

Sec. 1. GENERAL GUIDELINES

UT Tyler University Academy personnel shall adhere to the following general guidelines when imposing discipline:

1. A student shall be disciplined when necessary to improve the student's behavior, to maintain essential order, or to protect other students, school employees, or property.
2. Students shall be treated fairly and equitably. Discipline shall be based on an assessment of the circumstances of each case.

Disciplinary consequences shall not have the effect of discriminating on the basis of sex, race, color, disability, religion, ethnicity, age, national origin, or any other protected characteristic.

Sec. 2. STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The Board shall adopt a Student Code of Conduct, which shall establish standards for behavior and identify general types of prohibited behavior and their possible consequences. The Student Code of Conduct shall also outline UT Tyler University Academy's due process procedures with respect to expulsion. *Tex. Educ. Code § 12.131(a)*.

At the beginning of the school year and throughout the school year as necessary, the Student Code of Conduct shall be:

1. Made available for review in the Principal's office; and
2. Made available on the UT Tyler University Academy website and/or as hard or electronic copies to students, parents, teachers, administrators, and to others on request.

Revisions to the Student Code of Conduct approved by the Board during the year shall be made available promptly to students and parents, teachers, administrators, and others.

Sec. 3. OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION AND STUDENTS WHO ARE HOMELESS

UT Tyler University Academy may not place a student who is homeless in out-of-school suspension unless the student engages in the following conduct while on school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off of school property:

1. Conduct that contains the elements of an offense related to weapons under Texas Penal Code § 46.02 or 46.05;
2. Conduct that threatens the immediate health and safety of other students in the classroom;
3. Documented conduct that results in repeated or significant disruption to the classroom; or
4. Selling, giving, or delivering to another person or possessing, using, or being under the influence of any amount of:

- a. Marijuana or a controlled substance, as defined by Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 481 or by 21 U.S.C. § 801;
- b. A dangerous drug, as defined by Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 483; or
- c. An alcoholic beverage, as defined by Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code § 1.04.

Tex. Educ. Code § 37.005(d).

Sec. 4. CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

The Board prohibits the use of corporal punishment in UT Tyler University Academy. Students shall not be spanked, paddled, or otherwise physically disciplined for violations of the Student Code of Conduct.

Sec. 5. EXTRACURRICULAR STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR

Sponsors and coaches of extracurricular activities may develop and submit for approval standards of behavior that are higher than the UT Tyler University Academy developed Student Code of Conduct and may condition membership or participation in the activity on adherence to those standards. Extracurricular standards of behavior may take into consideration conduct that occurs at any time, on or off UT Tyler University Academy property. Extracurricular behavioral standards shall not have the effect of discriminating on the basis of gender, race, color, disability, religion, ethnicity, age, or national origin.

Students shall be informed of any extracurricular behavior standards at the beginning of each school year or when the students first begin participation in the activity. Students and their parents shall sign and return to the sponsor or coach a statement that they have read the extracurricular behavior standards and consent to them as a condition of participation in the activity.

Standards of behavior for an extracurricular activity are independent of the Student Code of Conduct. Violations of these standards of behavior that are also violations of the Student Code of Conduct may result in independent disciplinary actions.

A student may be removed from participation in extracurricular activities or may be excluded from school honors for violation of extracurricular standards of behavior for an activity or for violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Sec. 6. EXPULSION

The Superintendent or designee shall determine conduct for which students may be expelled from school. Expellable offenses shall be described in the Student Code of Conduct. *Tex. Educ. Code § 12.131.*

a) *Federal Firearm Provision*

In accordance with the Gun-Free Schools Act, UT Tyler University Academy shall expel from the student's regular program, for a period of one year, any student who is determined to have brought a firearm, as defined by federal law, to any UT Tyler University Academy campus. The Superintendent may modify the term of expulsion for a student or assess another comparable penalty that results in the student's exclusion from the regular school program on a case-by-case basis. *18 U.S.C. § 922.*

For the purposes of this provision, "firearm" means:

1. Any weapon (including a starter gun), which will or is designed to or which may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive;
2. The frame or receiver of any such weapon;
3. Any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or
4. Any destructive device. "Destructive device" means any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, mine, or device similar to any of the preceding described devices. It also means any type of weapon (other than a shotgun shell or a shotgun that is generally recognized as particularly suitable for sporting purposes) by whatever name known which will, or which may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant, and which has any barrel with a bore of more than one-half inch in diameter; and any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into a destructive device as described in this item, and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled.

18 U.S.C. § 921(a).

b) *Expulsion Proceedings*

i. *Due Process*

Before a student may be expelled, the Board or its designee shall provide the student a hearing at which the student is afforded appropriate due process as required by the federal constitution. The minimum procedural requirements necessary to satisfy due process depend upon the circumstances and the interests of the parties involved. Federal due process requires notice and some opportunity for hearing.

ii. *Notice*

The notice should contain a statement of the specific charges and grounds that, if proven, would justify expulsion. In some cases, the student should be given the names of the witnesses against him or her and an oral or written report on the facts to which each witness testifies.

iii. Hearing

The rights of the student may properly be determined upon the hearsay evidence of school administrators who investigate disciplinary infractions.

iv. Representative

At the hearing, the student is entitled to be represented by the student's parent, guardian, or another adult who can provide guidance to the student and who is not an employee of UT Tyler University Academy. If UT Tyler University Academy makes a good-faith effort to inform the student and the student's parent or guardian of the time and place of the hearing, UT Tyler University Academy may hold the hearing regardless of whether the student, the student's parent or guardian, or another adult representing the student attends.

v. Term of Expulsion

If the period of expulsion is inconsistent with the guidelines on length of expulsion in the Student Code of Conduct, the order must give notice of the inconsistency.

vi. Appeals

The Superintendent or designee shall develop an appeal process for expulsion decisions; this process shall recognize the Board's final authority to hear or decide a parent or student appeal of an expulsion. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the appeal process is made available to students and parents through the Student Handbook. The Board's decision is final and may not be appealed.

Disciplinary consequences shall not be deferred pending an appeal.