
DIGEST

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Broome

SB No. 67

Present law provides for the discipline of students for disorderly conduct in school, on school playgrounds, while going to and from school, or during intermission or recess.

Present law requires that a student in kindergarten through grade six removed from a class not be permitted to return to the class for at least 30 minutes unless agreed to by the teacher initiating the disciplinary action. Further requires that a student in grades seven through 12 removed from a class not be permitted to return to the class during the same class period unless agreed to by the teacher initiating the disciplinary action.

Proposed law changes the application of present law for grade levels of students in kindergarten through grade five and students in grades six through 12, but otherwise retains present law.

Present law provides that the student not be readmitted to the class until the principal has implemented one of the following disciplinary measures:

- (1) In-school suspension.
- (2) Detention.
- (3) Suspension.
- (4) Initiation of expulsion hearings.
- (5) Assignment to an alternative school.
- (6) Requiring the completion of all assigned school and homework which would have been assigned and completed by the student during the period of suspension.
- (7) Any other disciplinary measure authorized by the principal with the concurrence of the teacher or the building level committee.

Proposed law retains present law for all grade levels and adds to such list, for students in kindergarten through grade five, the following disciplinary measures:

- (1) Restorative justice practices using a school-wide approach of informal and formal techniques to build a sense of school community and manage conflict by repairing harm and restoring positive relationships.
- (2) Loss of privileges.
- (3) Peer mediation.
- (4) Referral to school counselor or social worker.
- (5) Referral to response to intervention.

Present law requires, upon the third removal from the same classroom, the teacher and the principal to discuss the disruptive behavior patterns of the student and the appropriate action before the principal implements a disciplinary measure. Provides that a referral of the matter may be made to the building level committee. Requires a conference between the teacher or other appropriate school employee and the student's parent, tutor, or legal guardian prior to the student being readmitted.

Proposed law retains the requirement that a conference take place between the parent and teacher or other school employee, but removes the requirement that the conference take place prior to the student being readmitted.

Present law authorizes a school principal to suspend from school or suspend from riding on any school bus any student who commits certain offenses.

Proposed law retains all such offenses specified in present law, but requires each school board to develop and adopt rules and guidelines for suspension warranted by willful disobedience not later than April 1, 2012, for implementation beginning with the 2012-2013 school year. Further requires that the guidelines be developed in consultation with certain key stakeholder groups.

Present law authorizes suspension for disturbing the school or habitually violating any rule.

Proposed law retains present law but further makes an exception that no student in grades kindergarten through grade five shall be suspended in-school or out-of-school for a school uniform related violation.

Present law authorizes suspension for a student who is habitually tardy or absent.

Proposed law retains present law but further makes an exception that no student in grades kindergarten through grade five shall be suspended in-school or out-of-school for such an offense.

Present law provides, upon the recommendation by a principal for the expulsion of any student, for a hearing to be conducted by the superintendent or by a designee to determine the facts of the case and make a finding of whether or not the student is guilty of conduct warranting a recommendation of expulsion. Provides that upon the conclusion of the hearing and a finding that the student is guilty of conduct warranting expulsion, the superintendent, or his designee, must determine whether such student will be expelled from the school system or if other corrective or disciplinary action should be taken. Provides for the student to remain suspended from school until such hearing takes place. Provides that the student may be represented by any person of his choice at the hearing.

Proposed law removes the provision that the student remain suspended from school until the hearing takes place. Further provides that every student receive such expulsion hearing within 10 school days of receiving notification of the recommendation for expulsion. Provides that if a hearing is not conducted within 10 school days after the incident, then the student must return to school or begin receiving educational services at an alternative setting until the hearing takes place. Provides that the parent or legal guardian may also be represented by a person of choice.

Effective August 15, 2011.

(Amends R.S. 17:416(A)(1)(c)(iii) and (v),(2)(a) and (b), (3)(a)(i), (vii) and (xvi), and (C)(1); adds R.S. 17:416(A)(1)(c)(viii))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Education to the original bill.

1. Changes application as appropriate for elementary grade levels of students in K-5 and students in secondary grades 6-12.
2. Clarifies restorative justice practices.
3. Defines willful disobedience.
4. Establishes date for BESE adoption of guidelines for school suspensions as January 1, 2012 and establishes date for local school board adoption of rules and guidelines for suspensions for willful disobedience as April 1, 2012.

5. Removes proposed law provision prohibiting out-of-school suspensions for pupils in grades 6-12 for habitual tardiness or absenteeism, or for school uniform violations.
6. Specifies that certain provisions requiring specific disciplinary measures be used for serious offenses.
7. Clarifies that the required expulsion hearing is not an additional requirement.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill.

1. Specifies that the disciplinary measures in proposed law apply only to pupils in kindergarten through fifth grade.
2. Deletes specific list of stakeholders involved with the drafting of guidelines for suspensions warranted by willful disobedience by local school boards.
3. Deletes the requirement that BESE adopt guidelines for school suspensions as of January 1, 2012.
4. Legislative Bureau technical amendments.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the reengrossed bill.

1. Deletes proposed law requirement that present law disciplinary measures only be implemented in grades k-5 for serious offenses or as a last resort.