

WAC 392-400-270

Long-term suspension—Prehearing and hearing process.

- (1) If a request for a hearing is received pursuant to WAC 180-40-265 within the required three school business days, the school district shall schedule a hearing to commence within three school business days after the date upon which the request for a hearing was received.
- (2) The student and his or her parent(s) or guardian(s) shall have the right to:
 - (a) Inspect in advance of the hearing any documentary and other physical evidence which the school district intends to introduce at the hearing;
 - (b) Be represented by legal counsel;
 - (c) Question and confront witnesses, unless a school district witness does not appear and the nonappearance of the witness is excused by the person(s) hearing the case based upon evidence of good reason for doing so submitted by the school district. The evidence submitted by the school district must at a minimum establish either:
 - (i) That the district made a reasonable effort to produce the witness and is unable to do so; or
 - (ii) That it is not advisable for the student to appear due to an expectation and fear on the part of the responsible district official(s) or the student of retaliation against the student if he or she appears as a witness.
 - (d) Present his or her explanation of the alleged misconduct; and
 - (e) Make such relevant showings by way of witnesses and the introduction of documentary and other physical evidence as he or she desires.
- (3) The designee(s) of the school district assigned to present the district's case shall have the right to inspect, in advance of the hearing, any documentary and other physical evidence which the student and his or her parent(s) or guardian(s) intend to introduce at the hearing.
- (4) The person(s) hearing the case shall not be a witness and the final decision regarding the imposition of corrective action shall be determined solely on the basis of the evidence presented at the hearing.
- (5) Either a tape-recorded or verbatim record of the hearing shall be made.
- (6) A written decision setting forth the findings of fact, conclusions, and the nature and duration of the long-term suspension or lesser form or corrective action to be imposed, if any,

shall be provided to the student's legal counsel or, if none, to the student and his or her parent(s) or guardian(s).

WAC 392-400-265

Long-term suspension—Notice of hearing—Waiver of hearing.

(1) Prior to the long-term suspension of a student, written notice of an opportunity for a hearing shall be delivered in person or by certified mail to the student and to his or her parent(s) or guardian(s). The notice shall:

(a) Be provided in the predominant language of a student and/or a parent(s) or guardian(s) who predominantly speak a language other than English, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights

Act of 1964;

(b) Specify the alleged misconduct and the school district rule(s) alleged to have been violated;

(c) Set forth the corrective action proposed;

(d) Set forth the right of the student and his or her parent(s) or guardian(s) to a hearing for the purpose of contesting the allegation(s); and

(e) Set forth the facts that:

(i) A written or oral request for a hearing must be received by the school district employee designated, or by his or her office, on or before the expiration of the third school business day after receipt of the notice of opportunity for a hearing; and

(ii) If such a request is not received within the prescribed period of time, then the right to a hearing may be deemed to have been waived and the proposed long-term suspension may be imposed by the school district without any further opportunity for the student or his or her parent(s) or guardian(s) to contest the matter. A schedule of "school business days" potentially applicable to the exercise of such hearing right should be included with the notice.

(2) The student and/or his or her parent(s) or guardian(s) shall reply to the notice of opportunity for a hearing and request a hearing within three school business days after the date of receipt of notice. A request for a hearing shall be provided to the school district employee specified in the notice of opportunity for a hearing, or to his or her office. A request for a hearing shall be accepted in writing and may also be accepted orally.

(3) If a request for a hearing is not received within the required three school business day period, the school district may deem the student and his or her parent(s) or guardian(s) to have waived the right to a hearing and the proposed long-term suspension may be imposed.