

Independence Classical Academy
Discipline Policy
2022-23 Academic Year

Policy SE 10.0 - Discipline

Independence Classical Academy has the following disciplinary goals:

- 1) Provide a secure and calm learning environment in which all students can focus on their work with as little distraction as possible.
- 2) Treat all students equitably, fairly, and with respect.
- 3) Teach students the importance of their own character.

Any departure from proper decorum is liable to disciplinary action.

Disciplinary Action

Students will be verbally corrected for minor instances of poor behavior. If the behavior is repetitive or serious, they will receive Poor Behavior Slips describing the infraction. Students will bring these home to be signed by parents and returned to the front office.

Students may receive detention in conjunction with the Poor Behavior Slip. Detention will occur after school and will not be used for study time. Detention takes precedence over any extracurricular activity. For habitual or more serious disruptions the student will be sent to the Office and will receive a Pink Slip.

Pink Slips

Referrals are hereby termed as “pink slips” for ease of recognition at ICA. Pink Slips are reserved for serious disciplinary infractions or habitual disruption, where the school administration should be involved, or notification of parents is required. They will be handed out by the discipline officer, and they will accumulate over the course of the year. A student’s total will not reset at the semester. Receiving a Pink Slip indicates that a student’s behavior is a serious problem and earning repeated Pink Slips will result in more serious consequences each time. It is our hope that the consequences for receiving a Pink Slip will encourage students to display good character and act in accordance with the school mission.

1st Pink Slip: Student is sent to the Office and parents are notified. Student will receive detention.

2nd Pink Slip: Student is sent to the Office and parents are notified. Student will receive a two-day detention to serve back to back. *The student’s parent(s) will meet with the discipline officer to discuss the student’s behavior. The purpose of this meeting is to exchange accurate information about the student and to determine how the school-parent partnership can best work together to reform the student’s behavior. Depending on the infraction, suspension is possible at this level, but not mandatory.*

3rd Pink Slip: Student is sent to the Office and parents are notified. Student will receive a Saturday work detail, in which parents must remain with their student.

4th Pink Slip: Student is sent to the Office, calls home, and receives a mandatory suspension. Upon the student’s return, a parent may be required to accompany the student to class for one full day to observe the school day.

The administration will consider further suspension and/or expulsion* as fitting consequences beyond a 4th referral.

A two-day to five-day suspension will be given for every disciplinary referral over four. When a student is issued over four referrals, he or she will be considered a habitually disruptive student by Independence Classical Academy. If a student is issued four or more disciplinary referrals, Independence Classical Academy may request the St. Lucie County School District Board of Education to expel that student from school. Any student expelled from ICA would also be expelled from the St. Lucie County School District.

Policy SE 11.0 - Suspension

The School Administration has the authority to suspend students as appropriate. Suspensions last from one to ten days depending on the severity of the infraction. All suspensions will require a parent conference. A remedial student discipline plan will be created during this conference. The conference will occur before the student is readmitted to class. The School Administration may require the parent to attend (as a volunteer without credited hours) a full day of class with the student upon return.

The ICA Board hereby determines that a student may be declared habitually disruptive after being suspended three times in one year for causing a material and substantial disruption in the class, on school grounds, on school vehicles, or at school activities or events because of behavior that was initiated, willful and overt on the part of the student, and the suspensions were made for:

- Continual, willful disobedience or open and persistent defiance of proper authority
- Willful destruction or defacing of school property
- Behavior on or off school property, which is detrimental to the welfare or safety of other students or of school personnel
- Serious violations in a school building or on school property
- Repeated interference with a school's ability to provide educational opportunities to other students, including but not limited to continual violations of technology and dress code policies.
- Infractions involving the touching or harming of another person with intent. It is never appropriate to touch another student or adult in any manner for any reason.

A request to St. Lucie County Public School for expulsion from Independence Classical Academy, will be mandatory for the following violations*:

- Carrying, bringing, using, or possessing a dangerous weapon, as determined by Independence Classical Academy.
- Sale or distribution of a drug or controlled substance.
- The commission of an act which, if committed by an adult, would be robbery, assault, or battery.

Recommendation for expulsion is also mandatory if a student is declared habitually disruptive, regardless of the level of infractions.

**St. Lucie County School District is the sole arbiter of expulsions. Independence Classical Academy may only recommend expulsion of a student to St. Lucie County School District. The expulsion process and proceedings will follow all St. Lucie County School policies that apply. When students are expelled, they are expelled from the St. Lucie School district, which includes ICA.*