Suspension or Expulsion of K-4 Students

The following procedures are adopted to comply with A.R.S. § 15-843(K)-(L), which imposes limitations and requirements on the use of suspensions and expulsions in addressing misconduct by students in grades K-4.

In the event of a conflict between this policy and the School's normal discipline policies, this policy will take precedence in addressing suspension or expulsion of K-4 students.

I. ***Bypass Exceptions*:** The limitations on suspension and expulsion under this policy may be bypassed and are not applicable if:
   a. *General Exception*--The contemplated suspension is two days or less AND the total number of suspension days does not exceed ten days in the current school year.
   OR
   b. *Firearms Exception*--The student brings a firearm to school, per A.R.S. § 15-841(G).

II. ***Students Under Seven*:** Absent a Bypass Exception, students under seven years old may not be suspended or expelled; alternative disciplinary interventions must be utilized.

III. ***Grounds for Suspension/Expulsion*:** Absent a Bypass Exception, students who are at least seven years of age but who have not yet reached fifth grade will only be subject to suspension or expulsion if the misconduct occurs on school grounds and involves:
   1. "Aggravating circumstances," as defined below; OR
   2. One of the following offenses, AND failing to remove the student from the school building would create a safety threat that cannot otherwise be reasonably addressed:
      a. Possession of dangerous weapon.
      b. Possession, use, sale of dangerous drug or narcotic drug, as defined in A.R.S. § 13-3401 or a violation of A.R.S. § 13-3411.
      c. Behavior that immediately endangers the health/safety of others.

IV. ***Pre-suspension/Expulsion Procedures***: Prior to imposing a suspension or expulsion under this policy, the school will do the following unless doing so is not feasible while maintaining health and safety of others:
   - Consider and, if feasible, employ alternative behavioral and disciplinary interventions ("ABDI");
   - Consult with parent regarding ABDI, to the extent possible; and
   - Document ABDI considered and employed.

V. ***"Aggravating Circumstances"*:** By adoption of this policy, the school's governing body determines that aggravating circumstances exist when the misconduct meets all of the requirements set forth in a-d below—*i.e.*, the misconduct:

a. Is persistent;
b. Has been documented;
c. Prevents other students from learning OR prevents the teacher from maintaining control of the classroom; and
d. Is unresponsive to targeted interventions that include consultation with:
    i. A school counselor, school psychologist, other mental health professional, or social worker if available, or through a state-sponsored program.
    ii. If none of the foregoing are available, the targeted interventions must include consultation with the school principal or another school administrator.

If the misconduct meets the definition of "aggravating circumstances" set forth above, the school will not suspend or expel the student unless the following additional prerequisites are also present:

e. Parent has been notified and consulted about the ongoing behavior, and
f. In the case of long-term suspension (more than 10 school days) or expulsion, the school has provided a disability screening indicating that the behavior is not the result of a disability or suspected disability.

VI. ***Application for Readmission*:** Following a long-term suspension or expulsion, a parent may apply for student's readmission: (a) after a student has served at least five school days of the long-term suspension, or (b) twenty school days after effective the date of an expulsion.

Applications for readmission must be submitted in writing to the Principal, who may grant or deny the application at his/her discretion. Applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The Principal's decision on an application for readmission is final.