## 2021 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 411

## BY REPRESENTATIVES HUGHES, BRASS, BRYANT, CARPENTER, GARY CARTER, WILFORD CARTER, CORMIER, COUSSAN, DUPLESSIS, GLOVER, GREEN, JENKINS, JONES, LACOMBE, LANDRY, LARVADAIN, LYONS, NEWELL, PIERRE, AND SELDERS

| 1  | AN ACT   |
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| 2  | To amend and reenact R.S. 17:416 and 3996(B)(40), relative to student discipline; to provide |
| 3  | for a comprehensive revision of student discipline laws; to provide relative to student      |
| 4  | codes of conduct, the use of and procedures for expulsion, damages to property,              |
| 5  | possession of weapons and drugs, and conferences with parents; to require certain            |
| 6  | reporting by the state Department of Education; to provide for definitions; to provide       |
| 7  | for applicability; and to provide for related matters.                                       |
| 8  | Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:   |
| 9  | Section 1. R.S. 17:416 and 3996(B)(40) are hereby amended and reenacted to read              |
| 10 | as follows:  |
| 11 | §416. Discipline of students; suspension; expulsion  |
| 12 | A.(1)(a) All public schools shall endeavor to address student behavior with                  |
| 13 | a focus on evidence-based interventions and supports. Schools shall endeavor to              |
| 14 | prioritize classroom- and school-based interventions in lieu of out-of-school                |
| 15 | disciplinary removals to address student misconduct in order to minimize the loss of         |
| 16 | academic instructional time. Every teacher and other school employee shall                   |
| 17 | endeavor to hold every student to a strict accountability for any disorderly conduct         |
| 18 | in accountable for his behavior in school or on the playgrounds of the school, on the        |
| 19 | street or road while going to or returning from school, on any school bus, during            |
| 20 | intermission or recess, or at any school-sponsored activity or function. Nothing in          |

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| 1  | this Subparagraph shall prohibit a public school governing authority or its employees   |
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| 2  | from disciplining a student in accordance with the provisions of this Section.          |
| 3  | (b)(i) Each teacher may take disciplinary action to correct a student who               |
| 4  | disrupts normal classroom activities, who is disrespectful to a teacher, who willfully  |
| 5  | disobeys a teacher, who uses abusive or foul language directed at a teacher or          |
| 6  | another student, who engages in bullying, who violates school rules; or who             |
| 7  | interferes with an orderly education process.   |
| 8  | (ii) In addition to those procedures set forth in R.S. 17:416.13 regarding              |
| 9  | bullying, disciplinary action by a school employee may include but is not limited to:   |
| 10 | (aa) Oral or written reprimands.  |
| 11 | (bb) Referral for a counseling session which shall include but shall not be             |
| 12 | limited to conflict resolution, social responsibility, family responsibility, peer      |
| 13 | mediation, and stress management.   |
| 14 | (cc) Written notification to parents of disruptive or unacceptable behavior,            |
| 15 | a copy of which shall be provided to the principal.                                     |
| 16 | (dd) Other disciplinary measures approved by the principal and faculty of the           |
| 17 | school and in compliance with school board policy.                                      |
| 18 | (c)(i) When a student's behavior prevents the orderly instruction of other              |
| 19 | students or poses an immediate threat to the safety or physical well being of any       |
| 20 | student or teacher, when a student exhibits disrespectful behavior toward the teacher   |
| 21 | such as using foul or abusive language or gestures directed at or threatening a student |
| 22 | or a teacher, or when a student violates the school's code of conduct, or when a        |
| 23 | student exhibits other disruptive, dangerous, or unruly behavior, including             |
| 24 | inappropriate physical contact, inappropriate verbal conduct, sexual or other           |
| 25 | harassment, bullying, throwing objects, inciting other students to misbehave, or        |
| 26 | destroying property, the teacher may have the student immediately removed from his      |
| 27 | classroom and placed in the custody of the principal or his designee. A student         |
| 28 | removed from the classroom pursuant to this Subparagraph shall be assigned school       |
| 29 | work missed and shall receive either partial or full credit for such work if it is      |
| 30 | completed satisfactorily and timely as determined by the principal or his designee,     |
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upon the recommendation of the student's teacher; however, the teacher shall not be required to interrupt class instruction time to prepare any such assignment.

3 (ii)(aa) Upon being sent to the principal's office pursuant to the provisions 4 of this Subparagraph, the principal or his designee shall advise the pupil student of 5 the particular misconduct of which he is accused as well as the basis for such 6 accusation, and the pupil student shall be given an opportunity at that time to explain 7 his version of the facts. The principal or his designee then shall conduct a counseling 8 session with the pupil student as may be appropriate to establish a course of action, 9 consistent with school board policy to identify and correct the behavior for which the 10 pupil student is being disciplined.

(bb) The principal or his designee shall provide oral or written notification
to the parent or legal guardian of any pupil student removed from the classroom
pursuant to the provisions of this Subparagraph. Such notification shall include a
description of any disciplinary action taken.

(cc) The principal or his designee may provide oral or written feedback to
teachers initiating the removal of pupils students from the classroom. The principal
or his designee may provide to such teachers guidance and support on practicing
effective classroom management including but not limited to positive behavior
supports.

20 (dd) The principal or designee shall follow all procedures set forth in R.S.
21 17:416.13 regarding bullying.

22 (iii) A pupil student in kindergarten through grade six five removed from a 23 class pursuant to this Subparagraph shall not be permitted to return to the class for 24 at least thirty minutes unless agreed to by the teacher initiating the disciplinary 25 action. A pupil student in grades seven six through twelve removed from a class 26 pursuant to this Subparagraph shall not be permitted to return to the class during the 27 same class period unless agreed to by the teacher initiating the disciplinary action. 28 Additionally, the pupil student shall not be readmitted to the class until the principal 29 has implemented at least one of the following disciplinary measures:

(aa) Conferencing with the principal or his designee.

