



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB2918

Introduced 1/27/2026, by Sen. Willie Preston

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.14

from Ch. 122, par. 10-20.14

105 ILCS 5/10-22.6

from Ch. 122, par. 10-22.6

Amends the School Code. In a provision related to student discipline policies and the establishment of a parent-teacher advisory committee, defines "parent-teacher advisory committee" and requires teachers to be selected for a parent-teacher advisory committee in cooperation with the school district's teachers or, if applicable, the exclusive bargaining representative of the district's teachers. In a provision regarding the suspension or expulsion of a student, provides that gross disobedience or misconduct shall be defined by school board policy, in collaboration with the school district's parent-teacher advisory committee.

LRB104 17522 LNS 30949 b

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Sections
5 10-20.14 and 10-22.6 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/10-20.14) (from Ch. 122, par. 10-20.14)

7 Sec. 10-20.14. Student discipline policies; parent-teacher
8 advisory committee.

9 (a) As used in this Section, "parent-teacher advisory
10 committee" means a committee composed of equal representation
11 by a school district, its parents, and its teachers.

12 To establish and maintain a parent-teacher advisory
13 committee to develop with the school board or governing body
14 of a charter school policy guidelines on student discipline,
15 including school searches and bullying prevention as set forth
16 in Section 22-110 of this Code. Teachers must be selected for
17 the parent-teacher advisory committee in cooperation with the
18 school district's teachers or, if applicable, the exclusive
19 bargaining representative of the district's teachers.

20 School authorities shall furnish a copy of the policy to
21 the parents or guardian of each student within 15 days after
22 the beginning of the school year, or within 15 days after
23 starting classes for a student who transfers into the district

1 during the school year, and the school board or governing body
2 of a charter school shall require that a school inform its
3 students of the contents of the policy. School boards and the
4 governing bodies of charter schools, along with the
5 parent-teacher advisory committee, must annually review their
6 student discipline policies and the implementation of those
7 policies and any other factors related to the safety of their
8 schools, students, and school personnel.

9 (a-5) On or before September 15, 2016, each elementary and
10 secondary school and charter school shall, at a minimum, adopt
11 student discipline policies that fulfill the requirements set
12 forth in this Section, subsections (a) and (b) of Section
13 10-22.6 of this Code, Section 34-19 of this Code if
14 applicable, and federal and State laws that provide special
15 requirements for the discipline of students with disabilities.

16 (b) The parent-teacher advisory committee in cooperation
17 with local law enforcement agencies shall develop, with the
18 school board, policy guideline procedures to establish and
19 maintain a reciprocal reporting system between the school
20 district and local law enforcement agencies regarding criminal
21 and civil offenses committed by students. School districts are
22 encouraged to create memoranda of understanding with local law
23 enforcement agencies that clearly define law enforcement's
24 role in schools, in accordance with Sections 2-3.206 and
25 10-22.6 of this Code. In consultation with stakeholders deemed
26 appropriate by the State Board of Education, the State Board

1 of Education shall draft and publish guidance for the
2 development of reciprocal reporting systems in accordance with
3 this Section on or before July 1, 2025.

4 (c) The parent-teacher advisory committee, in cooperation
5 with school bus personnel, shall develop, with the school
6 board, policy guideline procedures to establish and maintain
7 school bus safety procedures. These procedures shall be
8 incorporated into the district's student discipline policy. In
9 consultation with stakeholders deemed appropriate by the State
10 Board of Education, the State Board of Education shall draft
11 and publish guidance for school bus safety procedures in
12 accordance with this Section on or before July 1, 2025.

13 (d) As used in this subsection (d), "evidence-based
14 intervention" means intervention that has demonstrated a
15 statistically significant effect on improving student outcomes
16 as documented in peer-reviewed scholarly journals.

17 The school board, in consultation with the parent-teacher
18 advisory committee and other community-based organizations,
19 must include provisions in the student discipline policy to
20 address students who have demonstrated behaviors that put them
21 at risk for aggressive behavior, including, without
22 limitation, bullying, as defined in the policy. These
23 provisions must include procedures for notifying parents or
24 legal guardians and intervention procedures based upon
25 available community-based and district resources.

