

Discipline Law

Student Fair Access to School Amendment Act of 2018*

Limits out-of-school suspension of students in kindergarten through eighth grade unless it's due to serious safety incidents & bans its use for minor offenses in high school. If suspended, this law protects a child's right to an education while they are off the premises and requires a plan for the student to successfully return to the classroom.

**Goes into effect for grades PK3-5 by SY 18-19, grades 6-8 by SY 19-20, & grades 9-12 by SY 20-21*

Schools can...

- uninvite a student based on their behavior
- involuntarily dismiss a student for the remainder of the school day for disciplinary reasons
- suspend a student for incidents of violence
- count tardies as absences after reaching a maximum amount of tardies

Schools can not...

- suspend pre-K students
- issue an out of school suspension or expulsion for attendance
- require a parent to accompany the student or attend a conference upon conclusion of an out of school suspension
- issue an out of school suspension for longer than five consecutive school days for K-5, ten consecutive school days for 6-12
- deny a student access to academic work during suspension or deny the right to earn credit toward promotion or graduation

OSSE

- provides LEAs with guidance and materials regarding developments in the field of school climate and behavioral management
- provides regular professional development opportunities for LEAs and school personnel
- submits an evaluative school report at the conclusion of each school year

LEA

- submits reports to OSSE regarding disciplinary actions
- creates school discipline policies that uphold criteria set by OSSE
- fosters positive student environments

DC Council

- reviews recommendations and makes changes to discipline policies as necessary
- manages spending and fiscal impact