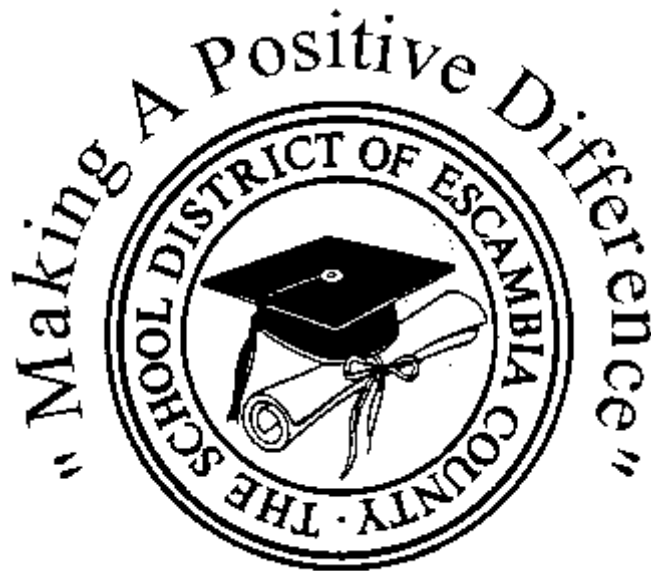


Parent Resource Booklet

Everything a parent needs to know about ILR,
Expulsions, and Reassignments



The Office of Student Engagement

Table of Contents

The Superintendent’s Hearing	1
Our Programs	2
In-Lieu of Removal	2
Reassignment.....	2
Expulsion	3
Formal Hearings	4
How to request a Formal Hearing.....	4
Definition of a Formal Hearing.....	4
Alternative School Options	6
Camelot Academy.....	6
Escambia Virtual School.....	7
George Stone Technical College	8
Pace Center for Girls.....	9
Success Academy	10
Who We Are	11
Contact Information.....	11

What is the Superintendent's Hearing?

The Superintendent's hearing is an informal hearing held at the student's school by the Student Engagement Coordinator at the request of the Superintendent to determine the facts of a reassignment incident. Three independent committee members are chosen from area schools to hear the details of the incident and make a recommendation on reassignment to the Superintendent. Based on the documentation and testimony presented, they may make any of the following recommendations:

Option 1

The student may return to the school.

Option 2

The student may be placed in the In-Lieu of Removal program (ILR) at his or her school. The committee will recommend a period of time to be placed in the ILR program, but the school has the ability to determine the best length of time for the school and the student.

Option 3

The student may be reassigned to an alternative school. The time is set by the committee, but may be reduced according to the guidelines governing the reassignment process.

Option 4

The student may be expelled to an alternative school. The committee sets the time, and the student is required to serve the full time of the expulsion.

Upon completion of one full semester, the parent may request consideration for a reduction for the reassigned time.

Our Programs

What is the In-Lieu of Removal (ILR) Program?

There is an ILR program on every middle and high school campus. This program limits the mobility of the students in the program to a single classroom on the school campus. A blended curriculum is used to educate the students within the program. It is designed to keep students on campus by promoting academic improvement, implementing proven behavior modification techniques, and using a social/life skills curriculum. The goal of this program is to keep moderately challenging students on campus and to remediate them at multiple levels so that they may successfully return to the regular classroom environment.

What is the definition of Reassignment?

Reassignment is the transfer of a student from his/her current school to an alternative school. Continued education services are provided, and the incident is not placed on the student's permanent transcript. (To read more about the Reassignment Process, refer to the Student Resource Booklet). Both the student and the parent(s) will receive a letter following the decision of the reassignment committee.

This letter will inform the parent and the student that all hearings are voted on by the school board, and the process is not complete until the next school board meeting.

After serving a full semester of reassignment time, the parent(s) of the reassigned student may request that a committee convene to discuss the option of their student returning to their regular district school. The committee will be led by the appropriate level director and will be comprised of the following individuals: alternative school principal, principal of the school the student might be attending, the Student Engagement Coordinator, the parent(s) of the student, and the

student. This transition committee will review the current progress of the student and the incident that sent the student to the alternative school. The committee will then hear from the student and parent(s) as to why the student should be able to return to his/her regular public school. After assessing all available information, the committee will make a determination regarding whether or not the student may return to school.

What is the definition of Expulsion?

Expulsion is denying the student the right and privilege to attend public school under conditions set by the Escambia County School Board for a period of time not to exceed the remainder of the term or school year and one additional year of attendance. Expulsions may be imposed with or without continuing education services. Any student that is expelled must complete all of the designated time of the expulsion before returning to a regular public school. In addition, an expulsion is permanently placed student that is expelled has that expulsion permanently placed on the student's official transcript.

Formal Hearings

How do I request a Formal Hearing?

By state statute, any student that is expelled from school has the right to request a formal hearing. The Escambia County School District has extended this right to students that have received a reassignment. In order to receive a formal hearing, the parent(s) must:

1. Return a signed and dated outcome letter that was mailed to them after the superintendent's hearing.
2. The signed and dated letter must be received in the Student Engagement Coordinator's office no later than 15 days after the postmarked date in order to receive a formal hearing.
3. In addition, any parent wishing to have a formal hearing should call the Student Engagement Coordinator's office upon receiving the letter so that the formal hearing may be scheduled.

What is a Formal Hearing?

A formal hearing is a request for an appeal of the superintendent's hearing. An independent hearing officer is selected from a rotating list to hear the case. All of the hearing officers on the list are attorneys and have been chosen to be on this rotating list by the school board. A date, time, and location of the hearing will be determined by the Student Engagement Coordinator based on the availability of the hearing officer and attorneys that may be involved in the hearing.

