

(c) (1) If a principal finds that a suspension of more than 10 school days or expulsion is warranted, [he] THE PRINCIPAL immediately shall report the matter in writing to the county superintendent.

(2) The county superintendent or [his] THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT'S designated representative promptly shall make a thorough investigation of the matter.

(3) If after the investigation the county superintendent finds that a longer suspension or expulsion is warranted, [he or his] THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OR THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT'S designated representative promptly shall arrange a conference with the student and his parent or guardian.

(4) THE STUDENT OR THE STUDENT'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN PROMPTLY SHALL BE GIVEN A COMMUNITY RESOURCES LIST PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY BOARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7-310 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

[(4)] (5) If after the conference the county superintendent or [his] THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT'S designated representative finds that a suspension of more than 10 school days or expulsion is warranted, the student or [his] THE STUDENT'S parent or guardian may:

(i) Appeal to the county board within 10 days after the determination;

(ii) Be heard before the county board, its designated committee, or a hearing examiner, in accordance with the procedures established under § 6-203 of this article; and

(iii) Bring counsel and witnesses to the hearing.

[(5)] (6) Unless a public hearing is requested by the parent or guardian of the student, a hearing shall be held out of the presence of all individuals except those whose presence is considered necessary or desirable by the board.

[(6)] (7) The appeal to the county board does not stay the decision of the county superintendent.

[(7)] (8) The decision of the county board is final.

(d) (1) Any student expelled or suspended from school:

(i) Shall remain away from the school premises during those hours each school day when the school the student attends is in session; and

(ii) May not participate in school sponsored activities.

(2) The expelled or suspended student may return to the school premises during the prohibited hours only for attendance at a previously scheduled appointment, and if the student is a minor then only if accompanied by his parent or guardian.