

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 324 (SB 252)

2024 Regular Session

Mizell

New law requires each city, parish, or other local public school board to adopt rules and regulations and implement a program not later than 30 days prior to the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year to:

- (1) Assist school personnel in identifying signs and symptoms of a student with behavioral or emotional challenges that may cause the student to be at risk of their behavior escalating into aggression or disruption, disciplinary actions including suspension or expulsion, or juvenile delinquency.
- (2) Designate a specific employee at each school who must be responsible for identifying behavioral and mental health support services available in the community, and when appropriate, facilitating a referral.
- (3) Require that, after any second suspension of a student during the same school year, the principal and the designated employee consult on whether the student's behavior rises to the level of willful disobedience and could be attributed to behavioral or emotional challenges. Requires that if it is determined that the behavior is at such a level and supportive services could be beneficial, the principal and the designated employee must schedule a conference with the student's parent or legal guardian to discuss the student's behavior and counseling as well as the referral of the student and family to support services for assessment and treatment.

New law requires a city, parish, or other local public school board to report annually to the state DOE and the House and Senate committees on Education:

- (1) The number of students identified as possibly having behavioral or emotional challenges.
- (2) The number of students for which a conference was scheduled.
- (3) The number of students referred for assessment and supportive services.

Effective August 1, 2024.

(Adds R.S. 17:416.23)