

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
4 FOR

5 SENATE BILL NO. 1790

By: Deevers of the Senate

and

Hasenbeck of the House

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9 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

10 An Act relating to schools; creating the Protected  
11 Learning Environment Act; providing short title;  
12 stating legislative findings; defining terms;  
13 directing the State Department of Education to  
14 develop and publish certain discipline matrix  
15 guidance; requiring the matrix guidance to comply  
16 with certain acts; providing for contents of matrix  
17 guidance; requiring school district boards of  
18 education to adopt certain matrix based on certain  
19 guidance prior to certain school year; requiring  
20 submission of matrix to the Department; requiring  
21 annual review of matrix; requiring school district  
22 boards of education to take certain actions;  
23 directing placement of certain student in certain  
24 alternative setting; directing school district boards  
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.

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

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

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

B. The Legislature finds that:

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

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

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

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

- a. ensure fairness and consistency across all districts,
- b. reduce subjective or unequal discipline practices,
- c. support students with clear expectations and appropriate interventions,
- d. protect instructional time, and
- e. strengthen school safety; and

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

4           C. For the purposes of this section:

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

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

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

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

18           5. "Immediate removal" means the temporary removal of a student  
19 from the learning environment to ensure safety and instructional  
20 continuity; and

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

23           D. The State Department of Education shall develop and publish  
24 on its website standardized discipline matrix guidance. The matrix

1 guidance shall comply with provisions of the Individuals with  
2 Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the Family Educational Rights  
3 and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA). The matrix guidance shall provide  
4 for trauma-informed, developmentally appropriate interventions, an  
5 accountability framework, and a zero-tolerance standard for violence  
6 or threats. The matrix guidance shall consist of the following  
7 tiers:

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

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

19 2. Tier 2: Administrator-managed behaviors including, but not  
20 limited to:

- 21 a. specific examples of moderate or repeated behaviors  
22 such as repeated minor infractions, verbal conflicts,  
23 or minor vandalism,
- 24 b. in-school interventions with progressive consequences,

1 c. mandatory notification of a student's parent or legal  
2 guardian, and

3 d. behavioral skill-building plans; and

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

6 a. specific examples of serious or dangerous major  
7 infractions such as fighting, threats, bullying, or  
8 possession of prohibited items including possession of  
9 items for which a student would be subject to out-of-  
10 school suspension as provided for in subsection C of  
11 Section 24-101.3 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes,

12 b. mandatory immediate removal from an instructional  
13 setting with progressive consequences including  
14 potential out-of-school suspension, in-school  
15 suspension, alternative placement, or any other  
16 disciplinary measure authorized by law,

17 c. required investigation and safety assessment, and

18 d. multi-agency collaboration when necessary.

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

21 1. Adopt a discipline matrix based on the guidance developed  
22 and published by the State Department of Education pursuant to  
23 subsection D of this section. The matrix shall be submitted to the  
24 State Department of Education. Each school district board of

1 education shall annually review its discipline matrix and submit any  
2 revisions to the Department;

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

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

12 4. Apply consequences provided for in the discipline matrix  
13 consistently and without discrimination; and

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

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

21 1. Guarantee minimal disruption to instructional time;

22 2. Ensure timely administrative response to requests for  
23 immediate removal; and

24 3. Support teachers in maintaining classroom authority.

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

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

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

- 11 1. The number and types of infractions and related response  
12 actions reported in the previous school year;
- 13 2. Information on trends in school safety and climate within  
14 the school district; and
- 15 3. Information on compliance with the discipline matrix by  
16 school district staff.

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

- 20 a. poses a safety threat,
- 21 b. repeatedly disrupts learning despite Tier 1  
22 interventions, or
- 23 c. demonstrates aggressive or defiant behavior toward  
24 school staff or students.

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.

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