

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 SENATE BILL 1790

By: Deever

6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; creating the Protected
8 Learning Environment Act; providing short title;
9 stating legislative findings; defining terms;
10 directing the State Department of Education to
11 develop and publish certain discipline matrix;
12 requiring school districts to comply with the matrix
13 by certain school year; requiring the matrix to
14 comply with certain acts; providing for contents of
15 matrix; requiring school district boards of education
16 to take certain actions; directing placement of
17 certain student in certain alternative setting;
18 directing school district boards of education to
19 create certain removal procedures; providing for a
20 student who has committed certain number of
21 infractions in a semester; requiring documentation of
22 certain incidents and electronic reporting to the
23 Department; requiring electronic submission of
24 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.

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

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

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

6 B. The Legislature finds that:

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

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

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

13 4. A statewide standardized discipline matrix shall:

14 a. ensure fairness and consistency across all districts,

15 b. reduce subjective or unequal discipline practices,

16 c. support students with clear expectations and
17 appropriate interventions,

18 d. protect instructional time, and

19 e. strengthen school safety; and

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

23 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

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.

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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