

ALTERNATIVE TO SUSPENSION

The Somersworth School District recognizes the need for school authorities to have at their disposal a range of disciplinary actions in order to positively influence individual behavior and maintain good order (see Policy JK Student Discipline). The Board further recognizes that suspension from school can exacerbate academic failure. The Board, therefore, authorized the Superintendent and his/her designees to offer parents of minor students and student in their majority a work assignment as an alternative means of serving a suspension in accordance with the following provisions:

- The disciplinary offense is of a non-violent nature and the student's presence during the school day does not jeopardize the best interest of the whole school community,
- Students in violation of the Safe School Zone Policy (JICDA) are ineligible for the work alternative,
- The parent and student accept the offer of the work assignment as an alternative to suspension,
- Work assignments shall be of a nature to reduce risk of injury to the student, including but not limited to picking up trash, raking, washing windows, sweeping walkways,
- Work assignments are never to be used as a means of humiliation,
- Supervision of the work assignment will be conducted by a district employee other than the custodial staff.

Reviewed: October 1, 2009

1st Reading: October 15, 2009

2nd Reading: November 19, 2009

Approved by NHSBA: July 2011