

It is important  
to know your  
suspension  
rights!

Can I be suspended for that?!

- You cannot be suspended for:
- Cutting class
  - Being late
  - Not having a uniform

**#Know Your Rights**  
Student Suspension Rights in Maryland

If you think that you have been unfairly suspended, contact one of the organizations below:

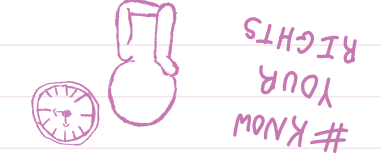
Students with disabilities:  
Disability Rights Maryland  
(410) 727-6352

Students without disabilities:  
Maryland Office of the Public Defender  
(443) 873-3531

For more information visit  
DisabilityRightsMD.org

Disability Rights Maryland

Created by students in a Wide Angle Youth Media program in collaboration with Disability Rights Maryland (formerly Maryland Disability Law Center).  
Supported by the Open Society Institute-Baltimore.



- Did you know?
- Your school should use suspension as a last resort.
  - You should not be told to go home or stay home without a formal suspension.
  - You should not be removed from school for more than 10 days unless the school proves that keeping you in school would create an "imminent threat of serious harm" or that you caused a "chronic and extreme disruption."
  - If you have a disability, you cannot be suspended for more than 10 days for behavior related to your disability.

# Suspended?!

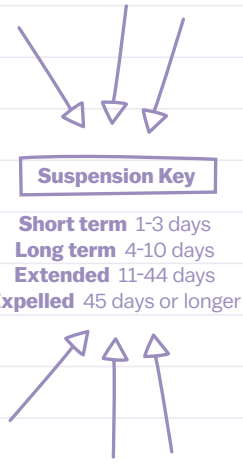
## Here's how to advocate for yourself:

- ✓ **STEP ONE:** Stay calm. Take a deep breath. It may seem overwhelming, but you can get through this!
- ✓ **STEP TWO:** Ask for a suspension letter explaining why you are being suspended and when you can return to school.
- ✓ **STEP THREE:** Ask for a suspension conference with the principal, your parents or guardians, and other important school staff to explain why you should not be suspended.

✓ **STEP FOUR:** If your school is proposing a suspension for more than 10 school days, prepare for and attend a **conference** with a representative of the superintendent.

**At the conference**

- Bring any information that supports your case.
- Ask to see any evidence against you, including witness statements and video footage.
- Explain why your behavior does not meet the standard for an extended suspension or expulsion, **meaning you were not chronically disruptive and you would not cause an imminent threat of serious harm if you went back to school.**



#KNOWYOURRIGHTS

**You have the right to:**

- Ask that the decision from the suspension conference be reviewed. An appeal must be filed within 10 days from that decision.
  - Stay up to date on assignments and make up work that you have missed.
- **For a 1-3 day suspension:**  
Your principal must assign a staff member to give you missed assignments.
- **For an expulsion or a suspension of 4 days or more:**  
You have the right to educational services, which may include daily classwork and assignments or placement to an alternative program. Ask your school principal who at the school to contact for assignments and classwork. The superintendent's representative can tell you if an alternative program is an option.

Make your own suspension rights card!

**STEP 1**  
Cut on the dotted line

**STEP 2**  
Fold on the solid line

