

State of Arkansas
86th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2007

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1145

By: Representative D. Evans

For An Act To Be Entitled

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

Subtitle

WEBB'S LAW.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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

(a) As used in this section:

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

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

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

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

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

(c)(1) The board of directors may authorize a teacher or administrator to suspend any student for a maximum of ten (10) school days for violation of the school district's written discipline policies, subject to appeal to the superintendent or his or her designee; however, schools that utilize nontraditional scheduling may not suspend students from more course time than



1 would result from a ten-day suspension under the last traditional schedule
2 used by the school district.

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

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

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

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

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

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

34 (B) The principal of each school shall report within a
35 week to the department the name, current address, and social security number
36 of any student who is expelled for possessing a firearm or other prohibited

1 weapon on school property or for committing other acts of violence.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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