

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 56th Legislature (2018)

3 SENATE BILL 967

By: Sparks

4
5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to student discipline; amending 70
8 O.S. 2011, Section 24-101.3, as last amended by
9 Section 1, Chapter 90, O.S.L. 2016 (70 O.S. Supp.
10 2017, Section 24-101.3), which relates to out-of-
11 school suspensions; requiring school districts with
12 certain out-of-school suspension rate to engage in
13 certain continuing education; requiring the State
14 Department of Education to provide certain continuing
15 education; requiring public school district
16 superintendents to review certain data annually;
17 requiring superintendents to submit certain
18 information to the State Department of Education by
19 certain date; providing an effective date; and
20 declaring an emergency.

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

22 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 24-101.3, as
23 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 90, O.S.L. 2016 (70 O.S. Supp.
24 2017, Section 24-101.3), is amended to read as follows:

Section 24-101.3. A. Any student who is guilty of an act
described in paragraph 1 of subsection C of this section may be
suspended out-of-school in accordance with the provisions of this
section. Each school district board of education shall adopt a
policy with procedures which provides for out-of-school suspension

1 of students. The policy shall address the term of the out-of-school
2 suspension, provide an appeals process as described in subsection B
3 of this section, and provide that before a student is suspended out-
4 of-school, the school or district administration shall consider and
5 apply, if appropriate, alternative in-school placement options that
6 are not to be considered suspension, such as placement in an
7 alternative school setting, reassignment to another classroom, or
8 in-school detention. The policy shall address education for
9 students subject to the provisions of subsection D of this section
10 and whether participation in extracurricular activities shall be
11 permitted.

12 B. 1. Students suspended out-of-school for ten (10) or fewer
13 days shall have the right to appeal the decision of the
14 administration as provided in the policy required in subsection A of
15 this section. The policy shall specify whether appeals for short-
16 term suspensions as provided in this subsection shall be to a local
17 committee composed of district administrators or teachers or both,
18 or to the district board of education. Upon full investigation of
19 the matter, the committee or board shall determine the guilt or
20 innocence of the student and the reasonableness of the term of the
21 out-of-school suspension. If the policy requires appeals for short-
22 term suspensions to a committee, the policy adopted by the board
23 may, but is not required to, provide for appeal of the committee's
24 decision to the board.

1 2. Students suspended out-of-school for more than ten (10) days
2 and students suspended pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 2 of
3 subsection C of this section may request a review of the suspension
4 with the administration of the district. If the administration does
5 not withdraw the suspension, the student shall have the right to
6 appeal the decision of the administration to the district board of
7 education. Except as otherwise provided for in paragraph 2 of
8 subsection C of this section, no out-of-school suspension shall
9 extend beyond the current semester and the succeeding semester.
10 Upon full investigation of the matter, the board shall determine the
11 guilt or innocence of the student and the reasonableness of the term
12 of the out-of-school suspension. A board of education may conduct
13 the hearing and render the final decision or may appoint a hearing
14 officer to conduct the hearing and render the final decision. The
15 decision of the district board of education or the hearing officer,
16 if applicable, shall be final.

17 C. 1. Students who are guilty of any of the following acts may
18 be suspended out-of-school by the administration of the school or
19 district:

- 20 a. violation of a school regulation,
- 21 b. possession of an intoxicating beverage, low-point
22 beer, as defined by Section 163.2 of Title 37 of the
23 Oklahoma Statutes, or missing or stolen property if
24 the property is reasonably suspected to have been

1 taken from a student, a school employee, or the school
2 during school activities, and

3 c. possession of a dangerous weapon or a controlled
4 dangerous substance while on or within two thousand
5 (2,000) feet of public school property, or at a school
6 event, as defined in the Uniform Controlled Dangerous
7 Substances Act. Possession of a firearm shall result
8 in out-of-school suspension as provided in paragraph 2
9 of this subsection.

10 2. Any student found in possession of a firearm while on any
11 public school property or while in any school bus or other vehicle
12 used by a public school for transportation of students or teachers
13 shall be suspended out-of-school for a period of not less than one
14 (1) year, to be determined by the district board of education
15 pursuant to the provisions of this section. The term of the
16 suspension may be modified by the district superintendent on a case-
17 by-case basis. For purposes of this paragraph the term "firearm"
18 shall mean and include all weapons as defined by 18 U.S.C., Section
19 921.

20 3. Any student in grades six through twelve found to have
21 assaulted, attempted to cause physical bodily injury, or acted in a
22 manner that could reasonably cause bodily injury to a school
23 employee or a person volunteering for a school as prohibited
24 pursuant to Section ~~6-146~~ 6-149.7 of this title shall be suspended

1 for the remainder of the current semester and the next consecutive
2 semester, to be determined by the board of education pursuant to the
3 provisions of this section. The term of the suspension may be
4 modified by the district superintendent on a case-by-case basis.