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| 1  | (bb) Referral to counseling.   |
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| 2  | (cc) Peer mediation.   |
| 3  | (dd) Referral to the school building level committee.  |
| 4  | (ee) Restorative justice practices.  |
| 5  | (ff) Loss of privileges.   |
| 6  | (gg) Detention.  |
| 7  | (aa) (hh) In-school suspension.  |
| 8  | (bb) Detention.  |
| 9  | (cc) Suspension. (ii) Out-of-school suspension.  |
| 10 | (dd) (jj) Initiation of expulsion hearings.  |
| 11 | (ee) (kk) Assignment Referral for assignment to an alternative school setting.               |
| 12 | (ff) (11) Requiring the completion of all assigned school and homework                       |
| 13 | which that would have been assigned and completed by the student during the period           |
| 14 | of <u>out-of-school</u> suspension.  |
| 15 | $\frac{(gg)}{(mm)}$ Any other disciplinary measure authorized by the principal with          |
| 16 | the concurrence of the teacher or the <u>school</u> building level committee pursuant to law |
| 17 | and board policy.  |
| 18 | (iv) When a pupil student is removed from a classroom pursuant to this                       |
| 19 | Subparagraph, the teacher or the principal or his designee may require that the              |
| 20 | parent, tutor, or legal guardian of the pupil student have a conference with the             |
| 21 | teacher or the principal or his designee in the presence of the principal or his             |
| 22 | designee before the pupil is readmitted. Such conference may be in person or by              |
| 23 | telephone or other virtual means.  |
| 24 | (v) Upon the third removal from the same classroom pursuant to this                          |
| 25 | Subparagraph, the teacher and the principal shall discuss the disruptive behavior            |
| 26 | patterns of the pupil student and the potentially appropriate disciplinary measure           |
| 27 | before the principal implements a disciplinary measure. If appropriate, a referral of        |
| 28 | the matter may be made to an appropriate building level committee. In addition, a            |
| 29 | conference between the teacher or other appropriate school employee and the pupil's          |
| 30 | student's parent, tutor, or legal guardian shall may be required prior to the pupil          |
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 student being readmitted to that same classroom. Such conference may be in person

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 or by telephone or other virtual means. If such conference is required by the school,

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 the school shall give written notice to the parent.

(vi)(aa) For students who experience multiple behavioral incidents or disciplinary referrals, a principal or his designee shall consider a referral of the matter to an appropriate school building level committee. If disruptive behavior persists, the teacher may request that the principal transfer the pupil student into another setting.

9 (bb) Each city, parish, or other local public school board may adopt a policy 10 that requires the parent or legal guardian of a pupil student removed from the 11 classroom pursuant to this Subparagraph to attend after school or Saturday 12 intervention sessions with the pupil student. Such a policy, if adopted, shall be 13 enumerated in the code of conduct and shall include accommodations for parents and 14 legal guardians who demonstrate a documented inability to attend due to work or 15 disability or other health matters pertaining to the parent or legal guardian or a 16 family member under his care. The school board may refer a parent who fails to 17 attend such session to the court of competent jurisdiction in accordance with Chapter 18 2 of Title VII of the Louisiana Children's Code. Each time a parent is referred to the 19 court of competent jurisdiction, the court may impose a fine of not less than twenty-20 five dollars and not more than two hundred fifty dollars, forty hours of court-21 approved school or community service activities, or a combination of forty hours of 22 court-approved school or community service and attendance at a court-approved 23 family counseling program by both a parent or legal guardian and the pupil student, 24 and may suspend any recreational license issued by the Department of Wildlife and 25 Fisheries.

(vii)(aa) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, whenever a
pupil student is formally accused of violating the provisions of R.S. 14:34.3 or
school disciplinary rules, or both, by committing a battery on any school employee
or is formally accused of violating the provisions of R.S. 14:38.2 or school
disciplinary rules, or both, by committing an assault on any school employee, the

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## ENROLLED

principal shall suspend the pupil student from school immediately and the pupil student shall be removed immediately from the school premises without the benefit of the <u>out-of-school</u> suspension procedures provided by this Section; however, the necessary notifications and other procedures shall follow be implemented as soon as is practicable.

(bb) No <del>pupil</del> <u>student</u> suspended in accordance with the provisions of this Item shall be considered for readmission to the school to which the school employee, allegedly assaulted or battered, or both, by the <del>pupil</del> <u>student</u>, is assigned until all hearings and appeals associated with the alleged violation have been exhausted.

10(cc) Except when the school system has no other school of suitable grade11level for the pupil student to attend, no pupil student found guilty by a court of12competent jurisdiction of violating the provisions of R.S. 14:34.3 or 38.2, or both,13or found guilty at a school system suspension hearing of committing a battery or14assault on any school employee, or both, shall be assigned to attend or shall attend15the school to which the school employee battered or assaulted by the pupil student16is assigned.

17(dd) Notwithstanding any provision of R.S. 17:158 to the contrary, a school18system shall not be required to provide transportation to any pupil student reassigned19to attend a school pursuant to the provisions of this Item if providing such20transportation for the pupil student will result in additional transportation costs to the21school system.

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(2) As used in this Section:

(a)(i) "In-school suspension" means removing a pupil student from his
normal classroom setting but maintaining him under supervision within the school.
Pupils Students participating in in-school suspension may shall receive credit for
work performed during the in-school suspension. However, any pupil student who
fails to comply fully with the rules for in-school suspension shall may be subject to
immediate out-of-school suspension.

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## **ENROLLED**

| 1  | (ii) Each city, and parish, or other local public school board shall adopt rules        |
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| 2  | regarding the implementation of in-school suspension by no later than January 1,        |
| 3  | <del>1995</del> .   |
| 4  | (b)(i) "Detention" means activities, assignments, or work held before the               |
| 5  | normal school day, after the normal school day, or on weekends.                         |
| 6  | (ii) Failure or refusal by a pupil student to participate in assigned detention         |
| 7  | shall may subject the pupil student to immediate out-of-school suspension.              |
| 8  | (iii) Assignments, activities, or work which may be assigned during                     |
| 9  | detention include but are not limited to counseling, homework assignments, behavior     |
| 10 | modification programs, or other activities aimed at improving the self-esteem           |
| 11 | behavior and conduct of the pupil student.  |
| 12 | (iv) Each city, and parish, or other local public school board shall adopt rules        |
| 13 | regarding the implementation of detention by no later than January 1, 1995.             |
| 14 | (c) Unless otherwise defined as a permanent expulsion and except as                     |
| 15 | otherwise provided by Subsections B and C of this Section, "expulsion" shall be         |
| 16 | defined as a removal from all regular school settings for a period of not less than one |
| 17 | school semester. During an expulsion the superintendent shall place the pupil           |
| 18 | student in an alternative school or in an alternative educational placement.            |
| 19 | (d) "Bullying" is defined in R.S. 17:416.13.  |
| 20 | (e) "Firearm" means any pistol, revolver, rifle, shotgun, machine gun,                  |
| 21 | submachine gun, black powder weapon, or assault rifle that is designed to fire or is    |
| 22 | capable of firing fixed cartridge ammunition or from which a shot or projectile is      |
| 23 | discharged by an explosive.   |
| 24 | (f) "Out-of-school suspension" means the removal of a student from all                  |
| 25 | classes of instruction on public school grounds and all other school-sponsored          |
| 26 | activities.   |
| 27 | (3)(a) A school principal may suspend from school or suspend from riding                |
| 28 | on any school bus any student who:  |
| 29 | (i) Is guilty of willful disobedience.  |