26 In consultation with behavioral health experts, the State

1 Board of Education shall draft and publish guidance for
2 evidence-based intervention procedures, including examples, in
3 accordance with this Section on or before July 1, 2025.

4 (Source: P.A. 103-896, eff. 8-9-24; 104-391, eff. 8-15-25;
5 104-430, eff. 8-20-25; revised 9-12-25.)

6 (105 ILCS 5/10-22.6) (from Ch. 122, par. 10-22.6)

7 Sec. 10-22.6. Suspension or expulsion of students; school
8 searches.

9 (a) To expel students guilty of gross disobedience or
10 misconduct, including gross disobedience or misconduct
11 perpetuated by electronic means, pursuant to subsection (b-20)
12 of this Section, and no action shall lie against them for such
13 expulsion. Expulsion shall take place only after the parents
14 or guardians have been requested to appear at a meeting of the
15 board, or with a hearing officer appointed by it, to discuss
16 their child's behavior. Such request shall be made by
17 registered or certified mail and shall state the time, place,
18 and purpose of the meeting. The board, or a hearing officer
19 appointed by it, at such meeting shall state the reasons for
20 dismissal and the date on which the expulsion is to become
21 effective. If a hearing officer is appointed by the board, the
22 hearing officer shall report to the board a written summary of
23 the evidence heard at the meeting and the board may take such
24 action thereon as it finds appropriate. If the board acts to
25 expel a student, the written expulsion decision shall detail

1 the specific reasons why removing the student from the
2 learning environment is in the best interest of the school.
3 The expulsion decision shall also include a rationale as to
4 the specific duration of the expulsion. An expelled student
5 may be immediately transferred to an alternative program in
6 the manner provided in Article 13A or 13B of this Code. A
7 student must not be denied transfer because of the expulsion,
8 except in cases in which such transfer is deemed to cause a
9 threat to the safety of students or staff in the alternative
10 program.

11 (b) To suspend or by policy to authorize the
12 superintendent of the district or the principal, assistant
13 principal, or dean of students of any school to suspend
14 students guilty of gross disobedience or misconduct, or to
15 suspend students guilty of gross disobedience or misconduct on
16 the school bus from riding the school bus, pursuant to
17 subsections (b-15) and (b-20) of this Section, and no action
18 shall lie against them for such suspension. The board may by
19 policy authorize the superintendent of the district or the
20 principal, assistant principal, or dean of students of any
21 school to suspend students guilty of such acts for a period not
22 to exceed 10 school days. If a student is suspended due to
23 gross disobedience or misconduct on a school bus, the board
24 may suspend the student in excess of 10 school days for safety
25 reasons.

26 Any suspension shall be reported immediately to the

1 parents or guardians of a student along with a full statement
2 of the reasons for such suspension and a notice of their right
3 to a review. The school board must be given a summary of the
4 notice, including the reason for the suspension and the
5 suspension length. Upon request of the parents or guardians,
6 the school board or a hearing officer appointed by it shall
7 review such action of the superintendent or principal,
8 assistant principal, or dean of students. At such review, the
9 parents or guardians of the student may appear and discuss the
10 suspension with the board or its hearing officer. If a hearing
11 officer is appointed by the board, he shall report to the board
12 a written summary of the evidence heard at the meeting. After
13 its hearing or upon receipt of the written report of its
14 hearing officer, the board may take such action as it finds
15 appropriate. If a student is suspended pursuant to this
16 subsection (b), the board shall, in the written suspension
17 decision, detail the specific act of gross disobedience or
18 misconduct resulting in the decision to suspend. The
19 suspension decision shall also include a rationale as to the
20 specific duration of the suspension.

21 (b-5) Among the many possible disciplinary interventions
22 and consequences available to school officials, school
23 exclusions, such as out-of-school suspensions and expulsions,
24 are the most serious. School officials shall limit the number
25 and duration of expulsions and suspensions to the greatest
26 extent practicable, and it is recommended that they use them

1 only for legitimate educational purposes. To ensure that
2 students are not excluded from school unnecessarily, it is
3 recommended that school officials consider forms of
4 non-exclusionary discipline prior to using out-of-school
5 suspensions or expulsions.

