

Know Your Rights

Student suspension

The 14 behaviors that may warrant suspension.

Deciding to suspend a student can be difficult, but knowing the behaviors that may warrant suspension can help you decide when it's called for.

LAUSD believes in progressive discipline, which means that, to the extent that it's possible, teachers and school administrators should generally refrain from issuing formal discipline (in other words, suspensions, opportunity transfers, or expulsions) as a first response to student misconduct. Formal methods should only be used after other means of discipline haven't worked.

Proper documentation is essential to the concept of progressive discipline; for students with reoccurring problems, be sure to keep records of all the discipline measures taken.

In addition to the normal disciplinary measures, such as counseling, parent conferences, and office referrals, you may suspend a student from your class for that day and the following day for any of the causes listed below (listed in Article XXIV of the UTLA-LAUSD contract):

Causes

1. Disruptive behavior or willful defiance of valid authority.
2. Obscenity, habitual vulgarity, profanity, or hate language (e.g., slurs based on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, religion, etc.).
3. Causing, attempting, or threatening violence or physical injury.
4. Theft or damage to school property or personal property.
5. Extortion or robbery.
6. Possessing, using, offering for sale, furnishing, or being under the influence of any controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind.
7. Possessing, using, offering for sale, or furnishing any drug paraphernalia.
8. Offering for sale or furnishing any substitute substance represented as a controlled substance, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant.
9. Possessing, using, offering for sale, or furnishing any firearm, or imitation firearm, explosive, knife, or other dangerous object.
10. Falsely reporting a fire or bomb.
11. Possessing or using tobacco or any products containing tobacco or nicotine products, including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, miniature cigars, clove cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chew packets, and betel. However, this section does not prohibit use or possession by a pupil of his or her own prescription products.
12. Knowingly receiving stolen school property or private property.
13. Committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault as defined in Section 261, 266c, 286, 288, 288a or 289 of the Penal Code or committing a sexual battery as defined in Section 243.4 of the penal code.