Attorney as soon as possible to let them know your child was suspended/recommended for expulsion and let them know of any disciplinary meetings arranged for your child.

- **Make sure the school provided paperwork to your child's EDM and provide any paperwork you receive to your child's EDM, caseworker, and CAP Attorney as soon as you can. The EDM can appeal the suspension/recommendation for expulsion for your child.** Your child's EDM has a right to appeal suspensions and to appeal expulsion recommendations. *The appeal has to be filed within 5 days of receiving paperwork so it is urgent you get that paperwork to them in real time or ensure they have it.*
- **If your child is suspended for more than 5 days cumulatively in the school year, help ensure your child receives a Progressive Discipline Plan Based on Restorative Justice Practices (also known as an Individualized Student Plan) and the school is implementing it.** This Plan must include positive behavioral supports, referrals for services, and re-engagement plans for children who are expelled and attending a new school. You can make any recommendations and share your opinion with the EDM on anything you think might help your child that can be put into the Plan. *If your child does have this Plan and you are aware of it, make sure the support identified in the Plan is being provided to your child or let the EDM know if it is not being provided.*
- **If your child is suspended for 5 days cumulatively or more or recommended for expulsion, help make sure a special appeal right based on being in foster care takes place for your child.** In determining the discipline, the principal must consult with your child's EDM and certain persons such as the counselor or social worker who have an interest in the education of the pupil to determine if your child poses an ongoing threat on campus and if being in foster care was a factor in the behavior relating to the incident. If your child does not pose a threat and if being in foster care was a factor in behavior relating to the incident, the principal must either: (1) end the period of suspension and provide your child with behavioral and academic support; or (2) assign the pupil to a temporary alternative placement for not more than 45 school days for some extreme circumstances. Expulsion may be removed as a disciplinary option. You may be contacted about this determination. *Please ensure the school contacts your child's EDM, caseworker, and CAP Attorney to attend this meeting and also let them know if you want to attend this meeting. Sensitive or private information about the child may not be shared without consulting the EDM, CAP Attorney, and/or caseworker.*
- **If it is too difficult for you to have your child at home or you think having your child not attend the school will affect their mental health, ask the EDM to work with the school to consider an alternative consequence to suspension/expulsion or to have your child serve the suspension/expulsion at an alternative program on school campus on your behalf.** Let your EDM know you want them to request this for you. Schools are supposed to provide progressive discipline and use gradual consequences to address negative behavior. Schools are also highly recommended to have in-person options for serving any out-of-school discipline. Alternative options or on-campus consequences can be considered in that progressive discipline.
- **Ensure your child is being educated starting the 3rd day of suspension.** Your child must be provided educational services that meet their need while not being allowed on school campuses. *Contact the school and the child's EDM, Caseworker, and CAP Attorney if your child is not receiving educational services or if the educational services being provided do not work for you or your child.*