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LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DATE: July 29, 2024
TO: School System Leaders
FROM: Dr. Cade Brumley, State Superintendent of Education *Paul Cade Brumley*
SUBJECT: Campus & Classroom Disruptions

Campus and classroom disruptions are hindering the teaching profession and student learning. As we approach a new school year, please recommit to assertive discipline action to create safe and orderly environments where teaching and learning can flourish. Students and teachers deserve peaceful schools.

Recently, my office released a set of recommendations¹ developed alongside nearly 30 educators from across the state. These policies, several dealing with disruptions, are designed to improve the teaching experience – leading to stronger performance, retention, and job satisfaction. Along with teachers, parents and students are seeking environments where learning and socialization can prosper.

Specifically, I'm calling your attention to two Acts of the 2024 Legislative Session:

ACT 400 (Student Discipline & Teacher Rights); Authored by Representative Joe Stagni, Signed by Governor Landry

This law goes into effect on August 1, amending existing law and the Teacher Bill of Rights providing that teachers shall have disruptive students removed from their classrooms. Further, it codifies that leaders may not discriminate or retaliate against a teacher seeking to provide an orderly classroom. This act further amends current law to require a conference between the teacher or other appropriate school employee and the student's parents prior to a student being admitted to the same classroom after a third removal due to disruptive behavior.

ACT 337 (Mandatory Expulsion in Grades 6-12); Authored by Senator Beth Mizell, Signed by Governor Landry

This law goes into effect on August 1st adding expulsion requirements for conditions involving knives and drugs. Furthermore, the Act provides, notwithstanding other policies, 6-12th graders suspended a third time within the same school year for any offense, excluding those related to dress code or tardiness, shall be recommended for expulsion.

These laws address behavior complications educators and students faced in previous years and aim to improve the school experience. Affording teachers more disciplinary authority over disruptive students will maintain order in classrooms. Further, students will benefit as distractions will be lessened and academic outcomes strengthened.

This memo does not constitute legal advice. We suggest coordinating your policy and practice adjustments alongside your appropriate counsel. If our office may be of assistance in your work to create appropriate school environments for teaching and learning, please let us know.

CC: Governor Jeff Landry
Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
House Education Chair Laurie Schlegel
Senate Education Chair Rick Edmonds

¹ https://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/newsroom/let-teachers-teach-recommendations.pdf?sfvrsn=bbfd6e18_3/