

SENATE BILL 840

By Akbari

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,  
Chapter 6, relative to reward-based behavior  
modification systems.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-2408, is amended by deleting the section and substituting instead the following:

(a) Community schools and communities of schools are encouraged to work with parents, school districts, and community partners to adopt holistic programs of positive behavior reinforcement and reward-based behavior modification systems, such as The Ticket Program, that work with schools, parents, and the community to reinforce positive student behavior at home, at school, and in all aspects of community life.

(b)

(1) Title I public schools shall implement a reward-based behavior modification system, such as The Ticket Program, if:

(A) At least twenty-five percent (25%) of the school's overall student population was suspended during the preceding school year;

(B) At least twenty-five percent (25%) of the students comprising one (1) or more of the school's population subgroups were suspended during the preceding school year;

(C) At least five percent (5%) of the school's overall student population was expelled during the preceding school year;

(D) At least five percent (5%) of the students comprising one (1) or more of the school's population subgroups were expelled during the preceding school year; or

(E) The school was identified as a priority school during the most recent priority cycle for failing to graduate one-third (1/3) or more of the school's enrolled students.

(2) The reward-based behavior modification system must be age appropriate, encourage parent participation, and encourage students to make good life choices for a better future by reinforcing positive student behavior with awards and incentives that are tailored to each school's unique student population. Each Title I school required to implement a reward-based behavior modification system under this subsection (b) is encouraged to work with community schools, communities of schools, and community partners to provide awards and incentives that maximize student and parent participation.

(3)

(A) Title I schools required to implement a reward-based behavior modification system under this subsection (b) shall annually report to the department of education for the preceding school year and for each school year that the system was implemented:

(i) The rate of student participation;

(ii) The rate of parent participation;

(iii) The number of, and reason for, any student suspensions, expulsions, or dropouts;

(iv) The number of students identified as suffering from substance abuse or a behavioral or emotional disorder;

(v) The number of students who received intervention, or who were referred for treatment, to address substance abuse or a

behavioral or emotional disorder through a school or external counseling, guidance, or mental health program;

(vi) Student achievement data; and

(vii) Information collected from teachers, parents, students, and administrators regarding the success of the school's reward-based behavior modification system.

(B) The reports required under subdivision (b)(3)(A) must comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C. § 1232g), § 10-7-504, and any other relevant state or federal privacy law or policy.

(c) Schools that are not required to implement a reward-based behavior modification system under subsection (b) are encouraged to implement a reward-based behavior modification system, such as The Ticket Program, and to report the school's successes and failures, if any, in implementing the system and the results of the system to the department of education for dissemination to public schools throughout the state. School reports must be accompanied by data supporting the results reported and comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C. § 1232g), § 10-7-504, and any other relevant state or federal privacy law or policy.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019, the public welfare requiring it.