

Out-of-School Suspension and Expulsion

Committee on School Health

Suspension and expulsion from **school** are used to punish students, alert parents, and protect other students and **school** staff. Unintended consequences **of** these practices require more attention from health care **professionals**. **Suspension** and expulsion may exacerbate academic deterioration, and when students are provided with no immediate educational alternative, student alienation, delinquency, crime, and substance abuse may ensue. Social, emotional, and mental health support for students at all times in all **schools** can decrease the need for expulsion and **suspension** and should be strongly advocated by the health care community. This policy statement, however, highlights aspects **of** expulsion and **suspension** that jeopardize children's health and safety. Recommendations are targeted at pediatricians, who can help **schools** address the root causes **of** behaviors that lead to **suspension** and expulsion and can advocate for alternative disciplinary policies. Pediatricians can also share responsibility with **schools** to provide students with health and social resources.