6 (b-10) Unless otherwise required by federal law or this
7 Code, school boards may not institute zero-tolerance policies
8 by which school administrators are required to suspend or
9 expel students for particular behaviors.

10 (b-15) Out-of-school suspensions of 3 days or less may be
11 used only if the student's continuing presence in school would
12 pose a threat to school safety or a disruption to other
13 students' learning opportunities. For purposes of this
14 subsection (b-15), "threat to school safety or a disruption to
15 other students' learning opportunities" shall be determined on
16 a case-by-case basis by the school board or its designee.
17 School officials shall make all reasonable efforts to resolve
18 such threats, address such disruptions, and minimize the
19 length of suspensions to the greatest extent practicable.

20 (b-20) Unless otherwise required by this Code,
21 out-of-school suspensions of longer than 3 days, expulsions,
22 and disciplinary removals to alternative schools may be used
23 only if other appropriate and available behavioral and
24 disciplinary interventions have been exhausted and the
25 student's continuing presence in school would either (i) pose
26 a threat to the safety of other students, staff, or members of

1 the school community or (ii) substantially disrupt, impede, or
2 interfere with the operation of the school. For purposes of
3 this subsection (b-20), "threat to the safety of other
4 students, staff, or members of the school community" and
5 "substantially disrupt, impede, or interfere with the
6 operation of the school" shall be determined on a case-by-case
7 basis by school officials. For purposes of this subsection
8 (b-20), the determination of whether "appropriate and
9 available behavioral and disciplinary interventions have been
10 exhausted" shall be made by school officials. School officials
11 shall make all reasonable efforts to resolve such threats,
12 address such disruptions, and minimize the length of student
13 exclusions to the greatest extent practicable. Within the
14 suspension decision described in subsection (b) of this
15 Section or the expulsion decision described in subsection (a)
16 of this Section, it shall be documented whether other
17 interventions were attempted or whether it was determined that
18 there were no other appropriate and available interventions.

19 (b-25) Students who are suspended out-of-school for longer
20 than 3 school days shall be provided appropriate and available
21 support services during the period of their suspension. For
22 purposes of this subsection (b-25), "appropriate and available
23 support services" shall be determined by school authorities.
24 Within the suspension decision described in subsection (b) of
25 this Section, it shall be documented whether such services are
26 to be provided or whether it was determined that there are no

1 such appropriate and available services.

2 A school district may refer students who are expelled to
3 appropriate and available support services.

4 A school district shall create a policy to facilitate the
5 re-engagement of students who are suspended out-of-school,
6 expelled, or returning from an alternative school setting. In
7 consultation with stakeholders deemed appropriate by the State
8 Board of Education, the State Board of Education shall draft
9 and publish guidance for the re-engagement of students who are
10 suspended out-of-school, expelled, or returning from an
11 alternative school setting in accordance with this Section and
12 Section 13A-4 on or before July 1, 2025.

13 (b-30) A school district shall create a policy by which
14 suspended students, including those students suspended from
15 the school bus who do not have alternate transportation to
16 school, shall have the opportunity to make up work for
17 equivalent academic credit. It shall be the responsibility of
18 a student's parents or guardians to notify school officials
19 that a student suspended from the school bus does not have
20 alternate transportation to school.

21 (b-35) In all suspension review hearings conducted under
22 subsection (b) or expulsion hearings conducted under
23 subsection (a), a student may disclose any factor to be
24 considered in mitigation, including his or her status as a
25 parent, expectant parent, or victim of domestic or sexual
26 violence, as defined in Article 26A. A representative of the

1 parent's or guardian's choice, or of the student's choice if
2 emancipated, must be permitted to represent the student
3 throughout the proceedings and to address the school board or
4 its appointed hearing officer. With the approval of the
5 student's parent or guardian, or of the student if
6 emancipated, a support person must be permitted to accompany
7 the student to any disciplinary hearings or proceedings. The
8 representative or support person must comply with any rules of
9 the school district's hearing process. If the representative
10 or support person violates the rules or engages in behavior or
11 advocacy that harasses, abuses, or intimidates either party, a
12 witness, or anyone else in attendance at the hearing, the
13 representative or support person may be prohibited from
14 further participation in the hearing or proceeding. A
15 suspension or expulsion proceeding under this subsection
16 (b-35) must be conducted independently from any ongoing
17 criminal investigation or proceeding, and an absence of
18 pending or possible criminal charges, criminal investigations,
19 or proceedings may not be a factor in school disciplinary
20 decisions.

