

State Board of Education Statement on House Bill 4490

The State Board of Education welcomes the intent of HB4490. This proposed legislation thoughtfully defines procedures public school officials should follow when authorizing the expulsion or suspension of a student. We urge the Legislature to support its passage or that of a similar bill to reduce unnecessary and inappropriate student suspensions and expulsions.

The SBE has long been concerned about excessive use of suspensions and expulsions in Michigan's public schools. In 2012, the SBE recommended the following resolution calling on schools to adopt discipline policies without mandates for suspensions or expulsions for most behavior issues:
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Final_Resolution_School_Discipline_Issues_Impacting_Student_Outcomes_389055_7.pdf

Michigan has received one of three new state grants from the National Association of State Boards of Education to curb the use of out-of-school punishments in an attempt to improve student success. Activities will include developing a State Board Model Policy on Alternatives to Suspensions and Expulsions in Schools, revising the existing State Board Model Code of Student Conduct and developing an online resource to further implementation of the State Board Model Policy on Alternatives to Suspensions and Expulsions in Schools. Given the Board's and Department's commitment to alternative forms of discipline, we strongly support this legislative initiative.

Approved October 8, 2013