



## 101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2019 and 2020

SB1941

Introduced 2/15/2019, by Sen. Kimberly A. Lightford

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/2-3.162  
105 ILCS 5/2-3.176 new

Amends the School Code. With respect to school discipline improvement plans, makes changes to how the State Board of Education determines the top 20% of school districts, when notification is given that a plan must be submitted, which school districts are required to submit a plan, the timeframe for school board approval of a plan and submission of that plan to the State Board, and when additional annual progress reports are required. Establishes the Safe Schools and Healthy Learning Environments Grant Program and grants under the program. Sets forth requirements for grant applicants and provisions for the distribution of funds appropriated for the program. Requires the State Board of Education to issue a yearly report on the results of the program in cooperation with school districts participating in the program. Provides that the State Board may adopt any rules necessary for the program. Effective July 1, 2019.

LRB101 09893 AXK 54995 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

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 Section  
5 2-3.162 and by adding Section 2-3.176 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.162)

7 Sec. 2-3.162. Student discipline report; school discipline  
8 improvement plan.

9 (a) On or before October 31, 2015 and on or before October  
10 31 of each subsequent year, the State Board of Education,  
11 through the State Superintendent of Education, shall prepare a  
12 report on student discipline in all school districts in this  
13 State, including State-authorized charter schools. This report  
14 shall include data from all public schools within school  
15 districts, including district-authorized charter schools. This  
16 report must be posted on the Internet website of the State  
17 Board of Education. The report shall include data on the  
18 issuance of out-of-school suspensions, expulsions, and  
19 removals to alternative settings in lieu of another  
20 disciplinary action, disaggregated by race and ethnicity,  
21 gender, age, grade level, whether a student is an English  
22 learner, incident type, and discipline duration.

23 (b) The State Board of Education shall analyze the data

1 under subsection (a) of this Section on an annual basis and  
2 determine the top 20% of school districts qualifying under any  
3 of ~~for~~ the following metrics:

4 (1) Total number of out-of-school suspensions divided  
5 by the total district enrollment by the last school day in  
6 September for the year in which the data was collected,  
7 multiplied by 100.

8 (2) Total number of out-of-school expulsions divided  
9 by the total district enrollment by the last school day in  
10 September for the year in which the data was collected,  
11 multiplied by 100.

12 (3) Racial disproportionality, defined as the  
13 overrepresentation of students of color or white students  
14 in comparison to the total number of students of color or  
15 white students on October 1st of the school year in which  
16 data are collected, with respect to the use of  
17 out-of-school suspensions and expulsions, which must be  
18 calculated using the same method as the U.S. Department of  
19 Education's Office for Civil Rights uses.

20 ~~The analysis must be based on data collected over 3~~  
21 ~~consecutive school years, beginning with the 2014-2015 school~~  
22 ~~year.~~

23 (c) On or before October 31, 2019 and on or before October  
24 31 of each subsequent year, the State Board of Education shall  
25 notify each school district ~~Beginning with the 2017-2018 school~~  
26 ~~year, the State Board of Education shall require each of the~~

1 ~~school districts that are~~ identified in the top 20% of any of  
2 the metrics described in ~~this~~ subsection (b) of this Section  
3 for 3 consecutive school years that the school district must  
4 submit a plan in conformance with subsection (d) of this  
5 Section.

6 (d) School districts identified in the top 20% of any of  
7 the metrics described in subsection (b) of this Section for 3  
8 consecutive school years must, in a manner prescribed by the  
9 State Board of Education, submit a plan to the State Board of  
10 Education that identifies ~~to submit a plan identifying~~ the  
11 strategies the school district will implement to reduce the use  
12 of exclusionary disciplinary practices or racial  
13 disproportionality or both, if applicable. ~~School districts~~  
14 ~~that no longer meet the criteria described in any of the~~  
15 ~~metrics described in this subsection (b) for 3 consecutive~~  
16 ~~years shall no longer be required to submit a plan.~~

17 This plan may be combined with any other improvement plans  
18 required under federal or State law.

19 The plan must be approved at a public school board meeting  
20 no later than 90 days after notification from the State Board  
21 of Education pursuant to subsection (c) of this Section and  
22 must be posted on the school district's Internet website.  
23 Within one calendar year after the school board's approval of  
24 the plan, the school district shall submit to the State Board  
25 of Education, in a manner prescribed by the State Board of  
26 Education, and post on the district's Internet website a

1 progress report describing the implementation of the plan and  
2 the results achieved. Additional annual progress reports shall  
3 be required until a school district no longer meets the  
4 criteria in any of the metrics described in subsection (b) of  
5 this Section for 3 consecutive school years.