21 (b-40) During a suspension review hearing conducted under
22 subsection (b) or an expulsion hearing conducted under
23 subsection (a) that involves allegations of sexual violence by
24 the student who is subject to discipline, neither the student
25 nor his or her representative shall directly question nor have
26 direct contact with the alleged victim. The student who is

1 subject to discipline or his or her representative may, at the
2 discretion and direction of the school board or its appointed
3 hearing officer, suggest questions to be posed by the school
4 board or its appointed hearing officer to the alleged victim.

5 (c) A school board must invite a representative from a
6 local mental health agency to consult with the board at the
7 meeting whenever there is evidence that mental illness may be
8 the cause of a student's expulsion or suspension.

9 (c-5) School districts shall make reasonable efforts to
10 provide ongoing professional development to all school
11 personnel, school board members, and school resource officers
12 on the requirements of this Section and Section 10-20.14, the
13 adverse consequences of school exclusion and justice-system
14 involvement, effective classroom management strategies,
15 culturally responsive discipline, trauma-responsive learning
16 environments, as defined in subsection (b) of Section 3-11,
17 the appropriate and available supportive services for the
18 promotion of student attendance and engagement, and
19 developmentally appropriate disciplinary methods that promote
20 positive and healthy school climates.

21 (d) The board may expel a student for a definite period of
22 time not to exceed 2 calendar years, as determined on a
23 case-by-case basis. A student who is determined to have
24 brought one of the following objects to school, any
25 school-sponsored activity or event, or any activity or event
26 that bears a reasonable relationship to school shall be

1 expelled for a period of not less than one year:

2 (1) A firearm. For the purposes of this Section,
3 "firearm" means any gun, rifle, shotgun, weapon as defined
4 by Section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code,
5 firearm as defined in Section 1.1 of the Firearm Owners
6 Identification Card Act, or firearm as defined in Section
7 24-1 of the Criminal Code of 2012. The expulsion period
8 under this subdivision (1) may be modified by the
9 superintendent, and the superintendent's determination may
10 be modified by the board on a case-by-case basis.

11 (2) A knife, brass knuckles or other knuckle weapon
12 regardless of its composition, a billy club, or any other
13 object if used or attempted to be used to cause bodily
14 harm, including "look alike" of any firearm as defined in
15 subdivision (1) of this subsection (d). The expulsion
16 requirement under this subdivision (2) may be modified by
17 the superintendent, and the superintendent's determination
18 may be modified by the board on a case-by-case basis.

19 Expulsion or suspension shall be construed in a manner
20 consistent with the federal Individuals with Disabilities
21 Education Act. A student who is subject to suspension or
22 expulsion as provided in this Section may be eligible for a
23 transfer to an alternative school program in accordance with
24 Article 13A of the School Code.

25 (d-5) The board may suspend or by regulation authorize the
26 superintendent of the district or the principal, assistant

1 principal, or dean of students of any school to suspend a
2 student for a period not to exceed 10 school days or may expel
3 a student for a definite period of time not to exceed 2
4 calendar years, as determined on a case-by-case basis, if (i)
5 that student has been determined to have made an explicit
6 threat on an Internet website against a school employee, a
7 student, or any school-related personnel, (ii) the Internet
8 website through which the threat was made is a site that was
9 accessible within the school at the time the threat was made or
10 was available to third parties who worked or studied within
11 the school grounds at the time the threat was made, and (iii)
12 the threat could be reasonably interpreted as threatening to
13 the safety and security of the threatened individual because
14 of the individual's duties or employment status or status as a
15 student inside the school.

