

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed
prior to this session of the General Assembly.
Act 159 of the Regular Session

1 State of Arkansas
2 86th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2007

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1145

4
5 By: Representative D. Evans
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For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 AN ACT TO REQUIRE SCHOOLS TO NOTIFY PARENTS UPON
10 A STUDENT'S SUSPENSION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

12
13 WEBB'S LAW.
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16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
17

18 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-18-507 is amended to read as follows:
19 6-18-507. Suspension - Expulsion.

20 (a) As used in this section:

21 (1) "Course time" means the number of hours of instruction
22 devoted to a single subject during the school week;

23 (2) "Expulsion" means dismissal from school for a period of time
24 that exceeds ten (10) days;

25 (3) "Nontraditional scheduling" means block or other alternative
26 scheduling as defined by the Department of Education; and

27 (4) "Suspension" means dismissal from school for a period of
28 time that does not exceed ten (10) days.

29 (b) The board of directors of a school district may suspend or expel
30 any student from school for violation of the school district's written
31 discipline policies.

32 (c)(1) The board of directors may authorize a teacher or administrator
33 to suspend any student for a maximum of ten (10) school days for violation of
34 the school district's written discipline policies, subject to appeal to the
35 superintendent or his or her designee; however, schools that utilize



1 nontraditional scheduling may not suspend students from more course time than
 2 would result from a ten-day suspension under the last traditional schedule
 3 used by the school district.

4 (2) If the superintendent initiates the suspension process, the
 5 decision may be appealed to the board.

6 (d)(1) A superintendent may recommend the expulsion of a student for
 7 more than ten (10) days for violation of the school district's written
 8 discipline policies, subject to appeal to the board of directors and to
 9 requirements of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

10 (2) All school district board meetings entertaining an appeal
 11 shall be conducted in executive session if requested by the parent or
 12 guardian of the student provided that after hearing all testimony and debate,
 13 the board of directors shall conclude the executive session and reconvene in
 14 public session to vote on such appeal.

15 (e)(1) The superintendent of any school district shall recommend the
 16 expulsion of any student from school for a period of not less than one (1)
 17 year for possession of any firearm or other weapon prohibited upon the school
 18 campus by law; provided, however, that the superintendent shall have
 19 discretion to modify such expulsion requirement for a student on a case-by-
 20 case basis.

21 (2) All school districts shall adopt a written policy regarding
 22 expulsion of a student for possessing a firearm or other prohibited weapon on
 23 school property which shall require parents, guardians, or other persons in
 24 loco parentis of a student expelled under this subsection (e) to sign a
 25 statement acknowledging that the parents have read and understand current
 26 laws regarding the possibility of parental responsibility for allowing a
 27 child to possess a weapon on school property. The statement shall be signed
 28 by the parents, guardians, or other persons in loco parentis prior to
 29 readmitting a student or enrolling a student in any public school immediately
 30 after the expiration of an expulsion period pursuant to this subsection (e).

31 (3)(A) The school administrators and the local school board
 32 shall complete the expulsion process of any student that was initiated
 33 because the student possessed a firearm or other prohibited weapon on school
 34 property regardless of the enrollment status of the student.

35 (B) The principal of each school shall report within a
 36 week to the department the name, current address, and social security number

1 of any student who is expelled for possessing a firearm or other prohibited
 2 weapon on school property or for committing other acts of violence.

3 (C) The expulsion shall be noted on the student's
 4 permanent school record.

5 (D) Nothing in this subdivision (e)(3) shall be construed
 6 to limit a superintendent's discretion to modify the expulsion requirement
 7 for a student on a case-by-case basis as set out in this subsection (e).

8 (4)(A) The department shall establish and maintain a registry of
 9 students who are expelled for possessing a firearm or other prohibited weapon
 10 on school property or for committing other acts of violence.

11 (B) The names, addresses, and social security numbers of
 12 all students listed in the registry shall be available by phone, facsimile,
 13 or mail to any school principal in the state.

14 (f)(1) Upon suspension of a student, the school shall immediately
 15 contact the student's parent or legal guardian to notify the parent or legal
 16 guardian of the suspension.

17 (2) Each parent or legal guardian shall provide the school:

18 (A)(i) A primary call number.

19 (ii) If the call number changes, the parent or legal
 20 guardian shall notify the school of the new primary call number;

21 (B) An email address, if the parent or guardian does not
 22 have a telephone; or

23 (C) A current mailing address, if the parent or guardian
 24 does not have a telephone or email address.

25 (3) The contact required in subdivision (f) of this section is
 26 sufficient if made by:

27 (A) Direct contact with the parent or legal guardian at
 28 the primary call number or in person;

29 (B) Leaving a voice mail at the primary call number;

30 (C) Sending a text message to the primary call number; or

31 (D) Email, if the school is unable to make contact through
 32 the primary call number; or

33 (E) Regular first-class mail, if the school is unable to
 34 make contact through the primary call number or email.

35 (4) The school shall keep a
 36 notification log of contacts attempted and made to the parent or legal

1 guardian.

APPROVED: 2/28/2007