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| 1  | (ii) Treats a teacher, principal, superintendent, member, or employee of the             |
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| 2  | city, parish, or other local public school board with intentional disrespect.            |
| 3  | (iii) Makes against any one of them an unfounded charge.                                 |
| 4  | (iv) Uses unchaste or profane language.  |
| 5  | (v) Is guilty of immoral or vicious practices, or of conduct or habits injurious         |
| 6  | to his associates.   |
| 7  | (vi) Uses tobacco or who possesses alcoholic beverages or any controlled                 |
| 8  | dangerous substance governed by the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances              |
| 9  | Law, in any form, in school buildings, on school grounds, or on school buses owned       |
| 10 | by, contracted to, or jointly owned by any city, or parish, or other local public school |
| 11 | board.   |
| 12 | (vii) Disturbs the school and habitually violates any rule.                              |
| 13 | (viii) Cuts, defaces, or injures any part of public school buildings, any                |
| 14 | property belonging to the buildings, or any school buses owned by, contracted to, or     |
| 15 | jointly owned by any city, or parish, or other local public school board.                |
| 16 | (ix) Writes any profane or obscene language or draws obscene pictures in or              |
| 17 | on any school material or on any public school premises, or on any fence, pole,          |
| 18 | sidewalk, or building on the way to or from school, or on any school bus, including      |
| 19 | those owned by, contracted to, or jointly owned by any city, or parish, or other local   |
| 20 | public school board.   |
| 21 | (x) Is found carrying firearms, knives, or other implements which can be                 |
| 22 | used as weapons, the careless use of which might inflict harm or injury.                 |
| 23 | (xi) Throws missiles liable to injure other persons on the school grounds or             |
| 24 | while on any school bus, including those owned by, contracted to, or jointly owned       |
| 25 | by any city, or parish, or other local public school board.                              |
| 26 | (xii) Instigates or participates in fights while under school supervision.               |
| 27 | (xiii) Violates traffic and safety regulations.  |
| 28 | (xiv) Leaves the school premises without permission.                                     |
| 29 | (xv) Leaves his classroom during class hours or detention without                        |
| 30 | permission.  |

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| 1  | (xvi) Is habitually tardy or absent.  |
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| 2  | (xvii) Has engaged in bullying.   |
| 3  | (xviii) Commits any other serious offense.  |
| 4  | (b)(i) Prior to any out-of-school suspension, assignment to alternative                   |
| 5  | placement, or expulsion, the school principal, or his designee, shall advise the pupil    |
| 6  | student in question of the particular misconduct of which he is accused as well as the    |
| 7  | basis for such accusation, and the pupil student shall be given an opportunity at that    |
| 8  | time to explain his version of the facts to the school principal or his designee. In      |
| 9  | each case of out-of-school suspension, assignment to alternative placement, or            |
| 10 | expulsion, the school principal, or his designee, shall contact, by telephone at the      |
| 11 | telephone number shown on the pupil's student's registration card or send by              |
| 12 | electronic communication or a certified letter at sent to the address shown on the        |
| 13 | pupil's student's registration card, to the parent, tutor, or legal guardian of the pupil |
| 14 | student in question giving notice of the out-of-school suspension, assignment to          |
| 15 | alternative placement, or expulsion, the reasons therefor, and establishing a date and    |
| 16 | time for a conference with the principal or his designee as a requirement for             |
| 17 | readmitting the pupil student. provided that in In the case of expulsion, the contact     |
| 18 | with the parent or guardian shall include a certified letter. If the parent, tutor, or    |
| 19 | legal guardian fails to attend the required conference within five school days of         |
| 20 | mailing the certified letter or other contact with the parent, the truancy laws shall     |
| 21 | become effective. On not more than one occasion each school year when the parent;         |
| 22 | tutor, or legal guardian refuses to respond, the principal may determine whether          |
| 23 | readmitting the pupil student is in the best interest of the student. On any subsequent   |
| 24 | occasions in the same year, the pupil student shall not be readmitted unless the          |
| 25 | parent, tutor, legal guardian, court, or other appointed representative responds. A       |
| 26 | pupil student whose presence in or about a school poses a continued danger to any         |
| 27 | person or property or an ongoing threat of disruption to the academic process shall       |
| 28 | be immediately removed from the school premises without the benefit of the                |
| 29 | procedure described hereinabove; however, the necessary procedure shall follow as         |
| 30 | soon as is practicable.   |
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## **ENROLLED**

1 (ii)(aa) In any case where If a teacher, principal, or other school employee 2 is authorized in by this Section to require the parent tutor, or legal guardian of a pupil 3 student who is under the age of eighteen and not judicially emancipated or 4 emancipated by marriage to attend a conference or meeting regarding the pupil's 5 student's behavior and, after notice, the parent, tutor, or legal guardian willfully 6 refuses to attend, the principal or his designee, shall file a complaint with a court 7 exercising juvenile jurisdiction, pursuant to Children's Code Article 730(8) and 731. 8 The principal may file a complaint pursuant to Children's Code Article 730(1) or any 9 other applicable ground when, in his judgment, doing so is in the best interests of the pupil student. 10

(bb) The principal, assistant principal, or child attendance and welfare
supervisor or his assistant of any school, public or nonpublic, shall be a
representative of an agency having the responsibility or ability to supply services to
a family as that phrase is used in Children's Code Article 731(A).

(c) Any parent, tutor or legal guardian of a pupil student suspended shall
have the right to appeal to the city or parish local superintendent of schools or his
designee, who shall conduct a hearing on the merits. The decision of the
superintendent of schools on the merits of the case, as well as the term of <u>the out-of-</u>
<u>school</u> suspension, shall be final, reserving to the superintendent of schools the right
to remit any portion of the time of <u>the out-of-school</u> suspension.

