

# 407: Safe Schools Policy

## 1. Purpose:

St. George Academy recognizes that every student should have the opportunity to learn in an environment which is safe, conducive to the learning process, and free from unnecessary disruption. To foster such an environment the following policy has been adopted and is complemented by the restorative focus in the SGA Behavioral Framework:

## 2. Policy:

2.1. Each student is expected to follow accepted rules of conduct;

2.2. Each student is expected to show respect for the SGA Academy facilities, their instructors and peers.

2.3. The policy applies to students while in the classroom, on school grounds, in school vehicles, and while attending St George Academy sponsored activities or events.

## 3. Procedure:

### 3.1. Definitions:

3.1.1. Suspension is not the deprivation of a right to learning, but as the temporary denial of social interaction through school contact and the removal of the student from the classroom setting because of real and present disruptive effect of their presence, or a reasonable assumption that their presence will be disruptive or a threat to the well-being or safety of themselves and/or other students or staff. Suspension may carry with it conditions which must be met to remove the suspension. The SGA Behavioral Framework outlines procedures for when suspension is necessary.

3.1.2. Expulsion is defined as the removal from school and the cessation of educational services provided by St. George Academy for any period longer than 10 consecutive days.

3.1.3. For students with disabilities the procedures for change of placement under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) apply.

### 3.2. Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion:

3.2.1. A student may be suspended or expelled from SGA as outlined by the SGA Behavioral Framework.

### 3.3. Suspension Procedures:

3.3.1. When a student is suspended, they will be told verbally or in writing the reasons for suspension and the period of time for which the student is suspended.

3.3.2. If it is determined by the Administration team that a suspended student must immediately leave the school building and the school grounds, SGA Administration shall determine the best way to transfer custody of the student to the parent or guardian or other person authorized by the parent or applicable law to accept custody of the student.

### 3.4. Expulsion Procedures:

3.4.1. Authority is delegated to the Executive Director to expel students from school for any period of time beyond the 10-day suspension period. The Director shall contact the student and their parent(s) or guardian(s) within 24 hours of the time of the recommendation by telephone or certified mail. (If contacted by phone the Director will follow the contact with a written notice.) Such notice shall include:

3.4.1.1. A statement that the Director is recommending expulsion;

3.4.1.2. The length of time for which the expulsion is being recommended;

3.4.1.3. A description of the school regulation(s) allegedly violated by the student;

3.4.1.4. A statement of the facts as known to the Director leading to the recommendation for expulsion;

3.4.1.5. That the parent or guardian have the right to request a hearing before the SGA Board to appeal the expulsion.

### 3.6. Appeal of Expulsion to the Board of Directors:

3.6.1. The student may request an appeal hearing before the Board, or a committee consisting of at a majority of the voting members of the school board. Requests for an appeal hearing to the Board of Directors shall be made in writing to SGA Administration. This appeal hearing shall be held within one week, if possible, of the date such a request is received, or as soon thereafter as can be scheduled.

3.6.2. The Board or committee thereof conducting the appeal hearing, shall determine specifically if there was sufficient evidence to find that the alleged violation(s) occurred and if the penalty imposed was appropriate for the violation(s). At the appeal hearing:

3.6.2.1. The Board or committee shall review all written documents in the case;

3.6.2.2. Each of the complaining parties may address the Board or committee on the evidence and the appropriateness of the decision of the hearing panel.

3.6.3. The decision of the Board or committee shall be forwarded via registered mail to each of the complaining parties within 24 hours of the decision.

### 3.7. Restorative Practice as an Alternative to Suspension and Expulsion:

3.7.1. Prior to suspending or expelling a student for repeated acts of willful disobedience, defiance of authority, or disruptive behavior which are not of such a violent or extreme nature that immediate removal is required, good faith efforts shall be made to implement a restorative behavior support plan that would allow the student to remain in school as defined by the SGA Behavioral Framework and policy 402 Academic Performance, Attendance and Behavioral Intervention Policy.

### 3.8. Education of Excluded Students:

3.8.1. If a student is expelled from school without educational services for more than 10 days, the parent or guardian is responsible for undertaking an alternative education plan which will ensure that the student's education continues during the period of expulsion.

3.8.2. Any student temporarily suspended from regular classroom instruction shall be allowed full opportunity to make-up work missed as a result of the suspension. It is the responsibility of the student to contact their teacher(s) to obtain missed assignments, tests, etc. Administration shall inform the student as to the procedures for contacting the teacher(s) to obtain work during the period of suspension.

3.8.3. The parent or guardian of a suspended student and SGA Administration may enlist the cooperation of the Division of Family Services, the juvenile court, or other appropriate state agencies, if necessary, in dealing with the student's suspension. (See Utah Code, Title [53A-11-903](#) and [53A-11-103\(2\)](#).)

3.8.4. The school shall contact the parent or guardian of each expelled student under the age of 16 at least once a month to determine the student's progress.

3.8.5. Application of Policy to Students with Disabilities. The policy applies to student with disabilities to the extent permissible under applicable law or regulation. If application of any requirement of this policy to a student with a disability is not permissible under applicable law or regulation, the principal or assistant-principal shall implement other actions consistent with the conflicting law or regulation which shall most closely correspond to the requirements of this policy.

3.8.6. St George Academy shall maintain a record of all suspended and expelled students and a notation of the suspension or expulsion.