

REASONABLE SUSPENSION VERSUS **PROBABLE CAUSE**

Student discipline hearings are held for the purpose of determining the guilt or innocence of a student in an alleged *Code of Conduct* violation and deciding what penalty, if any, will be imposed. The penalties relate to the time and place the student is allowed be enrolled in Fulton County Schools. These hearings are not criminal proceedings, although sometimes students may have an additional referral to the Fulton County Juvenile Courts where criminal charges may be filed.

At the school district hearings, the standard of **REASONABLE SUSPENSION** is adhered to in interpreting the facts of the case. Reasonable Suspension is that which is defined as the level of suspension which is within the bounds of good sense or practicality. It is governed by or in accordance with reason or sound thinking. The amount and quantity of knowledge sufficient to induce a prudent and cautious person under the circumstances to believe that an infraction of the *Code of Conduct* had occurred is reasonable suspension.

At juvenile court hearings, the standard of **PROBABLE CAUSE** is used. Here the facts would need to show that there is more evidence for than against the student to determine a finding of guilt. Fulton County Schools does not use this because it is reserved for criminal or civil causes of actions reserved for the courts outside of the school system.