

SENATE BILL 2173

By Akbari

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 1; Title 49, Chapter 10; Title 49, Chapter 2; Title 49, Chapter 5 and Title 49, Chapter 6, relative to discipline of students in pre-kindergarten through grade two (pre-K-2).

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 34, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) Notwithstanding § 49-6-3401, an LEA shall not suspend or expel a student from school if the student is enrolled in any of the grades pre-kindergarten through two (pre-K-2) unless the student's behavior endangers the physical safety of other students or school personnel, as determined by the LEA's director of schools.

(b) If the behavior of a student enrolled in the LEA in any of the grades pre-kindergarten through two (pre-K-2) endangers the physical safety of other students or school personnel, as determined by the LEA's director of schools, then the student may be suspended for no more than three (3) days.

(c)

(1) Before a student is suspended pursuant to subsection (b), the student must be provided an opportunity for the student's anger, fear, or anxiety to subside and for the student's teacher, principal, school counselor, or school psychologist to have a conversation with the student and the student's parent or legal guardian concerning the student's behavior and any underlying issues that may have precipitated the student's behavior.

(2) The principal of the student's school shall notify the student's parent or legal guardian of the student's suspension on the day the suspension occurs.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it, and applies to the 2022-2023 school year and each school year thereafter.