

HOUSE BILL 1601

By Parkinson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 1; Title 49, Chapter 2 and Title 49, Chapter 6, relative to codes of conduct at schools.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 40, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) Each local board of education and public charter school governing body shall adopt a comprehensive code of conduct for each school under the authority of the local board of education or public charter school governing body that describes the types of behavior expected from persons entering on school grounds, including teachers, school employees, student's parents, and visitors. Each code of conduct must emphasize the importance of:

- (1) Appropriate language;
- (2) Respect for the person and property of others; and
- (3) Establishing and maintaining a safe, secure, and peaceful

educational setting that promotes learning and positive character development.

(b) The codes of conduct adopted by a local board of education or public charter school governing body must describe the types of behavior expected from a person entering on school grounds and the consequences of a person's failure to adhere to the standards. The principal of each school must apply the school's code of conduct uniformly and fairly without partiality or discrimination.

(c) Each local board of education and public charter school governing body may elect to adopt different codes of conduct applicable to:

(1) Different classes of schools, such as elementary, middle, junior high, and senior high schools under the jurisdiction of the local board of education or public charter school governing body; and

(2) Different categories of persons entering on school grounds, such as teachers, school employees, student's parents, and visitors, taking into consideration the reason for the person's presence on school grounds.

(d) Each local board of education and public charter school governing body shall, for each school under the authority of the board or governing body:

(1) Post a copy of the code of conduct adopted for the school on the respective LEA's, public charter school governing body's, or school's website;

(2) Supply a copy of the code of conduct adopted for the school to all teachers, counselors, administrative staff, and employees of the school;

(3) Post the code of conduct adopted for the school, along with the telephone number of a member of the school's administration who can answer questions regarding the school's code of conduct, prominently at each school entrance; and

(4) Provide parents and guardians of students enrolled at the school with a printed copy of the school's code of conduct, along with the telephone number of a member of the school's administration who can answer questions regarding the code of conduct, and require that the student's parent or guardian acknowledge that the parent or guardian has read and understands the code of conduct that will be enforced at the school. The acknowledgement required under this subdivision (d)(4) may be provided during an initial enrollment or student registration period.

(e) This section does not apply to students subject to a discipline policy or code of conduct adopted pursuant to § 49-6-4002.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2024, the public welfare requiring it.