

House Engrossed Senate Bill
school letter grades; student discipline

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-sixth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2024

SENATE BILL 1459

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 7, ARTICLE 3, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY
ADDING SECTION 15-746.01; RELATING TO SCHOOL ASSESSMENT AND
ACCOUNTABILITY.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Title 15, chapter 7, article 3, Arizona Revised
3 Statutes, is amended by adding section 15-746.01, to read:

4 15-746.01. Student discipline; teacher referrals; annual
5 report; investigations; annual survey; reduction
6 in letter grade

7 A. EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT AND CHARTER SCHOOL IN THIS STATE SHALL:

8 1. INCLUDE IN EVERY STUDENT HANDBOOK A RUBRIC FOR STUDENT
9 DISCIPLINE. THE RUBRIC REQUIRED PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH MUST INCLUDE
10 ONLY OBJECTIVE CRITERIA FOR STUDENT DISCIPLINE AND MAY NOT CONSIDER THE
11 STUDENT'S RELIGION, RACE, SEX, COLOR, ETHNICITY, ANCESTRY OR NATIONAL
12 ORIGIN.

13 2. ANNUALLY REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ALL OF THE
14 FOLLOWING:

15 (a) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENT DISCIPLINE REFERRALS SUBMITTED BY
16 TEACHERS IN EACH SCHOOL THAT IS OPERATED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER
17 SCHOOL.

18 (b) THE NUMBER OF THE REFERRALS REPORTED PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION
19 (a) OF THIS PARAGRAPH FOR WHICH THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION IMPLEMENTED THE
20 TEACHER'S RECOMMENDED DISCIPLINARY ACTION OR ANOTHER DISCIPLINARY ACTION.
21 FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBDIVISION, DISCIPLINARY ACTION DOES NOT INCLUDE
22 SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING OR RESTORATIVE DISCIPLINE.

23 (c) THE PERCENTAGE OF THE REFERRALS REPORTED PURSUANT TO
24 SUBDIVISION (a) OF THIS PARAGRAPH FOR WHICH THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION DID
25 NOT IMPLEMENT THE TEACHER'S RECOMMENDED DISCIPLINARY ACTION OR ANY OTHER
26 ACTION.

27 B. A SCHOOL DISTRICT, CHARTER SCHOOL OR ADMINISTRATOR IN A SCHOOL
28 THAT IS OPERATED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL MAY NOT DISCOURAGE
29 A TEACHER FROM SUBMITTING STUDENT DISCIPLINE REFERRALS CONSISTENT WITH THE
30 RUBRIC DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION A, PARAGRAPH 1 OF THIS SECTION AND WITH THE
31 TEACHER'S AUTHORITY PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 8, ARTICLE 3 OF THIS TITLE. FOR
32 THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION, "DISCOURAGE" INCLUDES ANY ACTION, POLICY,
33 GUIDELINE OR STATEMENT, WHETHER FORMAL OR INFORMAL, THAT EITHER LIMITS A
34 TEACHER'S AUTHORITY TO SUBMIT A STUDENT DISCIPLINE REFERRAL OR PENALIZES A
35 TEACHER FOR SUBMITTING A STUDENT DISCIPLINE REFERRAL.

36 C. A TEACHER MAY REPORT ANY ALLEGED VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION B OF
37 THIS SECTION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. THE DEPARTMENT MAY
38 INVESTIGATE REPORTS THAT IT RECEIVES PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION. IF THE
39 DEPARTMENT DETERMINES THAT A STUDENT DISCIPLINE REFERRAL WAS WARRANTED BUT
40 WAS NOT SUBMITTED BY A TEACHER BECAUSE OF A VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION B OF
41 THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADJUST THE CALCULATIONS PURSUANT TO
42 THIS SECTION AS FOLLOWS:

43 1. ADD THE STUDENT DISCIPLINE REFERRAL THAT WAS WARRANTED BUT WAS
44 NOT SUBMITTED TO THE TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENT DISCIPLINE REFERRALS REPORTED
45 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION A, PARAGRAPH 2, SUBDIVISION (a).

1 2. RECALCULATE THE PERCENTAGE REPORTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION A,
2 PARAGRAPH 2, SUBDIVISION (c) OF THIS SECTION TO INCLUDE THE ADDITIONAL
3 STUDENT DISCIPLINE REFERRAL.

4 3. RECALCULATE THE PERCENTAGE OF STUDENT DISCIPLINE REFERRALS
5 PRESCRIBED BY SUBSECTION D, PARAGRAPH 1 OF THIS SECTION BASED ON THE
6 ADJUSTMENTS IN PARAGRAPHS 1 AND 2 OF THIS SUBSECTION.

7 D. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOTIFY A SCHOOL THAT IS OPERATED BY A
8 SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL THAT THE SCHOOL HAS FAILED TO ADEQUATELY
9 DISCIPLINE STUDENTS IN THE CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR AND MAY BE SUBJECT TO
10 PENALTIES IF THE SCHOOL FAILS TO ADEQUATELY DISCIPLINE STUDENTS IN THE
11 FOLLOWING SCHOOL YEAR IF ALL OF THE FOLLOWING APPLY:

12 1. THE SCHOOL DOES NOT IMPLEMENT DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS DESCRIBED IN
13 SUBSECTION A, PARAGRAPH 2, SUBDIVISION (b) OF THIS SECTION IN AT LEAST
14 SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENT DISCIPLINE REFERRALS
15 REPORTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION A, PARAGRAPH 2, SUBDIVISION (a) OF THIS
16 SECTION IN THE CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR.

17 2. THE SCHOOL HAS NO REASONABLE JUSTIFICATION, AS DETERMINED BY THE
18 DEPARTMENT, FOR IMPLEMENTING DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS IN FEWER THAN
19 SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF STUDENT DISCIPLINE REFERRALS IN THE CURRENT SCHOOL
20 YEAR.

21 3. THE SCHOOL DID NOT RECEIVE A NOTICE PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION
22 IN THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING SCHOOL YEAR.

23 E. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REDUCE THE LETTER GRADE ASSIGNED TO A
24 SCHOOL THAT IS OPERATED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL PURSUANT TO
25 SECTION 15-241 BY ONE LETTER GRADE IF BOTH OF THE FOLLOWING APPLY:

26 1. SUBSECTION D, PARAGRAPHS 1 AND 2 OF THIS SECTION APPLY TO THE
27 SCHOOL.

28 2. THE SCHOOL RECEIVED A NOTICE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION D OF THIS
29 SECTION IN THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING SCHOOL YEAR.

30 F. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER AN ANNUAL SURVEY OF TEACHERS WHO
31 ARE EMPLOYED BY SCHOOL DISTRICTS OR CHARTER SCHOOLS IN THIS STATE. THE
32 SURVEY SHALL ASSESS WHETHER, DURING THE PREVIOUS SCHOOL YEAR, ANY SCHOOL
33 DISTRICT, CHARTER SCHOOL, ADMINISTRATOR OR TEACHER CONSIDERED A STUDENT'S
34 RELIGION, RACE, SEX, COLOR, ETHNICITY, ANCESTRY OR NATIONAL ORIGIN WHEN
35 DETERMINING WHETHER TO SUBMIT A STUDENT DISCIPLINE REFERRAL OR WHAT
36 STUDENT DISCIPLINARY ACTION WAS APPROPRIATE.