21 (d) A pupil student suspended for damages to any property belonging to the 22 school system or to property contracted to the school system or any property on 23 school grounds owned by a school employee or student shall not be readmitted until 24 payment in full has been made for such damage, an alternative restitution 25 arrangement has been executed, an alternative payment plan has been arranged, or 26 until directed by the superintendent of schools. If the property damaged is a school 27 bus owned by, contracted to, or jointly owned by any parish or city, parish, or other 28 local public school board, a pupil student suspended for such damage shall not be 29 permitted to enter or ride any school bus until payment in full has been made for

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such damage, an alternative restitution arrangement has been executed, an alternative payment plan has been arranged, or until directed by the superintendent of schools.

3 (e) A pupil student who is suspended for ten days or fewer shall be assigned 4 school work missed while he is suspended and shall receive either partial or full the 5 same credit originally available for such work if it is completed satisfactorily and 6 timely as determined by the principal or his designee, upon the recommendation of 7 the pupil's student's teacher. A pupil student who is suspended for more than ten 8 days, or is expelled and receives educational services at an alternative school site, 9 shall be assigned work by a certified teacher and shall receive credit for school work 10 if it is completed satisfactorily and timely as determined by the teacher. Such work 11 shall be aligned with the curriculum used at the school from which the pupil student 12 was suspended or expelled.

(f) When a pupil student is suspended for a second time within one school
year, the principal may require that a counseling session be held with the parent and
pupil student by the school counselor if a counselor is assigned or available to that
school. In the event there is no school counselor available, assigned to that school,
the principal may require a conference between the parent, pupil student, and all the
pupil's student's teachers and the principal or other administrator.

(4) The governing authority of each public elementary and secondary school
shall adopt such rules and regulations as it deems necessary to implement the
provisions of this Subsection and of R.S. 17:416.13. Such rules and regulations shall
include but not be limited to the following provisions:

(a) A procedure permitting any teacher or other school employee to report
any violation of the provisions of this Subsection to the appropriate school principal.
The procedure shall provide for the uniform use throughout the school system of two
forms to report incidents of alleged discipline violations. One form shall be used to
report only school transportation-related incidents and one form shall be used to
report all other incidents.

29 (i) The form for reporting a transportation-related incident shall provide for
30 the following information:

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| 1  | (aa) Bus number and name of operator.   |
|----|---|
| 2  | (bb) Pupil Student name and grade level.  |
| 3  | (cc) School name and name of the principal.   |
| 4  | (dd) Date of the incident and whether it occurred on the way to or on the way             |
| 5  | from the school or school function.   |
| 6  | (ee) A menu of check-off items to indicate the nature of the incident,                    |
| 7  | including fighting or bullying at the bus stop, fighting or bullying on the bus,          |
| 8  | smoking on the bus, leaving the bus without permission, boarding the bus at the           |
| 9  | incorrect stop, showing disrespect toward the operator, committing an immoral or          |
| 10 | vicious act, throwing objects within the bus or out of bus windows or doors, refusing     |
| 11 | to occupy an assigned seat, using profane language, showing willful disobedience,         |
| 12 | defacing the bus, carrying objects or implements which can be used as weapons, or         |
| 13 | committing some other undesignated violation.   |
| 14 | (ff) Space to provide specific remarks and comments concerning the incident               |
| 15 | and alleged discipline violation.   |
| 16 | (gg) Space to indicate a pupil's student's prior history of discipline violations         |
| 17 | related to school transportation incidents.   |
| 18 | (hh) A statement to be signed and dated by the bus operator or other school               |
| 19 | employee, if applicable, that the named pupil student is causing a discipline problem,    |
| 20 | that disciplinary action against the pupil student is recommended, and that the           |
| 21 | signatory desires to be informed of action taken on the incident report or the reasons    |
| 22 | for not taking action.  |
| 23 | (ii) A space to report action taken on the incident report, including a menu              |
| 24 | of check off items to indicate that a parent or other person responsible for the pupil's  |
| 25 | student's school attendance has been contacted, that a conference has been conducted      |
| 26 | with the pupil's student's parent or other responsible person, that the pupil student has |
| 27 | been reprimanded, that the pupil student has been suspended from receiving school         |
| 28 | transportation services and for what period of time, that the pupil student has been      |
| 29 | suspended from school and for what period of time, or that some other action has          |

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| 1  | been taken and an explanation of such action. The report on action taken shall be      |
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| 2  | dated and signed by the school principal.  |
| 3  | (jj) Space for comments and remarks by the pupil student or a pupil's                  |
| 4  | student's parent or other responsible person concerning the incident and action taken. |
| 5  | (kk) A menu of check off check-off items to indicate that copies of the                |
| 6  | completed document have been supplied to the pupil's student's parent or other         |
| 7  | responsible person, the school's pupil student file, the school employee filing the    |
| 8  | incident report, the supervisor of transportation services for the school system, and  |
| 9  | the principal.   |
| 10 | (ll) Such other information as may be determined by the city, or parish, or            |
| 11 | other local public school board.   |
| 12 | (ii) The form for reporting a nontransportation-related incident shall provide         |
| 13 | for the following information:   |
| 14 | (aa) School name.  |
| 15 | (bb) Name and telephone number of the pupil student.                                   |
| 16 | (cc) Indication of whether the pupil student is in regular or special education        |
| 17 | and the pupil's student's homeroom number.   |
| 18 | (dd) Time and location of the incident.  |
| 19 | (ee) Space to provide specific remarks and comments concerning the                     |
| 20 | incident and alleged discipline violation.   |
| 21 | (ff) A menu of check off check-off items indicating action taken by the                |
| 22 | teacher, including having a conference with the pupil student, assigning remedial      |
| 23 | work, referring the pupil student to a counselor, referring the pupil to a social      |
| 24 | worker, or certified school psychologist, placing the pupil student in detention, or   |
| 25 | taking other action with an explanation of such other action.                          |
| 26 | (gg) A menu of check off check-off items indicating the type and date of               |
| 27 | contact with the pupil's student's parent or other person responsible for the pupil's  |
| 28 | student's school attendance, including by phone, by letter, by school conference, or   |
| 29 | by behavior reports.   |

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(hh) A space for recommendations from the teacher or other school employee initiating the incident report.

