

Sec. 35. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 121A.55, is amended to read:

121A.55 POLICIES TO BE ESTABLISHED.

(a) The commissioner of education ~~shall~~ must promulgate guidelines to assist each school board. Each school board ~~shall~~ must establish uniform criteria for dismissal and adopt written policies and rules to effectuate the purposes of sections 121A.40 to 121A.56. The policies ~~shall~~ must include nonexclusionary disciplinary policies and practices consistent with section 121A.41, subdivision 12, and must emphasize preventing dismissals through early detection of problems and shall. The policies must be designed to address students' inappropriate behavior from recurring.

(b) The policies ~~shall~~ must recognize the continuing responsibility of the school for the education of the pupil during the dismissal period.

(c) The school is responsible for ensuring that alternative educational services, if the pupil wishes to take advantage of them, must be adequate to allow the pupil to make progress towards toward meeting the graduation standards adopted under section 120B.02 and help prepare the pupil for readmission in accordance with section 121A.46, subdivision 5.

(d) For expulsion and exclusion dismissals and pupil withdrawal agreements as defined in section 121A.41, subdivision 13:

(1) for a pupil who remains enrolled in the district or is awaiting enrollment in a new district, a school district's continuing responsibility includes reviewing the pupil's schoolwork and grades on a quarterly basis to ensure the pupil is on track for readmission with the pupil's peers. A school district must communicate on a regular basis with the pupil's parent or guardian to ensure that the pupil is completing the work assigned through the alternative educational services as defined in section 121A.41, subdivision 11. These services are required until the pupil enrolls in another school or returns to the same school;

(2) a pupil receiving school-based or school-linked mental health services in the district under section 245.4889 continues to be eligible for those services until the pupil is enrolled in a new district; and

(3) a school district must provide to the pupil's parent or guardian information on accessing mental health services, including any free or sliding fee providers in the community. The information must also be posted on the district or charter school website.

~~(b)~~ (e) An area learning center under section 123A.05 may not prohibit an expelled or excluded pupil from enrolling solely because a district expelled or excluded the pupil. The board of the area learning center may use the provisions of the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act to exclude a pupil or to require an admission plan.

~~(e)~~ (f) Each school district shall develop a policy and report it to the commissioner on the appropriate use of peace officers and crisis teams to remove students who have an individualized education program from school grounds.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective for the 2023-2024 school year and later.

Sec. 36. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 121A.58, is amended to read:

121A.58 CORPORAL PUNISHMENT; PRONE RESTRAINT; AND CERTAIN PHYSICAL HOLDS.

Subdivision 1. ~~Definition~~ **Definitions.** (a) For the purpose of this section, "corporal punishment" means conduct involving:

- (1) hitting or spanking a person with or without an object; or
- (2) unreasonable physical force that causes bodily harm or substantial emotional harm.

(b) For the purpose of this section, "prone restraint" means placing a child in a face-down position.

Subd. 2. **Corporal punishment not allowed.** An employee or agent of a district shall not inflict corporal punishment or cause corporal punishment to be inflicted upon a pupil to reform unacceptable conduct or as a penalty for unacceptable conduct.

Subd. 2a. **Prone restraint and certain physical holds not allowed.** (a) An employee or agent of a district, including a school resource officer, security personnel, or police officer contracted with a district, shall not use prone restraint.

(b) An employee or agent of a district, including a school resource officer, security personnel, or police officer contracted with a district, shall not inflict any form of physical holding that restricts or impairs a pupil's ability to breathe; restricts or impairs a pupil's ability to communicate distress; places pressure or weight on a pupil's head, throat, neck, chest, lungs, sternum, diaphragm, back, or abdomen; or results in straddling a pupil's torso.

Subd. 3. **Violation.** Conduct that violates subdivision 2 is not a crime under section 645.241, but may be a crime under chapter 609 if the conduct violates a provision of chapter 609. Conduct that violates subdivision 2a is not per se corporal punishment under this statute. Nothing in this section or section 125A.0941 precludes the use of reasonable force under section 121A.582.

Sec. 37. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 121A.61, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Required policy.** Each school board must adopt a written districtwide school discipline policy which includes written rules of conduct for students, minimum consequences for violations of the rules, and grounds and procedures for removal of a student from class. The policy must contain the discipline complaint procedure that any member of the school community may use to file a complaint regarding the application of discipline policies and seek corrective action. The policy must be developed in consultation with administrators, teachers, employees, pupils, parents, community members, law enforcement agencies, county attorney offices, social service agencies, and such other individuals or organizations as the board determines appropriate. A school site council may adopt additional provisions to the policy subject to the approval of the school board.

Sec. 38. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 121A.61, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Policy components.** The policy must include at least the following components:

- (a) rules governing student conduct and procedures for informing students of the rules;
- (b) the grounds for removal of a student from a class;
- (c) the authority of the classroom teacher to remove students from the classroom pursuant to procedures and rules established in the district's policy;
- (d) the procedures for removal of a student from a class by a teacher, school administrator, or other school district employee;

(3) developing implementation guidance to assist teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, and school administrators in prevention of and intervention with health-harming behavior and mental health; and

(4) increasing the availability of online and asynchronous professional development programs and materials for school staff.

Subd. 2. Definition. For purposes of this section, "health services specialist" means a professional registered nurse who:

(1) is licensed as a public health nurse in Minnesota;

(2) is licensed as a school nurse in Minnesota;

(3) has a minimum of three years of experience in school nursing services or as a public health nurse serving schools;

(4) has experience in managing a districtwide health policy, overseeing a budget, and supervising personnel; and

(5) has a graduate degree in nursing, public health, education, or a related field.

Subd. 3. Requirements for position. The Department of Education's school health services specialist must be highly trained in school nursing, which includes knowledge about child growth and development; public health; health education; and special education with a focus on the impact of health on learning, comprehensive assessment of learning-related health using interventions that are evidence-based, and documentation and evaluation of child health knowledge, skills, status, and education implications. The specialist must have knowledge of section 504 plans, health insurance and third-party reimbursement, health privacy, and emergency preparedness. The specialist must also have skills in interdisciplinary collaboration, policy development, parent involvement, health teaching and learning, and staff development.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 121A.582, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. Reasonable force standard. (a) A teacher or school principal, in exercising the person's lawful authority, may use reasonable force when it is necessary under the circumstances to correct or restrain a student ~~or~~ to prevent imminent bodily harm or death to the student or to another.

(b) A school employee, school bus driver, or other agent of a district, in exercising the person's lawful authority, may use reasonable force when it is necessary under the circumstances to restrain a student ~~or~~ to prevent bodily harm or death to the student or to another.

(c) Paragraphs (a) and (b) do not authorize conduct prohibited under section 125A.0942.

(d) Districts must report data on their use of any reasonable force used on a student with a disability to correct or restrain the student to prevent imminent bodily harm or death to the student or another that is consistent with the definition of physical holding under section 125A.0941, paragraph (c), as outlined in section 125A.0942, subdivision 3, paragraph (b).

(e) Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, districts must report annually by July 15, in a form and manner determined by the commissioner, data from the prior school year about any reasonable force used on a general education student to correct or restrain the student to prevent imminent bodily harm or death to the student or another that is consistent with the definition of physical holding under section 125A.0941, paragraph (c).