

CHAPTER 121A

STUDENT RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES,
AND BEHAVIOR

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121A.03 MODEL POLICY.

Subdivision 1. **Model policy.** The commissioner shall maintain and make available to school boards a model sexual, religious, and racial harassment and violence policy. The model policy shall address the requirements of subdivision 2, and may encourage violence prevention and character development education programs, consistent with section 120B.232, subdivision 1, to prevent and reduce policy violations.

[For text of subs 2 and 3, see M.S.2004]

History: 1Sp2005 c 5 art 2 s 25

121A.06 REPORTS OF DANGEROUS WEAPON INCIDENTS IN SCHOOL ZONES.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.2004]

Subd. 2. **Reports; content.** School districts must electronically report to the commissioner of education incidents involving the use or possession of a dangerous weapon in school zones. The form must include the following information:

- (1) a description of each incident, including a description of the dangerous weapon involved in the incident;
- (2) where, at what time, and under what circumstances the incident occurred;
- (3) information about the offender, other than the offender's name, including the offender's age; whether the offender was a student and, if so, where the offender attended school; and whether the offender was under school expulsion or suspension at the time of the incident;
- (4) information about the victim other than the victim's name, if any, including the victim's age; whether the victim was a student and, if so, where the victim attended school; and if the victim was not a student, whether the victim was employed at the school;
- (5) the cost of the incident to the school and to the victim; and
- (6) the action taken by the school administration to respond to the incident.

The commissioner shall provide an electronic reporting format that allows school districts to provide aggregate data.

Subd. 3. **Reports; filing requirements.** By July 31 of each year, each public school shall report incidents involving the use or possession of a dangerous weapon in school zones to the commissioner. The reports must be submitted using the electronic reporting system developed by the commissioner under subdivision 2. The commissioner shall compile the information it receives from the schools and report it annually to the commissioner of public safety and the legislature.

History: 1Sp2005 c 5 art 2 s 26,27

121A.0695 SCHOOL BOARD POLICY; PROHIBITING INTIMIDATION AND BULLYING.

Each school board shall adopt a written policy prohibiting intimidation and bullying of any student.

History: *1Sp2005 c 5 art 2 s 28*

121A.15 HEALTH STANDARDS; IMMUNIZATIONS; SCHOOL CHILDREN.

[For text of subs 1 and 2, see M.S.2004]

Subd. 3. **Exemptions from immunizations.** (a) If a person is at least seven years old and has not been immunized against pertussis, the person must not be required to be immunized against pertussis.

(b) If a person is at least 18 years old and has not completed a series of immunizations against poliomyelitis, the person must not be required to be immunized against poliomyelitis.

(c) If a statement, signed by a physician, is submitted to the administrator or other person having general control and supervision of the school or child care facility stating that an immunization is contraindicated for medical reasons or that laboratory confirmation of the presence of adequate immunity exists, the immunization specified in the statement need not be required.

(d) If a notarized statement signed by the minor child's parent or guardian or by the emancipated person is submitted to the administrator or other person having general control and supervision of the school or child care facility stating that the person has not been immunized as prescribed in subdivision 1 because of the conscientiously held beliefs of the parent or guardian of the minor child or of the emancipated person, the immunizations specified in the statement shall not be required. This statement must also be forwarded to the commissioner of the Department of Health.

(e) If the person is under 15 months, the person is not required to be immunized against measles, rubella, or mumps.

(f) If a person is at least five years old and has not been immunized against haemophilus influenza type b, the person is not required to be immunized against haemophilus influenza type b.

(g) If a person who is not a Minnesota resident enrolls in a Minnesota school online learning course or program that delivers instruction to the person only by computer and does not provide any teacher or instructor contact time or require classroom attendance, the person is not subject to the immunization, statement, and other requirements of this section.

[For text of subs 3a to 12, see M.S.2004]

History: *1Sp2005 c 5 art 2 s 29*

121A.17 SCHOOL BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES.

Subdivision 1. **Early childhood developmental screening.** Every school board must provide for a mandatory program of early childhood developmental screening for children at least once before school entrance, targeting children who are between three and four years old. This screening program must be established either by one board, by two or more boards acting in cooperation, by service cooperatives, by early childhood family education programs, or by other existing programs. This screening examination is a mandatory requirement for a student to continue attending kindergarten or first grade in a public school. A child need not submit to developmental screening provided by a board if the child's health records indicate to the board that the child has received comparable developmental screening from a public or private health care organization or individual health care provider. A student identification number, as defined by the commissioner of education, shall be assigned at the time of early childhood developmental screening or at the time of the provision of health records indicating a

comparable screening. Each school district must provide the essential data in accordance with section 125B.07, subdivision 6, to the Department of Education. Districts are encouraged to reduce the costs of preschool developmental screening programs by utilizing volunteers and public or private health care organizations or individual health care providers in implementing the program.

