

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 213

BY SENATOR BISHOP

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the state Department of Education to require each city, parish, and other local public school board that maintains a website to publish on the website annually certain information relative to classroom management, student guidance and discipline, PBIS, conflict resolution, mediation, cultural competence, restorative practices, guidance and discipline, and adolescent development.

WHEREAS, Louisiana schools suspend more than 62,000 students a year, which is a rate 130% higher than the national average and is 200% higher for our youngest children in elementary school; and

WHEREAS, students who are suspended are twice as likely to drop out of school; and

WHEREAS, students who are suspended are more likely to enter the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems than students who are allowed to stay in school; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) has concluded that Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) provides a positive and effective alternative to traditional methods of discipline; and

WHEREAS, LDOE has also concluded that PBIS methods are research-based and proven to significantly reduce the occurrence of problem behaviors in the school, resulting in a more positive school climate and increased academic performance; and

WHEREAS, PBIS is consistent with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and Act No. 1225 of the 2003 Regular Session (the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2003); and

WHEREAS, Act 1225 requires each city, parish, and other local public school board to develop a master plan for each school under its jurisdiction for improving behavior and discipline based on the State Board of Secondary and Elementary Education approved model master plan; and

WHEREAS, Act No. 136 of the 2010 Regular Session, which enacted R.S. 17:252(D), requires that the model plans of city, parish, and other local public school boards to include pre-service and ongoing grade appropriate classroom management training for teachers, principals, and other appropriate school personnel regarding PBIS and reinforcement, conflict resolution, mediation, cultural competence, restorative practices, guidance and discipline, and adolescent development; and

WHEREAS, Act 136 also requires city, parish, and other local public school boards to regularly review discipline data from each school to determine what additional classroom management training is needed, if any, and what additional classroom support activities should be provided by the principal and school administration.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the state Department of Education to require each city, parish, and other local public school board that maintains a website to publish on the website annually certain information relative to classroom management, student guidance and discipline, PBIS, conflict resolution, mediation, cultural competence, restorative practices, guidance and discipline, and adolescent development, in an easily understandable format. Such information shall include but not be limited to the following:

(1) Disciplinary action processes and procedures applicable to students, which includes separate links for each of the following:

(a) All state suspension and expulsion laws applicable to students.

(b) A disciplinary action timeline, from notice through appeal.

(c) Explanations of due process rights for both informal and formal hearings and, in the case of formal hearings, shall also include a full explanation of the disciplinary process, a complete list of the student's procedural due process rights, the hearing agenda, and the appeal process.

(d) Rules and regulations on the use of corporal punishment to discipline students.

(2) The school board's policies and procedures.

(3) Minutes of school board meetings required to be made available to the public pursuant to R.S. 42:20.

(4) Directory of schools and contact information.

(5) School calendars, including the beginning and end of each school year, staff days, conference days, testing days, application-specific dates, report card release dates, early release days, and holidays.

(6) The school board model plan required by Act 1225 and any school expenditures associated with PBIS, conflict resolution, mediation, cultural competence, restorative practices, and adolescent development.

(7) The training dates, providers, and expenditures of the classroom management training required by Act 136.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the state Department of Education.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE