

**RENUMBERED TO 5605A - VOL. 26, NO. 2**

**DISCIPLINING SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS**

When the behavior of a student eligible under the IDEA is such to justify serious disciplinary action, three (3) possible courses of action may be available depending upon the nature and severity of the behavioral problem. The first is in-school or out-of-school suspension for a cumulative total of ten (10) days in any one (1) school year. The second is an Interim Alternative Education Placement (IAEP) for possession of a weapon or illegal drugs at school, and the third is expulsion from school. Each will be dealt with in the following guideline.

**In-School/Out-of-School Suspension**

The principal may remove a student from his/her current placement for short-term periods not to exceed cumulative ten (10) days during a school year. Such short-term suspensions from a program are not considered a change in educational placement and the procedural safeguards associated with the change of placement are not required. The \_\_\_\_\_, however, should stay alert to the possible need to convene a student's Case Conference to review the appropriateness of the current IEP and its implementation and to determine whether or not the behavior and its frequency creates the need for a Behavioral Assessment and Behavioral Intervention Plan (see below).

If the principal suspends a student and contemplates that further disciplinary action will probably be necessary during the school year, it is essential that the Case Conference meet within ten (10) days of the suspension to complete a Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA).

The FBA should include:

- A. the specific behavior(s) of concern, including the intensity, frequency, and duration;
- B. the setting where the behavior usually occurs, e.g. cafeteria, transition periods, bus, regular classroom, etc.;
- C. the circumstances antecedent to the behavior;
- D. the consequences of the behavior;