A guide to the suspension & expulsion rights of your child in Maryland.

Know Your Child’s Rights!

If you think that your child has been unfairly suspended, contact one of the organizations below:

**Child with disabilities:**
Disability Rights Maryland
(410) 727-6352
DisabilityRightsMD.org

**Child without disabilities:**
Maryland Suspension Representation Project
(443) 873-3531
MDSuspensionRep.org

Created by students in Wide Angle Youth Media in collaboration with Disability Rights Maryland and Maryland Suspension Representation Project. Supported by Open Society Institute-Baltimore.
**Sent Home, Suspended, or Expelled?**

- **Is your student in Pre-K through 2nd grade?**
  - **NO**: Request a letter. It should explain why your child is being suspended, for how long, and when they can return to school.
  - **YES**: The school cannot suspend them. The school can only suspend for up to 5 days if a mental health professional determines there is an imminent threat of serious harm that cannot be reduced through interventions or supports.

- **Check the code of conduct.**
  - **Does the length of removal correspond with what the district says is an appropriate form of discipline?**

- **Ask for a meeting with the principal and your child.**
  - **At the meeting explain why your child should not be suspended (there is no such thing as an automatic suspension), ask why a suspension of this length is necessary, and ask to see any evidence, including witness statements and video.**

- **Was your child arrested or may receive charges?**
  - **They should be careful about speaking. They are not “rejecting” due process by choosing to stay silent.**

**If the Suspension Goes Through**

**Ask what education services your child will receive during the suspension and who the contact person at the school is.**

- **How long is the suspension?**
  - **3 days or less?**
  - **More than 3 days?**

- **Does your child have an IEP?**
  - **YES**: The IEP or 504 team must hold a manifestation meeting within 10 school days.
  - **NO**: More than 10 days? **YES**: The superintendent’s representative must hold a meeting at the district with you and your child within 10 school days. At the meeting, explain why your child has not caused chronic and extreme disruption and why your child would not cause an imminent threat of serious harm if they went back to school.

- **Send Home, Suspended, or Expelled?**

**After the Suspension is Over**

Your child has the right to go back to their regular school.