[For text of subs 2 to 4, see M.S.2004]

Subd. 5. **Developmental screening program information.** The board must inform each resident family with a child eligible to participate in the developmental screening program about the availability of the program and the state's requirement that a child receive a developmental screening or provide health records indicating that the child received a comparable developmental screening from a public or private health care organization or individual health care provider not later than 30 days after the first day of attending kindergarten in a public school. A school district must inform all resident families with eligible children under age seven that their children may receive a developmental screening conducted either by the school district or by a public or private health care organization or individual health care provider.

[For text of subs 6 to 10, see M.S.2004]

History: *1Sp2005 c 5 art 7 s 1,2*

121A.19 DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING AID.

Each school year, the state must pay a district \$50 for each three-year-old child screened; \$40 for each four-year-old child screened; and \$30 for each five-year-old child screened by the district prior to kindergarten according to the requirements of section 121A.17. If this amount of aid is insufficient, the district may permanently transfer from the general fund an amount that, when added to the aid, is sufficient.

History: *1Sp2005 c 5 art 7 s 3*

121A.222 POSSESSION AND USE OF NONPRESCRIPTION PAIN RELIEVERS BY SECONDARY STUDENTS.

A secondary student may possess and use nonprescription pain relief in a manner consistent with the labeling, if the district has received a written authorization from the student's parent or guardian permitting the student to self-administer the medication. The parent or guardian must submit written authorization for the student to self-administer the medication each school year. The district may revoke a student's privilege to possess and use nonprescription pain relievers if the district determines that the student is abusing the privilege. This section does not apply to the possession or use of any drug or product containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine as its sole active ingredient or as one of its active ingredients.

History: *2005 c 126 s 1*

121A.28 LAW ENFORCEMENT RECORDS.

A law enforcement agency shall provide notice of any drug incident occurring within the agency's jurisdiction, in which the agency has probable cause to believe a student violated section 152.021, 152.022, 152.023, 152.024, 152.025, 152.0262, 152.027, 152.092, 152.097, or 340A.503, subdivision 1, 2, or 3. The notice shall be in writing and shall be provided, within two weeks after an incident occurs, to the chemical abuse preassessment team in the school where the student is enrolled.

History: *2005 c 136 art 7 s 21*

121A.41 DEFINITIONS.

[For text of subs 1 to 9, see M.S.2004]

Subd. 10. **Suspension.** "Suspension" means an action by the school administration, under rules promulgated by the school board, prohibiting a pupil from attending school

for a period of no more than ten school days. If a suspension is longer than five days, the suspending administrator must provide the superintendent with a reason for the longer suspension. This definition does not apply to dismissal from school for one school day or less, except as provided in federal law for a student with a disability. Each suspension action may include a readmission plan. The readmission plan shall include, where appropriate, a provision for implementing alternative educational services upon readmission and may not be used to extend the current suspension. Consistent with section 125A.091, subdivision 5, the readmission plan must not obligate a parent to provide a sympathomimetic medication for the parent's child as a condition of readmission. The school administration may not impose consecutive suspensions against the same pupil for the same course of conduct, or incident of misconduct, except where the pupil will create an immediate and substantial danger to self or to surrounding persons or property, or where the district is in the process of initiating an expulsion, in which case the school administration may extend the suspension to a total of 15 days. In the case of a student with a disability, the student's individual education plan team must meet immediately but not more than ten school days after the date on which the decision to remove the student from the student's current education placement is made. The individual education plan team and other qualified personnel shall at that meeting: conduct a review of the relationship between the child's disability and the behavior subject to disciplinary action; and determine the appropriateness of the child's education plan.

The requirements of the individual education plan team meeting apply when:

- (1) the parent requests a meeting;
- (2) the student is removed from the student's current placement for five or more consecutive days; or
- (3) the student's total days of removal from the student's placement during the school year exceed ten cumulative days in a school year. The school administration shall implement alternative educational services when the suspension exceeds five days. A separate administrative conference is required for each period of suspension.

[For text of subd 11, see M.S.2004]

History: *1Sp2005 c 5 art 11 s 2*

121A.47 EXCLUSION AND EXPULSION PROCEDURES.

[For text of subs 1 to 13, see M.S.2004]

Subd. 14. Admission or readmission plan. (a) A school administrator shall prepare and enforce an admission or readmission plan for any pupil who is excluded or expelled from school. The plan may include measures to improve the pupil's behavior, including completing a character education program, consistent with section 120B.232, subdivision 1, and require parental involvement in the admission or readmission process, and may indicate the consequences to the pupil of not improving the pupil's behavior.

(b) The definition of suspension under section 121A.41, subdivision 10, does not apply to a student's dismissal from school for one school day or less, except as provided under federal law for a student with a disability. Each suspension action may include a readmission plan. A readmission plan must provide, where appropriate, alternative education services, which must not be used to extend the student's current suspension period. Consistent with section 125A.091, subdivision 5, a readmission plan must not obligate a parent or guardian to provide psychotropic drugs to their student as a condition of readmission. School officials must not use the refusal of a parent or guardian to consent to the administration of psychotropic drugs to their student or to consent to a psychiatric evaluation, screening or examination of the student as a ground, by itself, to prohibit the student from attending class or participating in a school-related activity, or as a basis of a charge of child abuse, child neglect or medical or educational neglect.

