## **Education & Student Rights**

Trust. Knowledge. Confidence.



**EDUCATION & STUDENT** 

**RIGHTS ATTORNEYS** 

Katherine Witherspoon Fry

Alfredo Acin

Bettina Hindin

Lisa Seltzer Becker

Offit Kurman's Education & Student Rights Attorneys are highly experienced in advocating for students' rights and defending them from misconduct accusations.

From preschool through higher education, students have endless possibilities to prosper and succeed. Unfortunately, sometimes some obstacles or accusations hinder or even potentially destroy a student's future.

College, when young adults are usually living on their own for the first time, presents a significant number of temptations that can turn into accusations of code violations and academic misconduct. While expulsions are by far the most severe sanction, suspensions leave a lasting blemish on a student's transcript, which can significantly hinder the student's ability to transfer to another school, gain acceptance into graduate school, and obtain competitive employment. A finding of academic misconduct not only stains a student's academic record but can result in the loss of internships, leadership roles in student organizations, scholarships, and eligibility for athletics. Findings of student misconduct typically need to be disclosed on graduate school applications, requests for admission to professional licensing boards, and other entities which have the power to harm an individual's prospects for personal and career advancement.

In high school, a suspension on a student's transcript can be a significant bar to that student's acceptance into the university of their choice and makes the competitive college acceptance process even more difficult.

Offit Kurman has attorneys from New York to South Carolina who are highly skilled advocates for students facing accusations that put their education and future at risk. We represent students in kindergarten through 12th grade, students in all levels of special education, and students in higher education.

#### What We Do

#### KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 12TH GRADE

- Suspension and expulsion proceedings and appeals of suspensions and expulsions
- Disciplinary matters
- · Bullying/harassment matters
- · School choice, transfers, and residency issues
- · School athletic participation appeals
- Sexual harassment and misconduct
- Title IX
- Suspension and expulsion proceedings

#### HIGHER EDUCATION

- · Academic misconduct proceedings
- Student disciplinary proceedings
- Title IX process (link to page)
- Guide students from first interview with an investigator to the disciplinary proceeding and sanctioning hearing, and any appeal of the sanctions and code violations.
- Represent college and university students in suspension and expulsion proceedings.

- Represent students to challenge adverse findings in a court of law.
- Disability rights for students (Section 504 accommodations and ADA)
- Represent students regarding discrimination matters such as Title VI race, color and national origin discrimination
- Restoration to programs
- Free speech issues

# Education & Student Rights

Continued



#### SPECIAL EDUCATION

- Obtaining special education and related services (IEPs and Section 504 accommodations)
- Compliance of IEPs and 504 plans
- School refusal

- Manifestation hearings
- Inappropriate interpersonal space and/or communication accusations

### Who We Do It For

- Students in kindergarten through 12th grade
- Students in all levels of special education
- · Students in higher education