

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 February 24, 2026

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
4 FOR
5 SENATE BILL NO. 1790

By: Deevers, Grellner, and
Prieto of the Senate

6 and

7 Hasenbeck of the House

8
9 An Act relating to schools; creating the Protected
10 Learning Environment Act; providing short title;
11 stating legislative findings; defining terms;
12 directing the State Department of Education to
13 develop and publish certain discipline matrix
14 guidance; requiring the matrix guidance to comply
15 with certain acts; providing for contents of matrix
16 guidance; requiring school district boards of
17 education to adopt certain matrix based on certain
18 guidance prior to certain school year; requiring
19 submission of matrix to the Department; requiring
20 annual review of matrix; requiring school district
21 boards of education to take certain actions;
22 directing placement of certain student in certain
23 alternative setting; directing school district boards
24 of education to create certain removal procedures;
providing for a student who has committed certain
number of infractions in a semester; requiring
documentation of certain incidents; providing for
contents of documentation; providing circumstances
under which a teacher may remove a student from
class; directing the Department to provide certain
support; requiring certain parents and legal
guardians to attend certain conferences; providing
responsibilities of students; providing for
codification; providing an effective date; and
declaring an emergency.

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

2 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
3 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-113.2 of Title 70, unless
4 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

5 A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Protected
6 Learning Environment Act".

7 B. The Legislature finds that:

8 1. Every student in this state has the right to learn in a
9 safe, orderly, distraction-free environment;

10 2. Teachers and school staff have the right to work in secure,
11 predictable, and well-managed classrooms;

12 3. Disruptive, aggressive, or unsafe behaviors significantly
13 impair academic progress, teacher retention, and school climate;

14 4. Statewide standardized discipline matrix guidance developed
15 by the State Department of Education shall:

16 a. ensure fairness and consistency across all districts,

17 b. reduce subjective or unequal discipline practices,

18 c. support students with clear expectations and
19 appropriate interventions,

20 d. protect instructional time, and

21 e. strengthen school safety; and

22 5. It is necessary to establish standardized behavioral
23 expectations, clear consequences, and required safety protocols for
24 all public schools in this state.

1 C. For the purposes of this section:

2 1. "Discipline matrix" means an evidence-based, tiered system
3 that outlines behaviors, consequences, and interventions for
4 students in grades prekindergarten through twelve;

5 2. "Protected learning environment" (PLE) means a structured
6 classroom setting where students can learn without disruption,
7 threat, or interference;

8 3. "Major infraction" includes, but is not limited to,
9 violence, threats, weapons, sexual misconduct, repeated aggression,
10 vandalism, harassment, and any action that jeopardizes the safety of
11 students or staff;

12 4. "Minor infraction" includes behaviors such as off-task
13 conduct, disrespect, dress code violations, classroom disruptions,
14 and noncompliance with instructions;

15 5. "Immediate removal" means the temporary removal of a student
16 from the learning environment to ensure safety and instructional
17 continuity; and

18 6. "Restorative supports" means interventions such as
19 counseling, skill-building, mediation, and behavior contracts.

20 D. The State Department of Education shall develop and publish
21 on its website standardized discipline matrix guidance. The matrix
22 guidance shall comply with provisions of the Individuals with
23 Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the Family Educational Rights
24 and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA). The matrix guidance shall provide

1 for trauma-informed, developmentally appropriate interventions, an
2 accountability framework, and a zero-tolerance standard for violence
3 or threats. The matrix guidance shall consist of the following
4 tiers:

5 1. Tier 1: Classroom-managed behaviors that can be managed by
6 a teacher including, but not limited to:

- 7 a. specific examples of minor infractions such as off-
8 task behavior, minor disrespect, tardiness, or failure
9 to follow directions,
- 10 b. clear teacher-implemented strategies and
11 interventions,
- 12 c. documentation requirements,
- 13 d. progressive consequences for repeated infractions, and
14 e. a maximum threshold before referral to a school
15 administrator;

16 2. Tier 2: Administrator-managed behaviors including, but not
17 limited to:

- 18 a. specific examples of moderate or repeated behaviors
19 such as repeated minor infractions, verbal conflicts,
20 or minor vandalism,
- 21 b. in-school interventions with progressive consequences,
- 22 c. mandatory notification of a student's parent or legal
23 guardian, and
- 24 d. behavioral skill-building plans; and