(ii) A statement to be signed and dated by the teacher or other school employee initiating the incident report that the named <u>pupil student</u> is causing a discipline problem, that disciplinary action against the <u>pupil student</u> is recommended, and that the signatory desires to be informed of action taken on the incident report or the reasons for not taking action.

8 (jj) A space to report action taken on the incident report, including a menu 9 of check off items to indicate contact with the pupil's student's parent or other 10 responsible person, conduct of a conference with the pupil student and the pupil's 11 student's parent or other responsible person and a summary of conference 12 proceedings, referral to a counselor, issuance of a reprimand, placement on 13 detention, placement on probation, suspension, or that some other action has been 14 taken and an explanation of such action. The report on action taken shall be dated 15 and signed by the school principal.

16 (kk) Space for comments and remarks by the pupil student or a pupil's
 17 student's parent or other responsible person concerning the incident and action taken.

(11) A menu of check off check-off items to indicate that copies of the
 completed document have been supplied to the pupil's student's parent or other
 responsible person, the school's pupil student file, the teacher or other school
 employee filing the incident report, and the principal.

(mm) Such other information as may be determined by the city, or parish,
or other local public school board.

(iii) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall develop
the forms necessary to implement the provisions of this Subparagraph and such
forms shall be used by each city, and parish, or other local public school board.

- (b) Procedures implementing the provisions of R.S. 17:416.13 regarding
  bullying.
- (c) A procedure requiring that, within a reasonable period of time, a principal
  shall review any such report and then act upon it as provided by this Section, or R.S.

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| 1  | 17:416.13, or explain the reasons for failing to act to the local superintendent of      |
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| 2  | schools or his designee and to the teacher, other school employee, student, parent,      |
| 3  | or legal guardian reporting the violation.   |
| 4  | (5) The provisions of this Subsection shall not be construed to conflict with            |
| 5  | any federal or state rules or regulations or other guidelines, including but not limited |
| 6  | to those affecting special education students with exceptionalities as defined in R.S.   |
| 7  | 17:1943 et seq.  |
| 8  | (6) In carrying out the provisions of this Section, school employees and                 |
| 9  | administrators shall account for and abide by any relevant provisions contained in       |
| 10 | the Individualized Education Program, Behavior Intervention Plan, or Section 504         |
| 11 | Plan, as well as the general requirements of the federal Individuals with Disabilities   |
| 12 | Education Act.   |
| 13 | B.(1)(a) Any student after being suspended for committing any of the                     |
| 14 | offenses enumerated in this Section may be expelled, upon recommendation by the          |
| 15 | principal of the public school in which said student is enrolled, which recommended      |
| 16 | expulsion shall be subject to the provisions of Subsection C of this Section.            |
| 17 | (b)(i) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection A of this Section, the               |
| 18 | principal or his designee shall immediately suspend a student who is found carrying      |
| 19 | or possessing a firearm or another dangerous instrumentality other than a knife, or      |
| 20 | who possesses, distributes, sells, gives, or loans any controlled dangerous substance    |
| 21 | governed by the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Law, in any form. He             |
| 22 | The principal or his designee shall immediately recommend the student's expulsion        |
| 23 | in accordance with Subsection C of this Section.   |
| 24 | (ii)(aa) Except as provided in Item (c)(i) of this Paragraph, no student shall           |
| 25 | be permitted to carry or possess a knife of any blade length.                            |
| 26 | (bb) A student who is found carrying or possessing a knife with a blade less             |
| 27 | than two and one-half inches in length may be suspended by the school principal as       |
| 28 | provided in Paragraph (A)(3) of this Section; however, in appropriate cases such         |
| 29 | student, at a minimum, shall be placed in in-school suspension.                          |

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| 1  | (cc) The principal shall immediately suspend a student who is found carrying              |
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| 2  | or possessing a knife the blade of which equals or exceeds two and one-half inches        |
| 3  | in length. He also shall immediately recommend the student's expulsion in                 |
| 4  | accordance with Subsection C of this Section, except that, in the case of a student       |
| 5  | less than eleven years of age in pre-kindergarten through grade five, the principal       |
| 6  | may, but shall not be required to, recommend the student's expulsion in accordance        |
| 7  | with Subsection C of this Section.  |
| 8  | (c) The provisions of this Section shall not apply to the following:                      |
| 9  | (i) A student carrying or possessing a firearm or knife for purposes of                   |
| 10 | involvement in a school class or course or school-approved cocurricular or                |
| 11 | extracurricular activity or any other activity approved by the appropriate school         |
| 12 | officials.  |
| 13 | (ii) A student possessing any controlled dangerous substance governed by                  |
| 14 | the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Law that has been obtained directly           |
| 15 | or pursuant to a valid prescription or order from a licensed physician medical            |
| 16 | provider. However, such the student shall carry evidence of that the prescription or      |
| 17 | physician's medical provider's order on his person at all times when in possession of     |
| 18 | any controlled dangerous substance which shall be subject to verification. Evidence       |
| 19 | of the prescription or medical provider's order includes possession of the controlled     |
| 20 | dangerous substance in its original packaging as received from the pharmacy.              |
| 21 | (2) Any pupil student who has been suspended on three occasions for                       |
| 22 | committing any of the offenses enumerated in this Subsection or Subsection C of this      |
| 23 | Section during the same school year shall, upon committing the fourth such offense,       |
| 24 | be expelled from all the public schools of the city, parish, or other local public school |
| 25 | system wherein he resided until the beginning of the next regular school year, and        |
| 26 | the pupil's student's reinstatement shall be subject to the review and approval of the    |
| 27 | city, parish, or other local public school board.   |
| 28 | (3)(a)(i) No student who has been expelled pursuant to the provisions of this             |

Section shall be admitted to any public school in any other parish or city, parish, or

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other local public school system in the state except upon the review and approval of the school board of the school system to which he seeks admittance.

(ii) No student who has been expelled from any public or nonpublic school outside the state of Louisiana or any nonpublic school within Louisiana for committing any of the offenses enumerated in this Section shall be admitted to any public school in the state except upon the review and approval of the governing body of the admitting school.

