

STEPS TO JUSTICE

EDUCATION LAW

An OJEN workshop demonstrating a CLEO
public legal information resource.



CLEO

Community Legal Education Ontario
Éducation juridique communautaire Ontario



True or false?

1. I am 15 years old and I receive a suspension from school.
I can appeal it on my own without a parent.



True or false?

2. A student has to be diagnosed by a doctor or health professional in order to be considered to have an “exceptionality”.



True or false?

3. If a student reports to the principal that they have been bullied, the incident must be investigated.



True or false?

4. A student in Ontario can attend any school board in their district.



True or false?

5. If the school board trustees don't make a decision regarding expulsion within twenty days, the student is allowed to return to school.



Education Law in Ontario: *What is covered?*

- French-language school rights in Ontario
- Catholic school boards in Ontario
- Discipline and safety
- Suspensions
- Bullying
- Appeals for suspended students
- Special education
- Homeschooling



Real Life Legal Problems *Demonstration Scenario*

Alex will be starting school in the Fall and his parents would like him to attend a French school. Alex's mom is Anglophone and believes that receiving a French-language education would be beneficial for Alex's future. Alex's father, Marc, attended French-language elementary and secondary school. Can Alex attend a French-language school?




Steps to Justice



**Steps to Justice**
Your guide to law in Ontario

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Steps to Justice

Step-by-step information about legal problems.
Reliable, practical, and easy to understand.

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Criminal Law

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Employment and Work

Family Law

Health and Disability

Housing Law


Human Rights

Income Assistance

Tribunals and Court

 Live chat
Mon-Fri 11am-1pm





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Start on the Steps to Justice topic, “French schools” with the question, “Do I have the right to have my education in French?”

Some questions:

- Who has the right to access French-language education in Ontario?
- Can students whose parents are not rights holders attend school in French?
- Does the province of Ontario have to put a French school in every community?
- Which Section of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms establishes French-language rights-holders?
- Do you think anyone should be allowed to receive a French-language education at the elementary and secondary level?



**Using the
Steps to Justice
Website**



Group Work

1. Navigate to the Steps to Justice website:
<http://stepstojustice.ca>
2. Read your scenario with your group.
3. Try to identify the main legal issues.
4. Imagine that you are the person in the scenario. Use the Steps to Justice website to answer the questions on your handout.
5. As you browse, try to find out more about how the law would affect the person in your scenario. What does it say? What are their options?
6. Record your answers on the handout.

If you get stuck, ask for help!



Large Group Scenario

FOCUS AREAS:

- 1) Discipline and safety
- 2) Bullying
- 3) Best interests of students

I have been bullied at school for multiple weeks now. Many of my classmates have been making fun of the way I dress, and they call me names. I have had enough, and I want to stand up for myself. I have been bullied before and have threatened to hurt people. My parents and my principal have had to intervene on several occasions. I told my friend that I was going to push my bully off the swing at recess, but he told on me to the principal and now the school is threatening to suspend me. Is there a possibility I get suspended? Can my bully get suspended?

