

1 State of Arkansas  
2 93rd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2021  
4  
5 By: Senator J. Dismang  
6

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 140

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENT DISCIPLINE IN PUBLIC  
9 SCHOOLS; TO REQUIRE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARDS OF  
10 DIRECTORS TO INCLUDE IN STUDENT DISCIPLINE POLICIES  
11 THE REQUIREMENT THAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS CONDUCT AN  
12 ASSESSMENT OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT'S ADVERSE  
13 CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES BEFORE DISCIPLINING A PUBLIC  
14 SCHOOL STUDENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

18 TO REQUIRE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARDS OF  
19 DIRECTORS TO INCLUDE IN STUDENT  
20 DISCIPLINE POLICIES THE REQUIREMENT THAT  
21 SCHOOLS CONDUCT AN ASSESSMENT OF A  
22 STUDENT'S ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES  
23 BEFORE DISCIPLINING A STUDENT.  
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26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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28 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 18, Subchapter 5, is amended  
29 to add an additional section to read as follows:

30 6-18-517. Adverse childhood experiences – Consideration when  
31 disciplining – Definition.

32 (a)(1) As used in this section, an "adverse childhood experience"  
33 means a stressful or traumatic event experienced by a minor child.

34 (2) An "adverse childhood experience" may include without  
35 limitation a minor child witnessing, or being the victim of:

36 (A) Physical abuse;



- 1                   (B) Sexual abuse;
- 2                   (C) Emotional abuse;
- 3                   (D) Physical neglect;
- 4                   (E) Emotional neglect;
- 5                   (F) Domestic violence;
- 6                   (G) Substance abuse;
- 7                   (H) Mental illness;
- 8                   (I) Parental separation or divorce; and
- 9                   (J) Incarceration.

10           (b)(1) A public school district board of directors shall include  
11 within the written student discipline policies required under § 6-18-503 the  
12 requirement that a public school conduct an assessment of a public school  
13 student's adverse childhood experiences before the public school disciplines  
14 the public school student if the public school has not conducted an  
15 assessment of the public school student's adverse childhood experiences  
16 within the last one (1) year.

17           (2) The requirement under subdivision (b)(1) of this section  
18 shall designate the person responsible for administering the adverse  
19 childhood experiences assessment when disciplining a public school student.

20           (c)(1) A public school shall consider the results of an adverse  
21 childhood experiences assessment conducted under subdivision (b)(1) of this  
22 section before administering the following actions:

- 23                   (A) Suspending a public school student;
- 24                   (B) Expelling a public school student;
- 25                   (C) Requiring a public school student to attend in-school  
26 suspension; or
- 27                   (D) Requiring a public school student to attend an  
28 alternative school.

29           (2) The results of an adverse childhood experiences assessment  
30 conducted under subdivision (b)(1) of this section shall be included in any  
31 report the public school drafts to explain the disciplinary results  
32 administered by the public school to a public school student.