

Student Placements After Tribunal/Informal Hearings

Students are referred to the Office of Student Discipline (OSD) for a Tribunal/Discipline or Informal Hearing when, in accordance with Fulton County Schools Policy section JD – Procedural Rule 8, school administrators suspect the students of engaging in “serious or chronic misbehavior that may result in a school transfer, long-term suspension, or expulsion”. Additionally student who transfers from other school systems with Tribunal or expulsion decisions are also referred to the Office of Student Discipline for placement determination.

There are three circumstances when referrals made to hearings result in a school transfer being required for the student. **One** is when it is determined at these hearings through the decision of the Hearing Officer/Tribunal Panel that an alternate placement/program for the student is appropriate; then, a school transfer is initiated through the OSD to the schools. The **second** is when the student receives special education services and is found by the Hearing Officer/Tribunal Panel to have committed a violation of the Student Code of Conduct. At this point the Hearing Officer/Tribunal Panel does not determine a change in the student’s placement, but rather, directs appropriate school and special education personnel to convene an IEP/Disciplinary Review Team to determine (1) whether the student’s actions were a manifestation of a disability and (2) what disciplinary actions and/or changes in the student’s IEP may be appropriate. This IEP team may determine that a change of placement of the student will be appropriate. And, **lastly**, although a student who had been referred to a hearing and placed in an alternative program/placement typically will be assigned to another school when the student has completed the terms of his/her placement, it is possible that the Hearing Officer/Tribunal Panel or IEP team may return the student to his/her home school.