6 (e) The calculation of the top 20% of any of the metrics  
7 described in ~~this~~ subsection (b) of this Section shall exclude  
8 all school districts, State-authorized charter schools, and  
9 special charter districts that issued fewer than a total of 10  
10 out-of-school suspensions or expulsions, whichever is  
11 applicable, during the school year. The calculation of the top  
12 20% of the metric described in subdivision (3) of ~~this~~  
13 subsection (b) of this Section shall exclude all school  
14 districts with an enrollment of fewer than 50 white students or  
15 fewer than 50 students of color.

16 ~~The plan must be approved at a public school board meeting~~  
17 ~~and posted on the school district's Internet website. Within~~  
18 ~~one year after being identified, the school district shall~~  
19 ~~submit to the State Board of Education and post on the~~  
20 ~~district's Internet website a progress report describing the~~  
21 ~~implementation of the plan and the results achieved.~~

22 (Source: P.A. 99-30, eff. 7-10-15; 99-78, eff. 7-20-15;  
23 100-863, eff. 8-14-18.)

24 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.176 new)

25 Sec. 2-3.176. Safe Schools and Healthy Learning

1 Environments Grant Program.

2 (a) The State Board of Education, subject to appropriation,  
3 is authorized to award competitive grants on an annual basis  
4 under a Safe Schools and Healthy Learning Environments Grant  
5 Program. The goal of this grant program is to promote school  
6 safety and healthy learning environments by providing schools  
7 with additional resources to implement restorative  
8 interventions and resolution strategies as alternatives to  
9 exclusionary discipline, and to address the full range of  
10 students' intellectual, social, emotional, physical,  
11 psychological, and moral developmental needs.

12 (b) To receive a grant under this program, a school  
13 district must submit with its grant application a plan for  
14 implementing evidence-based and promising practices that are  
15 aligned with the goal of this program. The application may  
16 include proposals to (i) hire additional school support  
17 personnel, including, but not limited to, restorative justice  
18 practitioners, school psychologists, school social workers,  
19 and other mental and behavioral health specialists; (ii) use  
20 existing school-based resources, community-based resources, or  
21 other experts and practitioners to expand alternatives to  
22 exclusionary discipline, mental and behavioral health  
23 supports, wraparound services, or drug and alcohol treatment;  
24 and (iii) provide training for school staff on trauma-informed  
25 approaches to meeting students' developmental needs,  
26 addressing the effects of toxic stress, restorative justice

1 approaches, conflict resolution techniques, and the effective  
2 utilization of school support personnel and community-based  
3 services. For purposes of this subsection (b), "promising  
4 practices" means practices that present, based on preliminary  
5 information, potential for becoming evidence-based practices.

6 Grant funds shall not be used to increase the use of  
7 school-based law enforcement or security personnel. Nothing in  
8 this Section shall prohibit school districts from involving law  
9 enforcement personnel when necessary and allowed by law.

10 (c) The State Board of Education, subject to appropriation  
11 for the grant program, shall annually disseminate a request for  
12 applications to this program, and funds shall be distributed  
13 annually. The criteria to be considered by the State Board of  
14 Education in awarding the funds shall be (i) the average ratio  
15 of school support personnel to students in the target schools  
16 over the preceding 3 school years, with priority given to  
17 applications with a demonstrated shortage of school support  
18 personnel to meet student needs; and (ii) the degree to which  
19 the proposal articulates a comprehensive approach for reducing  
20 exclusionary discipline while building safe and healthy  
21 learning environments. Priority shall be given to school  
22 districts that meet the metrics under subsection (b) of Section  
23 2-3.162 of this Code.

24 (d) The State Board of Education, subject to appropriation  
25 for the grant program, shall produce an annual report on the  
26 program in cooperation with the school districts participating

1 in the program. The report shall include available quantitative  
2 information on the progress being made in reducing exclusionary  
3 discipline and the effects of the program on school safety and  
4 school climate. This report shall be posted on the State Board  
5 of Education's website by October 31 of each year, beginning in  
6 2020.

7 (e) The State Board of Education may adopt any rules  
8 necessary for the implementation of this program.

9 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,  
10 2019.