

FCDC Education Committee's Proposed Resolution regarding Public School Discipline

Whereas, students in Fairfax County Public Schools and throughout the Commonwealth may not fully comprehend the long-term consequences of their actions; and

Whereas, most students are minors; and

Whereas, school personnel have the obligation not only to protect the interests of the student body as a whole, but also the interests of the student accused of a disciplinary infraction; and

Whereas, parental/guardian guidance is essential when any school administrator (including School Resource Officer or Student Education Officer) interviews a student for potentially serious disciplinary infractions; and

Whereas, parental/guardian support is essential to helping students resolve issues during the disciplinary process.

Therefore, be it resolved that FCDC supports a fair and objective disciplinary process that assures rights of representation, recordation of all proceedings, and a hearing before a disinterested party. FCDC also supports parental/guardian notification and participation in all stages of student disciplinary proceedings. FCDC supports disciplinary decisions that are fair, impartial, without prejudice and take into account the total well being of the student, his/her rights and the community's interest in safe schools.