

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

SENATE BILL 1790

By: Deever

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; creating the Protected Learning Environment Act; providing short title; stating legislative findings; defining terms; directing the State Department of Education to develop and publish certain discipline matrix; requiring school districts to comply with the matrix by certain school year; requiring the matrix to comply with certain acts; providing for contents of matrix; requiring school district boards of education to take certain actions; directing placement of certain student in certain 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 and electronic reporting to the Department; requiring electronic submission of certain annual report by certain date; providing for contents of report; 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.

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. A statewide standardized discipline matrix 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

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

C. For the purposes of this section:

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

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

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

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

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

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

19       D. The State Department of Education shall develop and publish  
20 on its website a standardized discipline matrix with which all  
21 school districts shall comply by the 2027-2028 school year. The  
22 matrix 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 shall provide for

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

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

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

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

- 17 a. specific examples of moderate or repeated behaviors  
18 such as repeated minor infractions, verbal conflicts,  
19 or minor vandalism,
  - 20 b. in-school interventions with progressive consequences,
  - 21 c. mandatory notification of a student's parent or legal  
22 guardian, and
  - 23 d. behavioral skill-building plans; and
- 24  
25

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,

6            b. mandatory immediate removal from an instructional  
7                setting with progressive consequences including  
8                potential out-of-school suspension or alternative  
9                placement,

10           c. required investigation and safety assessment, and

11           d. multi-agency collaboration when necessary.

12        E. Each school district board of education in this state shall:

13           1. Adopt the discipline matrix developed pursuant to subsection  
14 D of this section without lessening or weakening any of its  
15 requirements;

16           2. Train all school district staff annually on implementation  
17 of the discipline matrix;

18           3. Provide parents and legal guardians of students enrolled in  
19 the school district access to the matrix;

20           4. Apply consequences provided for in the discipline matrix  
21 consistently and without discrimination; and

22           5. Ensure teachers have the authority to remove a student when  
23 safety or learning is compromised.  
24

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

- 6 1. Guarantee minimal disruption to instructional time;
- 7 2. Ensure timely administrative response to requests for  
8 immediate removal; and
- 9 3. Support teachers in maintaining classroom authority.

10 G. A student who commits three or more Tier 3 infractions  
11 within a semester shall be subject to:

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

16 H. All incidents requiring Tier 2 or Tier 3 intervention shall  
17 be documented by the school district and electronically reported to  
18 the State Department of Education. By July 31, 2028, and by July 31  
19 each year thereafter, the Department shall publish an annual Safe  
20 Schools Report that shall:

- 21 1. Include the number and types of infractions and related  
22 response actions reported by each school district in the previous  
23 school year;
- 24 2. Include information on trends in school safety and climate;

1       3. Include information on school district compliance with the  
2 discipline matrix developed pursuant to subsection D of this  
3 section; and

4       4. Not include personally identifiable student information.  
5 All reports shall comply with FERPA.

6       I. 1. Pursuant to the discipline matrix developed pursuant to  
7 subsection D of this section, a teacher may remove a student from  
8 class who:

- 9           a. poses a safety threat,
- 10          b. repeatedly disrupts learning despite Tier 1  
11             interventions, or
- 12          c. demonstrates aggressive or defiant behavior toward  
13             school staff or students.

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

17       J. The State Department of Education shall provide support to  
18 school districts in implementing the provisions of this act  
19 including staff training on the discipline matrix developed pursuant  
20 to subsection D of this section, behavior interventions, restorative  
21 supports, and school safety enhancements. The Department shall  
22 provide the support using existing resources such as federal grants,  
23 assistance from the Oklahoma School Security Institute, and any  
24 other currently available state and federal programs for school

1 safety and student support. Districts shall be encouraged to apply  
2 for and use existing grants and programs to meet the requirements of  
3 this act.

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

7 L. Students enrolled in a public school in this state shall be  
8 responsible for:

- 9 1. Following school rules;
- 10 2. Respecting the authority of school staff; and
- 11 3. Engaging in assigned interventions or supports. Failure to  
12 participate in required interventions or supports may result in  
13 escalated responses outlined in the discipline matrix developed  
14 pursuant to subsection D of this section.

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

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