History: *1Sp2005 c 5 art 2 s 30*

121A.53 REPORT TO COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION.

Subdivision 1. **Exclusions and expulsions.** The school board must report through the department electronic reporting system each exclusion or expulsion within 30 days of the effective date of the action to the commissioner of education. This report must include a statement of alternative educational services given the pupil and the reason for, the effective date, and the duration of the exclusion or expulsion. The report must also include the student's age, grade, gender, race, and special education status.

Subd. 2. **Report.** The school board must include state student identification numbers of affected pupils on all dismissal reports required by the department. The department must report annually to the commissioner summary data on the number of dismissals by age, grade, gender, race, and special education status of the affected pupils. All dismissal reports must be submitted through the department electronic reporting system.

History: *1Sp2005 c 5 art 2 s 31*

121A.575 ALTERNATIVES TO PUPIL SUSPENSION.

Notwithstanding any law to the contrary and in accordance with sections 121A.40 to 121A.56, after a school administration notifies a pupil of the grounds for suspension, the school administration may, instead of imposing the suspension, do one or more of the following:

(1) strongly encourage a parent or guardian of the pupil to attend school with the pupil for one day;

(2) assign the pupil to attend school on Saturday as supervised by the principal or the principal's designee; and

(3) petition the juvenile court that the student is in need of services under chapter 260C.

History: *1Sp2005 c 5 art 2 s 32*

121A.66 DEFINITIONS.

[For text of subs 1 to 4, see M.S.2004]

Subd. 5. **Emergency.** "Emergency" means a situation in which immediate intervention is necessary to protect a pupil or other individual from physical injury or to prevent serious property damage.

Subd. 6. **Positive behavioral interventions and supports.** "Positive behavioral interventions and supports" means those strategies used to improve the school environment and teach pupils skills likely to increase pupil ability to exhibit appropriate behaviors.

Subd. 7. **Time-out.** "Time-out" means:

(1) a contingent observation, which is not a regulated intervention, and involves instructing the pupil to leave the school activity during the school day and not participate for a period of time, but to observe the activity and listen to the discussion from a time-out area within the same setting;

(2) an exclusionary time-out, which is not a regulated intervention, and involves instructing the pupil to leave the school activity during the school day and not participate in or observe the classroom activity, but to go to another area from which the pupil may leave; or

(3) a locked time-out, which is a regulated intervention, and involves involuntarily removing the pupil from the school activity during the school day and placing the pupil in a specially designed and continuously supervised isolation room that the pupil is prevented from leaving.

History: *1Sp2005 c 5 art 3 s 1-3*

121A.67 AVERSIVE AND DEPRIVATION PROCEDURES.

Subdivision 1. **Rules.** The commissioner, after consultation with interested parent organizations and advocacy groups, the Minnesota Administrators for Special Education, the Minnesota Association of School Administrators, Education Minnesota, the Minnesota School Boards Association, the Minnesota Police Officers Association, a representative of a bargaining unit that represents paraprofessionals, the Elementary School Principals Association, and the Secondary School Principals Association, must amend rules governing the use of aversive and deprivation procedures by school district employees or persons under contract with a school district. The rules must:

(1) promote the use of positive behavioral interventions and supports and must not encourage or require the use of aversive or deprivation procedures;

(2) require that planned application of aversive and deprivation procedures only be instituted after completing a functional behavior assessment and developing a behavior intervention plan that is included in or maintained with the individual education plan;

(3) require educational personnel to notify a parent or guardian of a pupil with an individual education plan on the same day aversive or deprivation procedures are used in an emergency or in writing within two school days if district personnel are unable to provide same-day notice;

(4) establish health and safety standards for the use of locked time-out procedures that require a safe environment, continuous monitoring of the child, ventilation, adequate space, a locking mechanism that disengages automatically when not continuously engaged by school personnel, and full compliance with state and local fire and building codes, including state rules on time-out rooms;

(5) contain a list of prohibited procedures;

(6) consolidate and clarify provisions related to behavior intervention plans;

(7) require school districts to register with the commissioner any room used for locked time-out, which the commissioner must monitor by making announced and unannounced on-site visits;

(8) place a student in locked time-out only if the intervention is:

(i) part of the comprehensive behavior intervention plan that is included in or maintained with the student's individual education plan, and the plan uses positive behavioral interventions and supports, and data support its continued use; or

(ii) used in an emergency for the duration of the emergency only; and

(9) require a providing school district or cooperative to establish an oversight committee composed of at least one member with training in behavioral analysis and other appropriate education personnel to annually review aggregate data regarding the use of aversive and deprivation procedures.

Subd. 2. **Removal by peace officer.** If a pupil who has an individual education plan is restrained or removed from a classroom, school building, or school grounds by a peace officer at the request of a school administrator or a school staff person during the school day twice in a 30-day period, the pupil's individual education program team must meet to determine if the pupil's individual education plan is adequate or if additional evaluation is needed.

History: 1Sp2005 c 5 art 3 s 4