The formal hearing is conducted like a mini trial. The school district is represented by the superintendent's attorney; the formal hearing officer acts as the judge; and the parents may represent themselves or have their own attorney represent them. Witnesses may be called, and both sides may present evidence during the hearing. In addition, both sides may cross-examine witnesses. Once the hearing is finished, the

hearing officer has 20 days to deliver a recommended order to the Student Engagement Coordinator's office. The Student Engagement Coordinator will inform all parties by phone and mail once the ruling is received.

The formal hearing officer is not bound to the earlier informal hearing decision. The officer's decision may vary in either decreasing or increasing length of time of removal. In addition, if the officer upholds the decision, and the original decision was reassignment, the student no longer qualifies for an early transition meeting because a hearing officer's decision may not be reversed once approved by the board.

Alternative School Options

Camelot Academy

Camelot Academy is committed to the academic and social success of its students. Through partnerships with educators across the country, Camelot excels in reengaging, graduating, and preparing students for success in K-12 and beyond.

Andrew Maxwell, Principal
401 Brigadier St. Pensacola, FL 32501
Phone: (850) 497-6692
amaxwell@escambia.k12.fl.us

Escambia Virtual School (EVA)

Escambia Virtual Academy (EVA) meets the demands of today's digital learners through individualized instruction that moves beyond the four walls of the classroom and a clock.

Why choose Escambia Virtual Academy?

- Highly qualified, local, EVA teachers
- Rigorous curriculum with a successful track record
- Registration exclusive to students residing in Escambia County
- No waiting list
- An accredited, public school diploma issued by EVA through the Escambia County School District for students meeting criteria upon completion of the 12th grade
- Seamless transition to and from traditional brick and mortar schools
- Graduation plans to meet individual student needs
- Opportunities to receive Florida Bright Futures Scholarship

What does it cost?

There is no cost for home school, private school, and public school students residing in Escambia County, Florida.

Is it part-time or full-time?

Students in grades 6-12 can take one or more virtual courses through our franchise. This program is open to home, private, and public school students. Full-time students must take 6 courses per semester if pursuing a high school diploma.

Chris Everette, Coordinator
Phone: (850) 469-5615
ceverette@escambia.k12.fl.us

George Stone Technical College

Our goal is to serve the community as the premier provider of career and technical education by preparing individuals for rewarding careers and to provide businesses with a highly skilled workforce. We strive to obtain that goal by providing quality academic, career, and technical education opportunities for all learners through instruction that integrates rigor, relevance, and relationships.

Thomas Rollins, Principal
2400 Longleaf Dr. Pensacola, FL 32526
Phone: (850) 941-6200
trollins@escambia.k12.fl.us

Pace Center for Girls

PACE Center for Girls Escambia Santa Rosa began at a small facility behind University Mall in 1994. One year later, the program moved to a 4000 square foot facility on the Pensacola State College campus, and we have enjoyed a partnership with PSC for the past twenty years. In 2013 the program relocated to the current 13,500 square foot facility at 1028 Underwood Avenue. Since opening the doors in 1994, more than 2,000 girls have been served through three distinct components: Academic, Social Services, and Transition Service.

Our Passion:

When you're surrounded by people who share a passionate commitment around a common purpose, anything is possible.

-Howard Schultz

PACE believes in girls. We are passionately committed to empowering and inspiring young women in our community. At PACE Escambia Santa Rosa, lives are changed every day.

Laurie Rodgers, Director
1028 Underwood Avenue Pensacola, FL 32504
Phone: (850) 478-7060
lrogers@escambia.k12.fl.us

Success Academy

The Second Chance Program at Success Academy is designed for the high school students of the Escambia County School District who have been removed from their traditional school programs due to expulsion or reassignment. This alternative learning environment offers students an opportunity to overcome the circumstances that caused their removal. Students successfully completing this program may return to their traditional high school or graduate. Transportation is provided by the school district, and students follow the regular school pupil progression plan. Students also earn credits through the Escambia Virtual School (EVA). Students admitted into this program must have a referral from the Escambia County School District Student Engagement Coordinator. Historically, over seventy-five percent (75%) of our students successfully complete the program with an average daily attendance rate of over ninety percent (90%).

Dawn Gibbs, Principal
7045 Wymart St. Pensacola, FL 32526
Phone: (850) 941-6100
dgibbs@escambia.k12.fl.us

Who We Are

The Student Engagement Coordinator is directly in charge of administering all procedures and decisions dealing with reassignments or expulsions within the Escambia County School District. In addition to this, the Student Engagement Office acts as a communication-sharing bridge between the superintendent's office, local law enforcement agencies, and the state's attorney's office concerning students within the school district. Most importantly, the Student Engagement Coordinator is charged with the responsibility of helping parents and students navigate through tough and challenging personal situations by providing sound knowledge of the hearing process, compassion throughout the proceedings, and hope for a brighter future through providing the right resources for a new beginning.

Contact Us

The Student Engagement Office is located at the J. E. Hall Center off of Texar Drive. When you pull into the guest parking lot, go through the entrance to the far left of the front of the building and stop at the information desk for further instructions.

Address: J. E. Hall Center
30 E. Texar Dr.
Rm. 134
Pensacola, FL 32503

Phone: 850.439.2665

Fax: 850.469.5620

Website: www.ecsd-fl.schoolloop.com/student-engagement