16 (e) To maintain order and security in the schools, school
17 authorities may inspect and search places and areas such as
18 lockers, desks, parking lots, and other school property and
19 equipment owned or controlled by the school, as well as
20 personal effects left in those places and areas by students,
21 without notice to or the consent of the student, and without a
22 search warrant. As a matter of public policy, the General
23 Assembly finds that students have no reasonable expectation of
24 privacy in these places and areas or in their personal effects
25 left in these places and areas. School authorities may request
26 the assistance of law enforcement officials for the purpose of

1 conducting inspections and searches of lockers, desks, parking
2 lots, and other school property and equipment owned or
3 controlled by the school for illegal drugs, weapons, or other
4 illegal or dangerous substances or materials, including
5 searches conducted through the use of specially trained dogs.
6 If a search conducted in accordance with this Section produces
7 evidence that the student has violated or is violating either
8 the law, local ordinance, or the school's policies or rules,
9 such evidence may be seized by school authorities, and
10 disciplinary action may be taken. School authorities may also
11 turn over such evidence to law enforcement authorities.

12 (f) Suspension or expulsion may include suspension or
13 expulsion from school and all school activities and a
14 prohibition from being present on school grounds.

15 (g) A school district may adopt a policy providing that if
16 a student is suspended or expelled for any reason from any
17 public or private school in this or any other state, the
18 student must complete the entire term of the suspension or
19 expulsion in an alternative school program under Article 13A
20 of this Code or an alternative learning opportunities program
21 under Article 13B of this Code before being admitted into the
22 school district if there is no threat to the safety of students
23 or staff in the alternative program. A school district that
24 adopts a policy under this subsection (g) must include a
25 provision allowing for consideration of any mitigating
26 factors, including, but not limited to, a student's status as

1 a parent, expectant parent, or victim of domestic or sexual
2 violence, as defined in Article 26A.

3 (h) School officials shall not advise or encourage
4 students to drop out voluntarily due to behavioral or academic
5 difficulties.

6 (i) In this subsection (i), "municipal code violation"
7 means the violation of a rule or regulation established by a
8 local government authority, authorized by Section 1-2-1 of the
9 Illinois Municipal Code.

10 A student must not be issued a monetary fine, fee, ticket,
11 or citation as a school-based disciplinary consequence or for
12 a municipal code violation on school grounds during school
13 hours or while taking school transportation by any person,
14 though this shall not preclude requiring a student to provide
15 restitution for lost, stolen, or damaged property.

16 This subsection (i) does not modify school disciplinary
17 responses under this Section or Section 10-20.14 of this Code
18 that existed before the effective date of this amendatory Act
19 of the 104th General Assembly or responses to alleged
20 delinquent or criminal conduct set forth in this Code, Article
21 V of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987, or the Criminal Code of
22 2012. This subsection (i) does not apply to violations of
23 traffic, boating, or fish and game laws.

24 (j) Subsections (a) through (i) of this Section shall
25 apply to elementary and secondary schools, charter schools,
26 special charter districts, and school districts organized

1 under Article 34 of this Code.

2 (k) Through June 30, 2026, the expulsion of students
3 enrolled in programs funded under Section 1C-2 of this Code is
4 subject to the requirements under paragraph (7) of subsection
5 (a) of Section 2-3.71 of this Code.

6 (k-5) On and after July 1, 2026, the expulsion of children
7 enrolled in programs funded under Section 15-25 of the
8 Department of Early Childhood Act is subject to the
9 requirements of paragraph (7) of subsection (a) of Section
10 15-30 of the Department of Early Childhood Act.

11 (l) An in-school suspension program provided by a school
12 district for any students in kindergarten through grade 12 may
13 focus on promoting non-violent conflict resolution and
14 positive interaction with other students and school personnel.
15 A school district may employ a school social worker or a
16 licensed mental health professional to oversee an in-school
17 suspension program in kindergarten through grade 12.

18 (m) Gross disobedience or misconduct under this Section
19 shall be defined by school board policy, in collaboration with
20 the school district's parent-teacher advisory committee
21 established under Section 10-20.14.

22 (Source: P.A. 103-594, eff. 6-25-24; 103-896, eff. 8-9-24;
23 104-417, eff. 8-15-25; 104-430, eff. 8-20-25.)