8 (b) No student who has been expelled pursuant to the provisions of 9 Paragraph (C)(2) of this Section shall be readmitted to a <u>regular</u> public school in the 10 city, parish, or other local public school system from which he was expelled prior to 11 the completion of the specified period of expulsion <u>at the school system's alternative</u> 12 <u>education setting</u>, unless he has complied with the provisions of Subparagraph 13 (C)(2)(d) of this Section.

14 (c) To facilitate the review and approval mandated by this Paragraph, any 15 student who has been expelled from any public or nonpublic school within or outside 16 the state of Louisiana shall provide to any public school or school system in the state 17 to which the student is seeking admission information on the dates of any expulsions 18 and the reason or reasons for which the student was expelled. Additionally, the 19 transfer of a student's records by any public school or school system in the state to 20 any other public or nonpublic school or school system shall include information on 21 the dates of any expulsions and the reason or reasons for which the student was 22 expelled.

23 (d)(i) In addition to any other limitations established by this Subsection on the admission of previously expelled pupils to public elementary and secondary 24 25 schools in Louisiana, no pupil No student who has been expelled from any public or 26 nonpublic school within or outside the state of Louisiana for possessing on school 27 property or on a school bus a firearm, knife, or other dangerous weapon or 28 instrumentality customarily used or intended for probable use as a dangerous weapon, or for possessing, possessing with intent to distribute, or distributing, 29 30 selling, giving, or loaning while on school property or on a school bus any controlled

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1dangerous substance governed by the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances2Law shall may be admitted to any public elementary or secondary school in the state,3or readmitted to any such school on a probationary basis prior to the completion of4the minimum period of expulsion as provided in Subsection C of this Section, until5the pupil student produces written documentation that he and his parent or legal6guardian have enrolled and participated in an appropriate rehabilitation or counseling7program related to the reason or reasons for the pupil's student's expulsion.

8 (ii) The rehabilitation or counseling required by the provisions of this 9 Subparagraph shall be provided by existing or new programs approved by the 10 juvenile or family court having jurisdiction, if applicable, or by the school system 11 and shall be at no additional cost to the school system. Such rehabilitation or 12 counseling programs may include the following components relative to successful 13 programs, approaches, and activities for parental involvement which better equip 14 parents <u>and legal guardians</u> to provide support for the education of their children:

(aa) Enhancing parenting skills and expanding curriculum offerings relative
 to character development, the development of a healthy self-esteem and sense of
 personal and social responsibility, violence prevention, and conflict resolution.

(bb) Raising the educational level of the parents <u>and legal guardians</u> of
public school students through instruction in basic skills.

20 (cc) Improving developmental skills of students to prepare them for
21 academic success.

(dd) Providing a role model for the child through parental interest ineducation.

24 (ee) Enabling parents <u>and legal guardians</u> to become familiar with and
 25 comfortable in the school setting.

26 (ff) Enhancing the relationship of the parent <u>or legal guardian</u> and child
27 through planned, structured parent-school interaction.

28 (gg) Demonstrating to parents <u>and legal guardians</u> their power to affect their
29 child's ability to learn.

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(iii) The requirements of this Subparagraph for a student's enrollment and
 participation in a rehabilitation or counseling program shall be waived by the school
 system upon a documented showing by the student that no appropriate program is
 available in the area or that the student cannot enroll or participate due to financial
 hardship.

6 (iv) The provisions of this Subparagraph shall be applicable to exceptional 7 children students provided special education services pursuant to Part I of Chapter 8 8 of this Title and to students who have an Individualized Education Program or a 9 Section 504 Individualized Accommodation Plan only to the extent the provisions 10 are not in conflict with federal rules, regulations, and guidelines applicable to the 11 education of exceptional students students with exceptionalities or the provisions of 12 the students' specific plans.

13 C.(1) Upon the recommendation by a principal for the expulsion of any 14 student as authorized by Subsection B hereof, of this Section or a school board's code 15 of conduct, a hearing shall be conducted by the superintendent or his designee within 16 fifteen school days or by any other person designated so to do by the superintendent 17 to determine the facts of the case and make a finding of whether or not the student 18 is guilty of conduct warranting a recommendation of expulsion. The school board 19 must provide written notice of the hearing to the student and his parent or legal 20 guardian, and such notice shall advise the student and his parent or legal guardian of 21 their rights. Upon the conclusion of the hearing and upon a finding that the student 22 is guilty of conduct warranting expulsion, the superintendent, or his designee, shall 23 determine whether such student shall be expelled from the school system or if other 24 corrective or disciplinary action shall be taken. At said the hearing the principal or 25 teacher concerned may be represented by any person appointed by the 26 superintendent. The concerned teacher shall be permitted to attend such hearing and 27 shall be permitted to present information the teacher believes relevant. Until such 28 hearing takes place the student shall remain suspended from the school with access 29 to classwork and the opportunity to earn academic credit. At such hearing the 30 student may be represented by any person of his choice. A student who is expelled

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 or suspended for longer than ten days shall be provided with academic instruction

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 at an alternative setting in accordance with R.S. 17:416.2.

3 (2)(a)(i) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection B of this Section, any 4 student sixteen years of age or older found guilty of being in possession of a firearm 5 on school property, on a school bus, or in actual possession at a school-sponsored 6 event, pursuant to a hearing as provided for by Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, shall 7 be expelled from school for a minimum period of four complete school semesters 8 and shall be referred to the district attorney for appropriate action. However, the 9 superintendent of a city, parish, or other local public school system may modify the 10 length of such minimum expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis, provided 11 such modification is in writing.

(ii) (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection B of this Section, any
 student sixteen years of age or older found guilty of possession of, or knowledge of
 and intentional distribution of, or possession with intent to distribute any illegal
 narcotic, drug, or other controlled substance on school property, on a school bus, or
 at a school sponsored school-sponsored event pursuant to a hearing as provided for
 by Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall be expelled from school for a minimum
 period of four complete school semesters.

19 (b)(i) Any student who is under sixteen years of age and in grades six 20 through twelve and who is found guilty of being in possession of a firearm on school 21 property, on a school bus, or in actual possession at a school sponsored school-22 sponsored event, pursuant to a hearing as provided for by Paragraph (1) of this 23 Subsection, shall be expelled from school for a minimum period of four complete 24 school semesters, and shall be referred to the district attorney for appropriate action. 25 However, the superintendent of a city, parish, or other local public school system 26 may modify the length of such minimum expulsion requirement on a case-by-case 27 basis, provided such modification is in writing.

