PROCEDURES RELATING TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION

In order to protect student rights, certain procedures are followed with regard to disciplinary actions. These procedures are developed as suggested or required by law or regulation. School/classroom procedures for administering discipline in areas not covered by these specific procedures are encouraged.

DISCIPLINARY RESPONSE

This section of the guide identifies infractions for which a student may be disciplined and sets forth disciplinary responses which are appropriate for the infraction. Each infraction is defined in this section of the guide and is accompanied by a listing of appropriate disciplinary responses. In the section immediately following the Disciplinary Response, a brief explanation of appropriate disciplinary responses is provided along with a description of major procedures which are followed to ensure procedural due process is afforded when a more severe discipline action is considered or given.

Disciplinary infractions and the responses to them are divided into four levels. Each level represents progressively more serious infractions culminating in Level IV offenses. Disciplinary responses to infractions become progressively more severe as one moves upward in the levels of misconduct.

In choosing an appropriate disciplinary response below Level IV, school personnel may select from the disciplinary responses appropriate to the level of the offense or may select from the response options at lower levels as they deem appropriate to the circumstances and the nature of the student. Level IV offenses require a five (5) to ten (10) day suspension and a consideration for a recommendation for expulsion from the public schools. The School Board may expel a student for the remainder of the school year, summer school, and all of the next school year in accordance with Florida Statutes.

In certain circumstances, a combination of disciplinary responses may be appropriate. For example, for Level I offenses it may be appropriate to contact the parents of the student while also offering a verbal reprimand. For a Level II offense, a student might receive a behavior contract accompanied by parental contact and counseling and directions.