1 3. Tier 3: Serious or dangerous behaviors to be managed by a
2 school administrator including, but not limited to:

- 3 a. specific examples of serious or dangerous major
4 infractions such as fighting, threats, bullying, or
5 possession of prohibited items including possession of
6 items for which a student would be subject to out-of-
7 school suspension as provided for in subsection C of
8 Section 24-101.3 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes,
- 9 b. mandatory immediate removal from an instructional
10 setting with progressive consequences including
11 potential out-of-school suspension, in-school
12 suspension, alternative placement, or any other
13 disciplinary measure authorized by law,
- 14 c. required investigation and safety assessment, and
- 15 d. multi-agency collaboration when necessary.

16 E. Prior to the beginning of the 2027-2028 school year, each
17 school district board of education in this state shall:

18 1. Adopt a discipline matrix based on the guidance developed
19 and published by the State Department of Education pursuant to
20 subsection D of this section. The matrix shall be submitted to the
21 State Department of Education. Each school district board of
22 education shall annually review its discipline matrix and submit any
23 revisions to the Department;

1 2. Train all school district staff on implementation of the
2 adopted discipline matrix. Training shall be completed during a
3 school district employee's first year of employment and at a
4 subsequent frequency determined by the superintendent of the school
5 district;

6 3. Provide parents and legal guardians of students enrolled in
7 the school district access to the matrix by publishing the matrix in
8 the school district's student handbook or on the school district's
9 website;

10 4. Apply consequences provided for in the discipline matrix
11 consistently and without discrimination; and

12 5. Ensure teachers have the authority to remove a student when
13 safety or learning is compromised.

14 F. A student who is removed from class due to Tier 2 or Tier 3
15 behaviors shall be placed in a protected learning environment (PLE)
16 alternative setting to ensure continued instruction. Each school
17 district board of education shall create classroom removal
18 procedures that:

19 1. Guarantee minimal disruption to instructional time;

20 2. Ensure timely administrative response to requests for
21 immediate removal; and

22 3. Support teachers in maintaining classroom authority.

23 G. A student who commits three or more Tier 3 infractions
24 within a semester may be subject to:

- 1 1. A mandatory behavior conference;
- 2 2. A functional behavior assessment, if applicable; and
- 3 3. Possible placement in a structured alternative education
- 4 program.

5 H. All incidents requiring Tier 2 or Tier 3 intervention shall
6 be documented by the school district. The documentation shall not
7 include personally identifiable student information but shall
8 include, but not be limited to:

9 1. The number and types of infractions and related response
10 actions reported in the previous school year;

11 2. Information on trends in school safety and climate within
12 the school district; and

13 3. Information on compliance with the discipline matrix by
14 school district staff.

15 I. 1. Pursuant to the discipline matrix adopted by a school
16 district board of education pursuant to subsection E of this
17 section, a teacher may remove a student from class who:

18 a. poses a safety threat,

19 b. repeatedly disrupts learning despite Tier 1
20 interventions, or

21 c. demonstrates aggressive or defiant behavior toward
22 school staff or students.

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1 2. A teacher who removes a student from class pursuant to
2 paragraph 1 of this subsection shall not face disciplinary action
3 from the district for enforcing the discipline matrix.

4 J. The State Department of Education shall provide support to
5 school districts in implementing the provisions of this act
6 including staff training on behavior interventions, restorative
7 supports, and school safety enhancements. The Department shall
8 provide the support using existing resources such as federal grants,
9 assistance from the Oklahoma School Security Institute, and any
10 other currently available state and federal programs for school
11 safety and student support. Districts shall be encouraged to apply
12 for and use existing grants and programs to meet the requirements of
13 this act.

14 K. The parent or legal guardian of a student who exhibits
15 repeated or serious behaviors shall be required to attend
16 conferences with school district staff.

17 L. Students enrolled in a public school in this state shall be
18 responsible for:

19 1. Following school rules;

20 2. Respecting the authority of school staff; and

21 3. Engaging in assigned interventions or supports. Failure to
22 participate in required interventions or supports may result in
23 escalated responses outlined in the discipline matrix adopted by
24

1 each school district board of education pursuant to subsection E of
2 this section.

3 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2026.

4 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
5 of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby
6 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
7 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

8 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
9 February 24, 2026 - DO PASS AS AMENDED BY CS

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