5 D. At its discretion a school district may provide an education
6 plan for students suspended out-of-school for five (5) or fewer days
7 pursuant to the provisions of this subsection. The following
8 provisions shall apply to students who are suspended out-of-school
9 for more than five (5) days and who are guilty of acts listed in
10 subparagraphs a and b of paragraph 1 of subsection C of this
11 section. Upon the out-of-school suspension, the parent or guardian
12 of a student suspended out-of-school pursuant to the provisions of
13 this subsection shall be responsible for the provision of a
14 supervised, structured environment in which the parent or guardian
15 shall place the student and bear responsibility for monitoring the
16 student's educational progress until the student is readmitted into
17 school. The school administration shall provide the student with an
18 education plan designed for the eventual reintegration of the
19 student into school which provides only for the core units in which
20 the student is enrolled. A copy of the education plan shall also be
21 provided to the student's parent or guardian. For the purposes of
22 this section, the core units shall consist of the minimum English,
23 mathematics, science, social studies and art units required by the
24 State Board of Education for grade completion in grades kindergarten

1 through eight and for high school graduation in grades nine through
2 twelve. The plan shall set out the procedure for education and
3 shall address academic credit for work satisfactorily completed.

4 E. A student who has been suspended out-of-school from a public
5 or private school in the State of Oklahoma or another state for a
6 violent act or an act showing deliberate or reckless disregard for
7 the health or safety of faculty or other students shall not be
8 entitled to enroll in a public school of this state, and no public
9 school shall be required to enroll the student, until the terms of
10 the suspension have been met or the time of suspension has expired.

11 F. 1. No public school of this state shall be required to
12 provide education services in the regular school setting to any
13 student who has been:

14 a. adjudicated as a delinquent for an offense defined as
15 a violent crime in Section 571 of Title 57 of the
16 Oklahoma Statutes,

17 b. convicted as an adult of an offense defined as a
18 violent crime in Section 571 of Title 57 of the
19 Oklahoma Statutes,

20 c. who has been removed from a public or private school
21 in the State of Oklahoma or another state by
22 administrative or judicial process for a violent act
23 or an act showing deliberate or reckless disregard for
24 the health or safety of faculty or other students,

- 1 d. suspended as provided for in paragraph 3 of subsection
2 C of this section, or
- 3 e. has been removed from a public or private school in
4 the state or another state by administrative or
5 judicial process for an act of using electronic
6 communication, as defined in Section 24-100.3 of this
7 title, with intent to terrify, intimidate or harass,
8 or threaten to inflict injury or physical harm to
9 faculty or other students.

10 2. The school in which a student as described in paragraph 1 of
11 this subsection is subsequently enrolled may elect to not provide
12 education services in the regular school setting until the school
13 determines that the student no longer poses a threat to self, other
14 students or school district faculty or employees. Until the school
15 in which such student subsequently enrolls or re-enrolls determines
16 that the student no longer poses a threat to self, other students or
17 school district faculty or employees, the school may provide
18 education services through an alternative school setting, home-based
19 instruction, or other appropriate setting. If the school provides
20 education services to the student at a district school facility, the
21 school shall notify any student or school district faculty or
22 employee victims of the student, when known, and shall ensure that
23 the student will not be allowed in the general vicinity of or
24 contact with a victim of the student, provided the victim notifies

1 the school of the victim's desire to refrain from contact with the
2 offending student.

3 G. Students suspended out-of-school who are on an
4 individualized education plan pursuant to the Individuals with
5 Disabilities Education Act, P.L. No. 101-476, or who are subject to
6 the provisions of subsection F of this section and who are on an
7 individualized education plan shall be provided the education and
8 related services in accordance with the student's individualized
9 education plan.

10 H. A student who has been suspended for a violent offense which
11 is directed towards a classroom teacher shall not be allowed to
12 return to that teacher's classroom without the approval of that
13 teacher.

14 I. At its discretion, a school district may require a student
15 guilty of acts listed in subparagraph a or b of paragraph 1 of
16 subsection C of this section to complete intervention and prevention
17 programs as provided by designated Youth Service Agencies, if
18 available.

19 J. No school board, administrator or teacher may be held
20 civilly liable for any action taken in good faith which is
21 authorized by this section.

22 K. 1. Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, public school
23 districts with an out-of-school suspension rate of ten percent (10%)
24 or higher than the state average, as determined by the State

1 Department of Education, shall engage in quarterly continuing
2 education on alternatives to out-of-school suspension. The
3 continuing education shall be provided by the State Department of
4 Education.

5 2. Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, each
6 superintendent of a public school district shall annually review the
7 out-of-school suspension data for the school district at which he or
8 she is employed. By July 1 following the 2018-2019 school year, and
9 each July 1 thereafter, each superintendent shall submit information
10 to the State Department of Education addressing, if they exist, any
11 discipline disparities based on race, ethnicity or disability.

12 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2018.

13 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
14 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
15 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
16 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

17
18 56-2-2544 EB 1/9/2018 1:33:37 PM

19
20
21
22
23
24