

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. While teachers reserve the right to direct and redirect per their classroom policies and procedures, any continued behavior that prevents teaching and/or learning is subject 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 be brought to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action, and parent/guardian will be contacted. All disciplinary action at ICA is noted in Skyward.

Students may receive detention, work detail, and/or suspension in conjunction with any disciplinary actions, solely at the discretion of the administrative disciplinary officer. Detention will occur during lunch or 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 and parent will be required to attend a mandatory conference and may be in jeopardy of forfeiting their seat at ICA.

In addition to the forfeiture of choice seating at ICA for failing to meet behavioral standards, students who accumulate 10 days or more of out-of-school suspension are subject to board hearing for recommendation for expulsion**

When a student is considered a habitually disruptive student by Independence Classical Academy, ICA 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. The conference will occur before the student is readmitted to class, and expectations of the student moving forward will be clarified by all parties in the best interest of success.

The ICA Board hereby determines that a student may be declared habitually disruptive after being suspended for ten cumulative days in one school 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. As part of our zero tolerance policy and expectations for a virtuous environment of self-governance and responsibility, any "hands on" altercation will result in an automatic 5-10 day suspension.

ICA has a zero-tolerance policy for bullying and has adopted the St. Lucie County anti-bullying policy as part of our Code of conduct, effective October 2020.

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.

****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.***