Hypothetical Examples

Assume that the following hypothetical examples take place at a charter school. In responding to each situation, what should the school consider? What are the school’s obligations?

1. Jessica is repeating the 8th grade. Since last spring, she has been frequently absent and often fails to turn in her homework. She was given in-school suspensions last year for her multiple tardies and unexcused absences. A grade report from last year indicates that she often did not participate in class and frequently put her head on her desk. In a conference with Jessica’s teacher at the beginning of this school year, her mother alluded to problems at home and told the teacher that Jessica had recently begun counseling. Last week, Jessica was found spray-painting the girls’ bathroom with derogatory names about one of her classmates.

2. Chris is a freshman in a charter high school who receives special education services for a Specific Learning Disability. Since the beginning of the school year, he has been given demerits frequently for various infractions of the school’s code of conduct, including having his shirt untucked, being disrespectful to a teacher, being disruptive in resource room, bringing a cell phone to school and cursing. The school has scheduled a conference with his parent.

3. Maria is eight years old and in the third grade. She has a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder and is classified as Emotionally Disturbed. In the two months since the beginning of the school year, she has been suspended three times, once in-school for 2 days and two out of school suspensions for 5 days total. She received the in-school suspension for tearing down other students’ art projects and the out of school suspensions for fighting with her classmates. The school frequently calls the parent regarding different behavioral concerns related to Maria and sometimes asks for her to be picked up early. The school updated Maria’s Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA) and Behavioral Intervention Plan (BIP), and involved her parent and outside therapist in that process. The changes helped for a few days, and then Maria’s behavior worsened. Last week, when Maria’s teacher asked her to work on an assignment in class, she refused. When the teacher told her to go to the office, Maria pushed her out of the way and ran outside the classroom.

4. Brian is a junior in high school. He receives special education services for a Specific Learning Disability and for a classification as Other Health Impaired, based on a diagnosis of ADHD. Last week, Brian got into a fight with another student in class after the other student laughed at his response to a teacher’s question in class. The other student was taken to the hospital for a concussion.