

SENATE BILL NO. 654

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR BURGER.

2563S.01H

KRISTINA MARTIN, Secretary

AN ACT

To amend chapter 167, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to codes of student conduct in public schools.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 167, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto
2 one new section, to be known as section 167.710, to read as
3 follows:

167.710. 1. This section shall be known and may be
2 cited as the "Missouri Student Responsibility and Teacher
3 Empowerment Act".

4 2. As used in this section, the following terms mean:

5 (1) "Administrator", any superintendent, principal, or
6 other school official vested with the authority to enforce
7 school district or charter school policies;

8 (2) "Board", the governing school board or board of
9 directors of a school district or charter school;

10 (3) "Community standards", values reflecting respect
11 for lawful authority, personal accountability, courtesy, and
12 cooperation, as supported by parents, teachers, and local
13 stakeholders;

14 (4) "Local education agency", any public school
15 district or charter school within the state of Missouri;

16 (5) "Moral responsibility", the understanding and
17 appreciation of concepts such as honesty, respect for

18 authority, courtesy, personal diligence, and adherence to
19 local community standards;

20 (6) "Parental rights", the rights of parents or legal
21 guardians to be informed and involved in decisions relating
22 to their child's education and conduct, including, but not
23 limited to, timely notification of disciplinary matters;

24 (7) "Personal resilience", the ability of a student to
25 manage stress, adapt to challenging situations, regulate
26 personal behavior, and develop respectful relationships,
27 cultivated through approaches aligned with community
28 standards;

29 (8) "Teacher", a person employed by a school district
30 or charter school to provide classroom instruction or other
31 educational services.

32 3. Each local education agency shall adopt, publicly
33 post, and annually review a code of student conduct that
34 sets forth expectations for behavior consistent with moral
35 responsibility, community standards, and respect for school
36 authority. The code shall:

37 (1) Reinforce respect for teachers, administrators,
38 and staff, emphasizing that willful disobedience or
39 disrespect toward school personnel is not tolerated;

40 (2) Promote high expectations of personal
41 responsibility, encouraging students to uphold traditional
42 values such as honesty, diligence, and civility;

43 (3) Include measures to address and correct disruptive
44 behavior promptly, ensuring that teachers have the necessary
45 authority and support to remove students from classrooms
46 when warranted;

47 (4) Outline a system of graduated consequences for
48 misconduct, balanced by opportunities for students to

49 develop personal resilience and reflect on their actions
50 through interventions approved by the local education agency;

51 (5) Require parental notification and involvement in
52 significant disciplinary actions, ensuring that parents have
53 timely information and opportunities to engage with teachers
54 and administrators; and

55 (6) Clearly prohibit any policy or program that
56 differentiates treatment of students primarily on the basis
57 of race or other immutable characteristics, ensuring that
58 all disciplinary measures are applied equally and fairly to
59 every student.

60 4. Teachers shall have the authority, subject to local
61 education agency guidelines, to remove a student from the
62 classroom for behavior that substantially disrupts the
63 learning environment or shows a willful disregard for
64 authority.

65 5. Each local education agency shall ensure that
66 teachers and staff are trained in methods to maintain order,
67 encourage compliance, and foster respect, using an approach
68 grounded in personal responsibility and traditional values
69 such as honesty, diligence, and civility.

70 6. Nothing in this section shall be construed to
71 infringe upon parental rights. However, within the
72 classroom, teachers shall serve as the appointed authority
73 figure to maintain an environment conducive to learning.

74 7. Local education agencies shall provide prompt
75 notification to parents or legal guardians of any serious
76 disciplinary incidents involving their child and shall offer
77 a meeting or conference to discuss the student's behavior
78 and outline steps for correction and improvement.

79 8. Local education agencies may facilitate parental
80 engagement through:

81 (1) Regular communication;
82 (2) Opportunities for parents to review and understand
83 the code of student conduct; or

84 (3) The provision of resources that support moral
85 responsibility and community standards at home.

86 9. (1) Local education agencies may, at their
87 discretion and with board approval, incorporate evidence-
88 based training for teachers and school counselors on
89 strategies to guide students toward personal resilience.
90 Such strategies may include:

91 (a) Encouraging personal responsibility and self-
92 management;

93 (b) Providing students with opportunities to develop
94 coping skills, conflict resolution techniques, and
95 appropriate responses to authority; or

96 (c) Utilizing school counselors or other qualified
97 personnel to offer supportive interventions that emphasize
98 respect for self and others, problem-solving, and
99 perseverance.

100 (2) The content and method of delivering such
101 strategies shall not reference or require any training or
102 curriculum primarily focused on race, gender, or other
103 similar classifications. Instead, the content and method of
104 delivery shall emphasize universal community standards that
105 benefit all students equally.

106 10. Administrators shall ensure that disciplinary
107 policies are implemented consistently and fairly, providing
108 teachers with timely and meaningful support in managing
109 disruptive behavior.

110 11. Boards shall periodically review the effectiveness
111 of the code of student conduct and related policies,
112 ensuring alignment with the district's educational goals,

113 parental expectations, and the principles set forth in this
114 section.

115 12. Boards may refine and strengthen disciplinary
116 policies as needed, provided that changes remain consistent
117 with this section's emphasis on teacher authority, moral
118 responsibility, and parental rights.

119 13. All local education agencies shall adopt and
120 enforce a code of student conduct pursuant to subsection 3
121 of this section no later than August 28, 2026.

122 14. The department of elementary and secondary
123 education may offer guidance and technical assistance to
124 local education agencies to ensure compliance with the
125 provisions of this section, provided that such assistance
126 shall not impose undue burdens or mandates on local
127 education agencies.

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