

Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline (ACSBD)

Legislative Report

December 2020

The ACSBD Legislative Report serves as fulfillment of requirements specified in Act 600 of 2018 directing the ACSBD to review current state laws, policies, and regulations and submit its findings and recommendations to the Senate Committee on Education, the House Committee on Education and the state senator who represents Senate District No. 4, not later than February 15, 2020.

Pursuant to La. R.S. 17:253, the ACSBD 2019 Annual Report will be a separate report to the Senate Committee on Education, the House Committee on Education, and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) with findings and recommendations with respect to the implementation of school master plans for improving student behavior and discipline as provided in Louisiana R.S. 17:252.

In 2020, the full ACSBD was scheduled to convene three times (February 11, 2020, October 19, 2020, and finally on December 11, 2020). The full ACSBD continues to be comprised of a diverse set of stakeholders who have worked together to reach compromise and consensus on a set of principles and specific language changes recommended to improve Louisiana laws related to student behavior and discipline. Specifically, a focus of the group has been the revision of Louisiana R.S. 17:416 and the implementation of a positive behavior approach in all of the Louisiana public schools in accordance with the provisions Louisiana R.S. 17:252.

The recommendations to the Board of Elementary Education (BESE), the Louisiana Department of Education, the Louisiana House of Representative's Education Committee are as follows:

- Louisiana Department of Education continually update and maintain the Model Master Discipline Plan
- Louisiana Department of Education address staffing capacity to collect data related to implementation of Model Master Discipline Plans by schools and take action related to findings of implementation, or lack thereof
- Louisiana Department of Education conduct scheduled meetings of a Data Quality Review Committee (to include a subgroup of personnel serving on the ACSBD) to provide validity and integrity of its data and provide codes and uniform definitions for its Student Information System (SIS). Previously, LDOE proposed a review of its practices for collecting, verifying, and reporting student discipline data, and proposed requesting feedback from the ACSBD on ways to improve these practices. In its review, the Department agreed to review its Student Information System (SIS), and all discipline data elements, codes, forms, and definitions in SIS. LDOE also agreed to have the ACSBD and other stakeholders review suggested changes to discipline data collection systems. Separately, LDOE agreed to create additional reports for school system data managers to aid in districts' self-evaluation of their discipline data. The ACSBD made this recommendation in December 2016 and have continued to do so every year and Limited progress has been made on this recommendation to date. The following members volunteered to serve on the committee: Dr. Austin, Ms. Boudreaux, Ms. Davis, Mr. Jetson, and Mr. Turner. Dr. Austin agreed to serve as chair the Data Quality Review Committee.

- The LDOE to take an active role in full implementation of the requirements of Louisiana Revised Statute 17:252. Revisions of this statute by the Legislature since its inception clearly demonstrate the Legislature's intent for the Louisiana Department of Education to ensure implementation of its requirements. The LDOE needs to maintain a Model Master Discipline Plan for districts and schools to follow. Currently the LDOE does not maintain nor provide a current model for schools to use.

Per Act 522, the ACSBD shall annually submit a written report to the Senate Committee on Education, the House Committee on Education, and BESE regarding its findings and recommendations with respect to the implementation of master plans for improving student behavior and discipline as provided in R.S. § 17:252.

- Members of the ACSBD identified Rep. Jason Hughes to sponsor and to take the lead to ensure that the ACSBD's recommendations for the revision of the main discipline law (Louisiana Revised Statute 17:416) are enacted during the 2021 Legislature. Language developed and endorsed by the full ACSBD can be found on the BESE website at the link below and available in Microsoft Word from the current and incoming chair of the ACSBD:
[https://www.boarddocs.com/la/bese/Board.nsf/files/AWF24W79D58C/\\$file/4.6 AGII Advisory%20 Council%20on%20Student%20Behavior%20and%20Discipline.pdf](https://www.boarddocs.com/la/bese/Board.nsf/files/AWF24W79D58C/$file/4.6%20AGII%20Advisory%20Council%20on%20Student%20Behavior%20and%20Discipline.pdf).

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Per Act 522, the ACSBD shall annually submit a written report to the Senate Committee on Education, the House Committee on Education, and BESE regarding its findings and recommendations with respect to the implementation of master plans for improving student behavior and discipline as provided in R.S. § 17:252.

- Members of the ACSBD identified Rep. Jason Hughes to sponsor and to take the lead to ensure that the ACSBD's recommendations for the revision of the main discipline law (Louisiana Revised Statute 17:416) are enacted during the 2021 Legislature. Language developed and endorsed by the full ACSBD can be found on the BESE website at the link below and available in Microsoft Word from the current and incoming chair of the ACSBD:
[https://www.boarddocs.com/la/bese/Board.nsf/files/AWF24W79D58C/\\$file/4.6 AGII Advisory%20 Council%20on%20Student%20Behavior%20and%20Discipline.pdf](https://www.boarddocs.com/la/bese/Board.nsf/files/AWF24W79D58C/$file/4.6%20AGII%20Advisory%20Council%20on%20Student%20Behavior%20and%20Discipline.pdf).