

Centralized Expulsion in New Orleans

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In the 2012-2013 school year, the Recovery School District (RSD) and the Orleans Parish School Board developed and implemented a unified expulsion policy and process for all New Orleans RSD & OPSB schools. Over 80 charter schools operated by more than 40 organizations now all follow the same process for expulsion and use the same set of expellable offenses. With the exception of a few schools, state regulations mandates participation in the unified expulsion process beginning for all charter schools in Orleans Parish in the 2014-15 school year.

The unified system does not:

- Require schools to use the same discipline policy for offenses other than expulsion
- Prevent schools from implementing their own discipline system

The unified system does:

- Require all schools to route all expulsions through a central hearing office
- Use the same set of expellable offenses when seeking to expel a student

Previous System	→	Unified System
Schools based expulsions on their own, self-created code of conduct.	Expellable Offenses	Finite list of expellable offenses including only the most serious, dangerous actions (ie, weapons, drugs, serious bodily injury)
School inconsistently submitted documentation to their authorizer (OPSB or RSD); authorizer ensured the correct paperwork was completed.	Recommendation Procedures	The Student Hearing Office (SHO) at thSe RSD receives all expulsion documentation, following strict timelines. Upon review of documentation, the SHO either schedules a hearing or rejects the recommendation.
Authorizer conducted hearings, but had no way to determine if all cases followed proper channels or reached them.	Expulsion Hearings	A single Hearing Officer at the SHO conducts every hearing consistently.
Families often unaware of right to appeal; no consistent process in place.	Expulsion Appeals	Families informed of appeal procedures during hearing. A representative of the RSD Superintendent hears all requested appeals.
Inconsistent and hard to track.	Expulsion Term Lengths	Standardized, based on offense and state law, tracked in a centralized data system.

Figure 1: Patrick Walsh, Recovery School District

Louisiana Administrative Code Title 28, Part CXXXIX

“K. Beginning with the enrollment process to place students for the 2014-2015 school year, all BESE-authorized charter schools (type 2, type 4, and type 5 charter schools) and type 1b charter schools physically located in Orleans Parish shall participate in the unified enrollment system and expulsion process established by the recovery school district for Orleans Parish, with the exception of virtual charter schools...”