

Michigan State Board of Education

Model Policy on Reducing Student Suspensions and Expulsions

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Purpose:

- Present a new SBE policy to reduce the use of suspensions and expulsions
- Provide rationale supporting, evidenced-based practices for disciplining students

Why Do We Need Alternatives to Suspensions and Expulsions?

Exclusionary discipline practices increase a young person's risk of:

- Disengaging from their learning environment
- Academic failure
- Dropping out
- Involvement with the criminal justice system

Why Do We Need Alternatives to Suspensions and Expulsions?

Numerous studies show that punitive discipline practices disproportionately impact:

- Youths of color
- Special education students
- Students from low-income households

Why?

Why punish students who are already at risk of dropping out by suspending them from school?

The Challenge

Encourage proactive ways for schools to address discipline:

- Increase preventative practices to promote social and emotional learning
- Train school personnel in Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports and Restorative Practices
- Reserve exclusion for only the most serious offenses
- Collect data and evaluate disciplinary practices

Why Do We Need Alternatives to Suspensions and Expulsions?

SBE Mission:

“All students graduate ready for careers, college, and community”

NASBE Grant Expectations

- Develop and present to State Board of Education a model policy on alternatives to suspension and expulsion
- Develop a revised State Board Model Code of Student Conduct
- Develop an online toolkit and resources to support alternatives to suspension and expulsion
- Disseminate online toolkit to districts and stakeholders

Michigan School Discipline Task Force

- Over 40 members participated
- Task Force met three times with representation from numerous disciplines:
 - SBE members: Mrs. Fecteau, Mrs. Straus, and Dr. Zeile
 - local school district educators and administrators
 - state education organization representatives
 - MDE and other state level stakeholders

Michigan School Discipline Task Force

- Online survey for members to give feedback to targeted questions related to the model policy
- Website developed for members to provide feedback on the model policy
- Four parent focus groups and six student focus groups

Next Steps

- Seek public comment on the Model Policy on Reducing Suspensions and Expulsions
- Request adoption of the Model Policy at the May SBE meeting