



Student Discipline

Policy Owner(s): Therapeutic School

Effective Date: June 25, 2023 **Revised Date:** November 11, 2024

1. Policy Objective

The purpose of this policy is to outline student discipline in the Therapeutic School setting.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all Heartspring Therapeutic School employees.

3. Policy Statement

3.1 Investigation Process

Any student who instigates acts of bullying, harassment, or displays any verbal or physical aggression or intimidation will be addressed in accordance with each student's Behavior Intervention Plan and managed by appropriate team members. The students served at Heartspring have a primary diagnosis of autism and/or another developmental disability, and an incident of this nature may not necessarily be intentional or malicious. Therefore, any potential disciplinary action will be addressed individually, according to each student's team and as they believe is appropriate for that student.

3.2 Suspension of a Student

The Heartspring Principal or Superintendent may suspend a student for up to ten (10) total school days per school year. Should a student's behavior be such that a longer suspension or expulsion may be needed, the Heartspring Principal or Superintendent will contact the school district representative and ask that a Manifestation Determination meeting be scheduled. If a Manifestation Determination meeting determines that a student is to be suspended from educational services for greater than 10 school days, the Principal or Superintendent will coordinate with the school district to decide upon a date for the student to serve his or her long-term suspension. For any suspension, the student will remain in the group home setting, with at least two Heartspring staff members, for the entirety of the school day. Beginning with the eleventh (11th) day of suspension, the student will continue to receive educational services, including the provision of related services as stated under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA Section 1412(a)(1)).

3.2.1 Expulsion of a Student/Notice of Dismissal

If a Manifestation Determination meeting determines that a student is to be expelled from school, the Superintendent will determine if Heartspring can appropriately provide the services the student needs and/or can continue to safely serve the student. If Heartspring decides that the student poses too great of a risk, is a danger to him/herself, other students and staff, or other individuals that may work with the student or come in contact with the student; and/or decides that Heartspring can no longer provide services to meet the student's needs, an immediate dismissal shall be issued to the district.

4. Policy Violations

Any employee found to be in violation of this policy will face disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

5. Definitions

- Manifestation - The process of determining if the misbehavior was “caused by, or had a direct and substantial relationship to, the child's disability” or if the misbehavior was “the direct result of the Local Education Agency’s (LEA) failure to implement the IEP.”

6. Forms or Related Policies

- [Discrimination, Bullying, & Harassment](#)

7. Applicable Laws/Regulations

- [California Education Code 56366.1\(j\)](#)
- [California Education Code 56366.10\(d\)](#)
- [IDEA Section 1412\(a\)\(1\)](#)

REVISION RECORD

DATE	VERSION	REVISION DESCRIPTION
11/11/2024	v.2	Removed Section 3.2, revisions to sections 3.2 and 3.21.