

**Atlantis Charter School
Expulsion Policy
Effective as of September 2015**

In general, students may be expelled from Atlantis Charter School if they are in violation of specific provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, and in particular Chapter 71, Sections 37H and 37H½ and/or if it is determined that a student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school. The administration of the school will always use great discretion in considering consequences for student behavior and will seek to re-engage students whenever and wherever possible, reserving expulsion as a last resort whenever possible and, if applicable, after other remedies have been employed.

In general, consequences for student behavior include:

- CPR – Circle of Respect
- WARNING: Verbally given by teacher or administrator
- RESTORATIVE ACTION: Apology of action; community service, some means to correct or repair situation.
- TEACHER TAKE-A-BREAK, TURN-AROUND: To include lunch or after school.
- LOSS OF PRIVILEGE: To include extracurricular activities, sports, participation in dances, clubs, assemblies, field trips, etc.
- OFFICE TURN-AROUND: To include lunch or after school issued by the administration.
- IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION: Supervised isolation from peers to complete assignments.
- OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION: Which may require a parent/guardian conference in order to readmit the student to school.
- EXPULSION: Recommendation that the student be removed from, and denied privileges of, attending school based upon school, county, state and/or federal laws.

The school's Associate Executive Director or his/her designee may expel a student for infractions including the following types:

1. Any student who is found on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related events, including athletic games, in possession of a dangerous weapon, including, but not limited to, a gun or a knife; or a controlled substance as defined in Massachusetts General Laws, including, but not limited to, marijuana, cocaine, and heroin.
2. Any student who assaults another person on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related events, including athletic games.

3. Any student convicted of a felony or upon an adjudication or admission in court of guilt with respect to such a felony or felony delinquency if the Associate Executive Director or his/her designee determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school.

4. Any student whose behavior—after the thorough application of progressive discipline according to the school's behavior management policies—would still have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school. Such behavior includes, but is not limited to, a high volume of repeated violations of school policy, violations related to the school's "Acceptable Use Policy" for information technology resources, and any acts perceived as a threat of harm—terroristic or otherwise—directed at the school or a member of the school community.

Any student who is charged with a violation according to any of the infraction types 1 through 4 above shall be notified in writing—in English and/or in the primary language spoken in the home of the student—of the charges and of the reasons and evidence for expulsion before the expulsion takes effect. The student and his/her parents or guardians will also be provided with written notice—in English and/or in the primary language spoken in the home of the student—of an opportunity for a hearing with the Associate Executive Director and/or his/her designee at a specific date, time, and location. The student's parents or guardians will be present at the hearing, and the student may have representation at said hearing, along with the opportunity to present evidence and witnesses and cross examine witnesses presented by the school before the Associate Executive Director and/or his/her designee.

After said hearing, the Associate Executive Director and/or his/her designee, in his/her discretion, may decide to suspend rather than expel a student who has been determined to be in violation of any of the infraction types described in 1 through 4 above.

If the Associate Executive Director decides to expel, the student expelled pursuant to this policy will receive written notice from the Associate Executive Director of his/her right to continue to receive educational services during the period of expulsion. Educational services may include, but will not be limited to video or online learning and in-home instruction, as designed by the student's grade-level team. The notice shall include a list of the specific education services that are available to the student and contact information for a specific school district staff member to arrange services. If the student moves to another district during the period of expulsion, the new district of residence shall either admit the student to its schools or provide educational services to the student.

Any student who has been expelled from Atlantis Charter School pursuant to these provisions shall receive written notification of his/her right to appeal to the Executive Director, which will include instructions for appealing the expulsion. The expulsion will remain in effect prior to any appeal hearing.

The expelled student shall have ten days (for 37H offenses) and five days (for 37H½ offenses) from the date of the expulsion in which to notify the Executive Director in writing of his/her request to appeal the decision of the Associate Executive Director and/or his/her designee.

The student has the right to counsel at a hearing before the Executive Director, may present oral and/or written testimony, and may cross examine witnesses presented by the school. The subject matter of the appeal shall not be limited solely to a factual determination of whether the student has violated any provisions of this policy.

The Executive Director will schedule a hearing with the student and the student's parent or guardian within three days of receipt of the students request to appeal the expulsion.

The Executive Director shall have the authority to overturn or alter the decision of the Associate Executive Director and/or his/her designee, including recommending an alternate educational program for the student. The Executive Director shall render a decision on the appeal within five calendar days of the hearing. That decision shall be the final decision of the school district with regard to the expulsion.