

Returning to School

Students who are not permanently expelled may return to school when the expulsion order ends or if they meet conditions for returning early. Before the student returns to school, the student and parent may want to schedule a meeting with the school staff, including the superintendent, principal and/or school counselor, to talk about credits and scheduling of classes.

What about other services?

Being expelled may indicate that a student has other problems. For example, a student expelled for possessing drugs may have drug and/or alcohol use problems; a student expelled for fighting may have anger management problems. If you believe your child has a disability, you may refer him/her for a special education evaluation. Because the process of expulsion is stressful parents are encouraged to locate services to help your child and family address any problems. Talk to your physician or insurance company, county department of human or social services, or mental health agencies listed in the phone book. Your employer may offer an Employee Assistance Program for you and your child. The school principal or pupil services staff, school social worker, counselor, psychologist, or nurse may also be able to help.

May I appeal?

Parents or students age 18 or older may appeal the expulsion in writing to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The letter of appeal must include:

- the name of the pupil who was expelled
- the name of the school district
- the date of the expulsion
- the reason for the appeal.

Send appeal letters to:

*State Superintendent
Department of Public Instruction
P. O. Box 7841
Madison, WI 53707-7841*

The State Superintendent may only overturn an expulsion if due process procedures were violated. If an expulsion is overturned, a school district may begin expulsion proceedings again for the same incidents.

For more information about student discipline, compulsory school attendance, suspensions, expulsions, and dropouts, link to:
<http://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/pdf/attendqa2.pdf>.

For educating incarcerated youth, link to:
<http://dpi.wi.gov/alternativeed/alted.html>.

For educating through contracts with Technical Colleges, link to:
<http://dpi.wi.gov/alternativeed/pdf/alted-tc-contract.pdf>.



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**Information for
Parents of Expelled
Students**

*My child
has been
expelled.*

Now what?

**PREPARED BY THE STUDENT SERVICES
PREVENTION AND WELLNESS TEAM**

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OF EXPELLED STUDENTS

Information about expulsion

Wisconsin law allows public schools to expel students for dangerous behavior, breaking school rules, and for threatening to destroy school property by explosives.

- Students of any age may be expelled. The length of expulsion may vary and is set by the school board. The board may shorten the length if students meet early reinstatement conditions.
- Schools are required to expel students for at least one year if they bring firearms to school or school functions.
- School districts must follow certain steps, or “due process,” if they are seeking to expel a student. A student may not be suspended out of school for more than five consecutive school days, or 15 days if a notice of an expulsion hearing has been sent to the student and parents. The notice must include the date, time and location of the hearing as well as the reasons the expulsion is recommended. An attorney may represent the student or parents of a minor child. The hearing may be closed at the request of the student or parents of a minor child. Written records of the meeting must be kept by the school board. If the student is expelled, a written copy of the board’s order must be sent to the student and parents. State statutes related to pupil expulsion are §§119.25 and 120.13 (1).
Link to:
www.legis.state.wi.us/rsb/stats.html.
- Special rules apply to students with disabilities. Students with a disability may not be expelled if the behavior was caused by the child’s disability. The student’s IEP team, with parents included, makes this decision. If expelled, students with disabilities must still receive free appropriate public education.

Link to: (especially for parents):
<http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/hmparents.html>.

Who is responsible for educating expelled students?

Parents are responsible for finding an educational program for their expelled child. No public school in Wisconsin is required to educate a student expelled from another Wisconsin public school. Public schools may continue to provide services, but are not required to do so. However, schools are required to serve special education students even after expulsion.

What are my options?

Though not required to do so, some schools offer educational services to regular education students who are expelled. Contact your local school district to see if they will do so. Also check your local library for printed and online resources. Other options include private schools, correspondence schools, technical college or a home-based private education program (home schooling).

Where do I find more information about educational options?

Private Schools

- ◆ For information about private schools in Wisconsin call (608) 266-2146 or link to:
<http://dpi.wi.gov/schlprv.html>.
- ◆ Or contact the Wisconsin Council of Religious and Independent Schools at: 437 South Yellowstone Dr. Ste. 205, Madison, WI 53719 (608)204-0790, or link to:
<http://wcris.info/>.
- ◆ Check telephone book yellow pages for: *Schools-academic-secondary and elementary*.

Correspondence / Internet Courses

- ◆ Distance Education Training Council
1601 18th Street NW
Washington, DC 20009-2529
(202) 234-5100, link to: <http://detc.org/>.
- ◆ University Continuing Education Association
list of correspondence courses, link to:
<http://ucea.edu/>.
- ◆ North Central Accredited Public and Private Schools in Wisconsin:
http://www.advanc-ed.org/schools_districts/.
- ◆ American School Independent
Study Division
2200 East 170th Street
Lansing, IL 60438
(708) 418-2800 or (800) 531-9268

For a list of virtual schools and online programs, link to: <http://dpi.wi.gov/imt/onlinevir.html>.

Home Schooling

For information about home-schooling in Wisconsin call (608)266-2146 or link to:
<http://dpi.wi.gov/sms/doc/homeqa.doc>.

There are many home-based parent associations you may wish to contact for further information about home-schooling. In Wisconsin, two of the largest are:

1. The Wisconsin Parents Association, P.O. Box 2502, Madison, WI 53701-2502, voice mail (608) 283-3131, or link to: www.homeschooling-wpa.org.
2. Wisconsin Christian Home Educators Association, P. O. Box 320458, Franklin, WI, 53132, phone (414) 425-6324 or link to:
www.wisconsinchea.com.

The Department of Public Instruction is not responsible for any information that may be provided by these organizations, nor does their inclusion in this brochure imply any type of endorsement by the DPI.