

**LEAGUE OF
EDUCATION
VOTERS™**

TRANSFORMING SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

The Next Step

Working to improve
public education
in Washington State
from cradle to career
with ample, equitable,
and stable funding

In this LEVinar:

- Background of the rules process.
- OSPI's proposed rules.
- Recommendations for improving the proposed rules.
- Opportunities for involvement.

What ESSB 5946 does:

- Limits all suspensions or expulsions to one school year.
- Requires that emergency expulsions be ended or converted to another form of discipline within 10 school days.
- Schools must develop reengagement plans to help students return to school.
- Creates a statewide taskforce to increase the depth and quality of data collection on school discipline.
- Requires that discipline data be made publicly available and be broken down by demographic characteristics.

What's Next:

- After a bill becomes law, need to flush out details.
- Rules = WACs (Washington Administrative Code)
- OSPI will update rules regarding suspensions and expulsions.

What Are Rules:

- The law is an outline, framework.
- Rules fill in the color.

Law = star without color

Rules = star with color



Rules Are Important:

- Rules fill in the details of the law.
- For example, what the rules say will determine if schools are required to hold reengagement meetings or not.
- The hope is that rules provide clear guidance to schools.

Rules Timeline:

- Mid-March, 2014: OSPI proposed rules.
- From Now until May 5, 2014: Public comment period
 - Mail
 - Email
 - Fax
- May 5, 2014, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.: Public hearing at OSPI
 - 234 8th Avenue
 - Olympia, WA

OSPI's Proposed Rules:

- Good start but there's ways to strengthen them.
- Districts must make efforts to have the student returned to an education setting ASAP.
- Emergency Expulsions must end or be converted within 10 school days.
 - Must pose a danger to the school or threat of substantial disruption to the educational process.
 - Must be notified of the emergency expulsion and the right to a hearing by the end of the school day.

OSPI's Proposed Rules:

- Expulsions cannot exceed 1 year unless there is a risk to public health or safety.
- Petition must include:
 - detailed description of the student's misconduct
 - public health/safety concerns
 - description of the lesser forms of corrective action and why rejected
 - proposed length of the expulsion
 - proposed schedule of reengagement meetings

OSPI's Proposed Rules:

- Reengagement meeting should happen within 20 days of the suspension/expulsion but no later than 5 days before enrollment.
- Reengagement plans are required, should be written in language parents understand.
- In developing reengagement plan, the district should consider:
 - Shortening the length of time the student is removed
 - Other forms of corrective action
 - Supportive interventions that aid academic success and keep the student on track to graduate

Recommendations to Strengthen Proposed Rules:

There are four key substantive changes that will strengthen the proposed rules to better align with legislative intent and encourage positive outcomes for students.

Recommendations to Strengthen Proposed Rules:

Require that the law apply to all students, including:

- Students suspended or expelled prior to the effective date of ESSB 5946 on September 30, 2013.
- Certain student populations, such as pregnant students, those previously incarcerated or arrested, or students with certain economic status or marital status.

Require reengagement meetings for all excluded students.

Recommendations to Strengthen Proposed Rules:

Provide clear guidance to schools on the definition and criteria required for:

- Petitions for health or safety extensions.
- Supports for reengagement meetings

Encourage reduced reliance on exclusionary discipline

Recommendations to Strengthen Proposed Rules:

Additional requests of OSPI:

- Limit the loss of academic credit for suspensions.
- Guarantee a student's right to return to the school where the discipline originated.
- Encourage the provision of educational services.
- Encourage participation by building personnel in reengagement meetings and planning.

Tools to help:

- One page summary of the proposed rule changes;
- Organizational sign-on letter that outlines the four key substantive principles;
- Detailed chart itemizing existing and proposed language changes throughout the WACs;
- Data packet highlighting new information about school discipline in selected school districts.

Get Involved NOW!

- If you are part of an organization, add your organization to a sign-on letter asking OSPI to strengthen the rules.
- Tell OSPI what you think of the rules by sending your own email or letter.
- Attend the discipline rules public hearing with us on May 5th.
- Access all this information and learn more at <http://educationvoters.org/school-discipline-rules>
- Contact LEV's State Field Director, Kelly Munn: kelly@educationvoters.org, 206.728.6448.

QUESTIONS?