(ii) Any student who is under sixteen years of age and in grades six through
twelve and who is found guilty of possession of, or knowledge of and intentional
distribution of, or possession with intent to distribute any illegal narcotic, drug, or

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other controlled substance on school property, on a school bus, or at a school sponsored school-sponsored event pursuant to a hearing as provided for by Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall be expelled from school for a minimum period of two complete school semesters.

5 (c)(i) Any case involving a student in kindergarten through grade five found 6 guilty of being in possession of a firearm on school property, on a school bus, or in 7 actual possession at a school-sponsored event, pursuant to a hearing as provided for 8 by Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, shall be expelled from school for a minimum 9 period of two complete school semesters and shall be referred to the district attorney 10 for appropriate action. However, the superintendent of a city, parish, or other local 11 public school system may modify the length of such minimum expulsion 12 requirement on a case-by-case basis, provided such modification is in writing.

(ii) Any case involving a student in kindergarten through grade five found
guilty of possession of, or knowledge of and intentional distribution of, or possession
with intent to distribute any illegal narcotic, drug, or other controlled substance on
school property, on a school bus, or at a school sponsored event pursuant to a hearing
as provided for by Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall be referred to the city,
parish, or other local public school board where the student attends school through
a recommendation for action from the superintendent.

20 (d)(i) Any student expelled from school may be readmitted on a probationary 21 basis to school at any time during the specified period of expulsion on such terms 22 and conditions as may be stipulated by the city, parish, or other local public school 23 board and agreed to in writing by the student and by the student's parent or other 24 person responsible for the student's school attendance. Such terms and conditions 25 may include but need not be limited to placing the student in a suitable alternative 26 education program as determined by the school board. However, any such written 27 agreement shall include a provision that upon the school principal or superintendent 28 of schools making a determination that the student has violated any term or condition 29 agreed to, the student shall be immediately removed from the school premises 30 without the benefit of any hearing or other procedure applicable to student out-of-

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1school suspensions and expulsions and returned to the school system's alternative2school setting. As soon thereafter as possible, the principal or his designee shall3provide verbal notice to the superintendent of schools of any such determination and4also shall attempt to provide such verbal notice to the student's parent or other person5responsible for the student's school attendance. The principal or his designee also6shall provide written notice of the determination and the reasons therefor to the7superintendent and to the student's parent or other responsible person.

8 (ii) Any student expelled pursuant to the provisions of this Subsection or 9 Subsection B of this Section seeking readmission on a probationary basis prior to the 10 end of the specified period of expulsion must also comply with the provisions of 11 Subparagraph (B)(3)(d) of this Section.

(iii) The provisions of this Subparagraph shall not be applicable to any
student found guilty by a court of competent jurisdiction, or adjudicated a delinquent
by a court of competent jurisdiction, of a criminal violation of any provision of Title
14 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 which is related to the reason for the
suspension, unless the judge finds otherwise.

(3)(a) Any student arrested for possession of, or intentional distribution of,
or possession with intent to distribute any illegal narcotic, drug, or other controlled
substance on school property shall be referred by the school principal or his
designee, within five days after such arrest, for testing or screening by a qualified
medical professional for evidence of abuse of alcohol, illegal narcotics, drugs, or
other controlled dangerous substances.

(b) If evidence of abuse is found, the student shall be referred principal or
his designee shall refer the student to an alcohol and drug abuse treatment
professional chosen by the student's parent or tutor legal guardian. If the student is
found by the professional to be in need of treatment, and if the student agrees to
cooperate in the recommended treatment, as certified in writing by the medical
professional, such documentation may be used to initiate reopening the student's
case. The school board shall take into consideration the student's agreement to

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receive treatment as a positive factor in the final decision relative to any final disciplinary action.

3 (4) The parent or tutor legal guardian of the pupil student who has been 4 recommended for expulsion pursuant to this Section may, within five days after the 5 decision is rendered, submit a request to the city, or parish, or other local public 6 school board to review the findings of the superintendent or his designee at a time 7 set by the school board; otherwise the decision of the superintendent shall be final. 8 If requested, as herein provided, and after reviewing the findings of the 9 superintendent or his designee, the school board may affirm, modify, or reverse the 10 action previously taken. The parent or tutor legal guardian of the pupil student shall 11 have such right of review even if the recommendation for expulsion is reduced to a 12 suspension. Each school board's code of conduct shall include information detailing 13 the appeal process provided in this Paragraph and Subparagraph (5)(a) of this 14 Subsection.

15 (5)(a) The parent or tutor legal guardian of the pupil student who has been 16 recommended for expulsion pursuant to this Section may, within ten school days, 17 appeal to the district court for the parish in which the student's school is located, an 18 adverse ruling of the school board in upholding the action of the superintendent or 19 his designee. The court may reverse or revise the ruling of the school board upon a 20 finding that the ruling of the board was based on an absence of any relevant evidence 21 in support thereof. The parent or tutor legal guardian of the pupil student shall have 22 such right to appeal to the district court even if the recommendation for expulsion 23 is reduced to a suspension.

(b) If a judgment is rendered in favor of a student who sought judicial review
of a decision of a school board pursuant to this Paragraph, the judgment may include
an award for reasonable attorney fees if the court finds any school official acted in
a grossly negligent manner; with deliberate disregard for the consequences of his
actions to the student; with willful or malicious indifference; with intent to deprive
the student, his parent, guardian, or tutor of due process; or initiated a charge that is
knowingly false. The court may award any damages appropriate under the

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circumstances and render any other appropriate relief including but not limited to requiring the school board to issue an official apology letter, which shall be provided to the student, his parent, <u>legal</u> guardian, or tutor, and retained in the student's educational records.

5 D.(1) The conviction of any student of a felony or the incarceration of any 6 student in a juvenile institution for an act which had it been committed by an adult 7 would have constituted a felony may be cause for expulsion of the student for a 8 period of time as determined by the board. The expulsion shall require the vote of 9 two-thirds of the elected members of the school board, shall not be for a period of 10 time longer than the student's period of adjudication as determined by the applicable 11 court presiding over the student's criminal matter, and shall run concurrent to the 12 student's period of disposition. If the student was serving an expulsion period when 13 the student was incarcerated for a separate offense and the student completes the 14 period of incarceration with time left in the expulsion period, the superintendent or 15 his designee may require the student to serve the time left in the expulsion period.

