

**If your child  
has been  
expelled, you  
must help  
them to  
continue their  
education.  
Use this four  
step plan to  
help your  
student  
succeed.**



- Step 1**  
Find a school that will accept your child and that works for your family.
- Step 2**  
Enroll your child.
- Step 3**  
Get support services to help your child address the behavior that led to the expulsion.
- Step 4**  
Help your child return to the local public school after the expulsion period.

*Every child must graduate ready for further education and the workforce.*

*Each year nearly 7,000 Wisconsin students drop out of school without earning a diploma. As adults they have a much greater chance of becoming unemployed, incarcerated, and on government assistance.*

**Carolyn Stanford Taylor  
State Superintendent**

### **Legal Information for Parents (continued)**

If the school did not follow due process procedures, parents or students age 18 or older may appeal the expulsion by writing a letter to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. The letter must include the name of the pupil who was expelled, name of the school district, date of the expulsion, and reason for the appeal. Send to:

State Superintendent  
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction  
P.O. Box 7841  
Madison, WI 53707-7841

This brochure is available at:  
<http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sspw/pdf/expulbro.pdf>.



**For more information contact the  
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction**

(800) 441-4563  
[dpi.wi.gov](http://dpi.wi.gov)

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## **My child has been expelled.**

### **Now what?**



## **Information for parents of expelled students**

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction  
**Carolyn Stanford Taylor,  
State Superintendent**

## STEP 1

### Find a school that will accept your child and that works for your family.

Parents must make sure their children attend school until age 18 or they graduate from high school. This is the law. Parents must find an educational program for their expelled child. Here are the options:

- a) Contact your **local school district** to see if it will continue to educate your child. Public schools may choose to continue to provide services, but they are not required to do so. However, public schools are required to serve special education students even after expulsion. Schools may choose to reinstate your child before the end of the expulsion period. This is usually done if certain conditions are met prior to the child's reinstatement and/or during the period between reinstatement and the end of the expulsion period.
- b) Contact **other public schools and private schools** in your area. Other public and private schools may choose to enroll your student under certain conditions. These schools will charge tuition. However, no public school in Wisconsin is required to educate a student expelled from another Wisconsin public school.
- c) Contact **virtual schools**, which also charge tuition.
- d) Consider **home schooling**.

## STEP 2

### Enroll your child.

You must see that your child is in school as soon as possible after they are expelled.

## STEP 3

### Get support services to help your child address the behavior that led to the expulsion.

A student who is expelled may have underlying problems that led to the expulsion. A student expelled for having drugs may have problems with drugs or alcohol. A student expelled for fighting may have anger problems. If you believe your child has an undiagnosed disability, you may ask the school to check for special education needs. Because expulsion is stressful, parents should find services to help their child and their family with any related problems. Talk to your doctor or insurance company, county social services department, private mental health agencies, or Employee Assistance Program about options. The school principal, school counselor, nurse, psychologist, or social worker may be able to help.

## STEP 4

### Help your child return to the local public school after the expulsion period.

Unless the expulsion was permanent, your child may return to the local public school when the expulsion period is over or when they meet certain conditions. Before they return, talk with the principal and school counselor about classes, credits, and any services or supports that can help your child adjust back to the school.

## School Options Resources

### Other public schools

- Wisconsin School Directory  
[dpi.wi.gov/directories](http://dpi.wi.gov/directories)
- Check the internet or your local public library for neighboring schools and districts.

### Private schools

- Wisconsin Private School Directory  
[dpi.wi.gov/directories](http://dpi.wi.gov/directories)
- Wisconsin Council of Religious & Independent Schools [www.wcris.org](http://www.wcris.org) (608) 204-0795
- Check the internet or your local public library for private schools near you.

### Virtual schools

- Wisconsin virtual schools and online programs  
[dpi.wi.gov/imt/digital-learning/virtual-schools](http://dpi.wi.gov/imt/digital-learning/virtual-schools)

### Home-schooling

- DPI Home-based Private Educational Program  
[dpi.wi.gov/sms/home-based](http://dpi.wi.gov/sms/home-based) (608) 264-6707

Many home-based parent associations provide information about home-schooling. Two of the largest Wisconsin associations are:

- Wisconsin Parents Association  
[www.homeschooling-wpa.org](http://www.homeschooling-wpa.org) (608) 283-3131
- Wisconsin Christian Home Educators Association  
[www.wisconsinchea.com](http://www.wisconsinchea.com) (414) 425-6324

## Legal Information for Parents

- Public schools may expel students for dangerous behavior, including breaking school rules.
- A school board may expel students of any age for any length of time. The board may also allow a student to return to school before the end of the expulsion period, if the student meets certain conditions set by the board. Schools must expel students who bring firearms to school activities for at least one year.

School districts must follow certain steps, called "due process," to expel a student:

- 1) A student may be suspended out of school for up to 15 school days, if a notice of an expulsion hearing has been sent to the student and parents.
  - 2) The notice must include the date, time, and location of the hearing as well as the reason(s) the expulsion is recommended.
  - 3) Attorneys may represent the student or the school at the expulsion hearing.
  - 4) The hearing may be closed to the public if the parents ask for this.
  - 5) The school must keep a record of the hearing.
  - 6) If the student is expelled, a written copy of the board's order must be sent to the student and parents.
- Special rules apply to students with disabilities. A student with a disability may not be expelled if the behavior was caused by the child's disability. The student's IEP team, including parents, decides this. The school must continue to serve an expelled student with a disability.
  - State statutes related to expulsion are Wis. Stats. sec. 119.25 and 120.13(1). Available online at [www.legis.state.wi.us/rsb/stats.html](http://www.legis.state.wi.us/rsb/stats.html).

(Continued on the back of this brochure)