

## Out-of-School Suspension and Expulsion for Misbehavior

Parents, schools and health care workers must work together to help kids with angry, aggressive and difficult behavior. Schools want to keep all students safe.



When a student's behavior threatens him or others, many schools suspend or expel the student. Students may also be expelled or suspended because of repeated, challenging and difficult behavior.

Out-of-school suspension and expulsion can serve as punishment to the offending student. It can also be a warning to parents who have chosen to ignore their teen's harmful and disruptive behavior. But out of school suspension time can be *harmful to the student*. When students are not in school, they are not learning. They fall behind in school work. This puts them at risk for dropping out of school.

The Center of Disease Control found that when youth are not in school, they are more likely to become involved in a physical fight. They are also more likely to

- carry a weapon;
- smoke;
- use alcohol, marijuana and cocaine; and
- take part in risky sexual behavior.

Students who have repeated problems with behavior at school need a parent's help **right away**.

- Talk to teachers, school counselor, administrators, and any other people that might help.
- Make an appointment for the teen to see a medical doctor. Talk about the behavior problems with your teen's doctor. The teen may be suffering from a physical or mental illness.
- Work with—not against—your teen's school.
- Find a list of social services in your community that might help, especially mental health workers.
- Get rid of all weapons in your home, especially guns.
- Make changes at home that might help improve your teen's behavior. This may be a difficult task. When teens have disruptive and harmful behavior, they need help—not just punishment.

Parents, schools, and doctors can help teens change their behavior. Look for help before your teen is suspended or expelled.

For more information log onto  
[www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org)

Call the Parent Help Line. We listen. We can find you help.

1-217-544-5808 or 1-888-727-5889 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. , 7 days a week.