16 (2) The conviction of any student of a felony or the incarceration of any 17 student in a juvenile institution for an act, whether said the act is committed in this 18 state or outside this state, which had it been committed by an adult would have 19 constituted a felony in this state may be sufficient cause for any public school system 20 superintendent to refuse admission of said the student to any school except upon 21 review and approval of a majority of the elected members of the school board when 22 request for admission is made to the board.

E. The provisions of this Section shall be applicable to exceptional children students with exceptionalities provided special education services pursuant to Part I of Chapter 8 of this Title <u>or to students who have an Individualized Education</u> <u>Program or a Section 504 Individualized Accommodation Plan</u> to the maximum extent allowed by federal law and rules applicable to the education of exceptional children students with exceptionalities in the state. No policy adopted by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education applicable to exceptional children

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students with exceptionalities as provided in this Subsection shall be more restrictive than required by federal law and rules.

F. Notwithstanding any provision of this Section to the contrary, school officials shall have total discretion and shall exercise such discretion in imposing on a <u>pupil student</u> any disciplinary actions authorized by this Section for possession by a <u>pupil student</u> of a firearm or knife on school property when such firearm or knife is stored in a motor vehicle and there is no evidence of the <u>pupil's student's</u> intent to use the firearm or knife in a criminal manner.

9 G. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall formulate, 10 develop, adopt, and fully implement by not later than the beginning of the 1998-1999 11 school year methods and procedures for use as part of the board's school-approval 12 process to determine whether or not state laws and board policies regarding student 13 discipline are being fully complied with by a school's administrators, teachers, and 14 other employees. Any school determined not to be in compliance with such laws and 15 procedures shall not be approved. The provisions of this Subsection shall not apply 16 to private nonpublic schools.

17 H.(1) Effective for the 1997-1998 school year and thereafter, no pupil No 18 student shall be disciplined in any manner by the governing authority of a public 19 elementary or secondary school or by any public elementary or secondary school 20 administrator, teacher, or other school employee for the use of force upon another 21 person when it can be reasonably concluded that the use of such force more probably 22 than not was committed solely for the purpose of preventing a forcible offense 23 against the pupil student or a forcible offense provided that the force used must be 24 reasonable and apparently necessary to prevent such offense.

(2) A pupil student who is the aggressor or who brings on a difficulty cannot
 claim the right provided by this Subsection to defend himself.

I.(1) Effective beginning with the 1999-2000 school year and thereafter, any
 Any public school administrator and any administrator's designee who is required to
 make a recommendation, decide an issue, or take action in a matter involving the
 discipline of a pupil student shall both recuse themselves from doing so whenever

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1 a member of the immediate family of the school administrator or of the 2 administrator's designee is involved in any manner in the recommendation to be 3 made, the issue to be decided, or the action to be taken. In case of such recusal, the 4 recommendation shall be made by, the issued decided by, or the action taken by the 5 school system superintendent or an impartial designee of the superintendent. 6 (2) For the purposes of this Subsection, immediate family means the 7 individual's children, brothers, sisters, parents, and spouse and the children, brothers, 8 sisters, and parents of the spouse. 9 J.(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of this Section or any other provision 10 of law, a student enrolled in grades prekindergarten through five shall not be 11 suspended or expelled from school or suspended from riding on any school bus for 12 a uniform violation that is not tied to willful disregard of school policies. 13 (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, this 14 Subsection shall apply to charter schools. Furthermore, no charter school shall 15 suggest to a parent that it has the authority to suspend or expel a student for a 16 uniform violation that is not tied to willful disregard of school policies. 17 K. For the purposes of this Section, "virtual instruction" means instruction 18 provided to a student through an electronic delivery medium including but not 19 limited to electronic learning platforms that connect to a student in a remote location 20 to classroom instruction. A city, or parish, or other local public school board 21 discipline policy shall clearly define the rules of conduct and expectations of 22 students engaged in virtual instruction, shall provide for notice of such rules and 23 expectations to the parents and guardians of students, shall include clearly defined 24 consequences of conduct, shall be narrowly tailored to address compelling 25 government interests, and shall take into consideration the students' and their 26 families' rights to privacy and other constitutional rights while at home or in a 27 location that is not school property. The provisions of this Section herein related to 28 mandatory recommendation for expulsion shall not be applied to virtual instruction 29 received by a student in the student's home.

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| L. Each city, parish, or other local public school board shall maintain and            |
|--|
| administer student codes of conduct that meet the minimum requirements of the          |
| model master discipline plan as provided in R.S. 17:252. Codes of conduct shall        |
| include progressive levels of minor through major infractions and identify             |
| corresponding minor through major interventions and consequences. Before an            |
| initial referral for a student's expulsion, codes of conduct shall require the prior   |
| administration of interventions in accordance with the minor tiers in the code of      |
| conduct, except in instances where the expulsion referral is the result of accumulated |
| minor infractions in accordance with the code of conduct, or the underlying incident   |
| threatens the safety and health of students or staff. Expulsions shall be reserved for |
| the major tier of behavioral infractions involving weapons or drugs, or when the       |
| safety of students and staff has been put in jeopardy.                                 |
| M. The state Department of Education shall publish annually and publish on             |
| its website data regarding disciplinary removals disaggregated at the state, system,   |
| and school level and also disaggregated and capable of cross-tabulation by the         |
| characteristics of gender, race, disability, English language learner status, and      |
| economically disadvantaged status. In reporting such data, the department shall        |
| comply with all federal and state privacy laws and shall strive to ensure that all     |
| relevant state accountability metrics are valid and reliable.                          |
| N. A public school governing authority that maintains a parish-wide student            |
| expulsion process as required by R.S. 17:10.7.1(E)(4) may maintain and develop         |
| policies and procedures for student expulsions without regard to the requirements of   |
| this Section.  |
| * * *  |
| §3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements                                       |
| * * *  |
| B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and              |
| except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a         |
| charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this      |
| Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be      |
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| 1 | exempt from all statutory mandates or other statutory requirements that are         |
|---|---|
| 2 | applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees except for |
| 3 | the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools with the same grades:     |
| 4 | * * *   |
| 5 | (40) Prohibits suspension or expulsion of students in grades prekindergarten        |
| 6 | through five Discipline of students, R.S. 17:416(J) 17:416 and 416.2.               |
| 7 | * * *   |

## SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

## GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_