

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Fifty-first Legislature  
First Regular Session  
2013

# HOUSE BILL 2476

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-843, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO PUPIL DISCIPLINE.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Section 15-843, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
3 read:

4 15-843. Pupil disciplinary proceedings

5 A. An action concerning discipline, suspension or expulsion of a pupil  
6 is not subject to title 38, chapter 3, article 3.1, except that the governing  
7 board of a school district shall post regular notice and shall take minutes  
8 of any hearing held by the governing board concerning the discipline,  
9 suspension or expulsion of a pupil.

10 B. The governing board of any school district, in consultation with  
11 the teachers and parents of the school district, shall prescribe rules for  
12 the discipline, suspension and expulsion of pupils. The rules shall be  
13 consistent with the constitutional rights of pupils and shall include at  
14 least the following:

15 1. Penalties for excessive pupil absenteeism pursuant to section  
16 15-803, including failure in a subject, failure to pass a grade, suspension  
17 or expulsion.

18 2. Procedures for the use of corporal punishment if allowed by the  
19 governing board.

20 3. Procedures for the reasonable use of physical force by certificated  
21 or classified personnel in self-defense, defense of others and defense of  
22 property.

23 4. Procedures for dealing with pupils who have committed or who are  
24 believed to have committed a crime.

25 5. A notice and hearing procedure for cases concerning the suspension  
26 of a pupil for more than ten days.

27 6. Procedures and conditions for readmission of a pupil who has been  
28 expelled or suspended for more than ten days.

29 7. Procedures for appeal to the governing board of the suspension of a  
30 pupil for more than ten days, if the decision to suspend the pupil was not  
31 made by the governing board.

32 8. Procedures for appeal of the recommendation of the hearing officer  
33 or officers designated by the board as provided in subsection F of this  
34 section at the time the board considers the recommendation.

35 9. BEGINNING IN SCHOOL YEAR 2013-2014, DISCIPLINARY POLICIES FOR THE  
36 CONFINEMENT OF PUPILS LEFT ALONE IN AN ENCLOSED SPACE. THESE POLICIES SHALL  
37 INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

38 (a) A PROCESS FOR PRIOR WRITTEN PARENTAL NOTIFICATION THAT CONFINEMENT  
39 MAY BE USED FOR DISCIPLINARY PURPOSES THAT IS INCLUDED IN THE PUPIL'S  
40 ENROLLMENT PACKET OR ADMISSION FORM.

41 (b) A PROCESS FOR PRIOR WRITTEN PARENTAL CONSENT BEFORE CONFINEMENT IS  
42 ALLOWED FOR ANY PUPIL IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT. THE POLICIES SHALL PROVIDE FOR  
43 AN EXEMPTION TO PRIOR WRITTEN PARENTAL CONSENT IF A SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OR  
44 TEACHER DETERMINES THAT THE PUPIL POSES IMMINENT PHYSICAL HARM TO SELF OR  
45 OTHERS. THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OR TEACHER SHALL MAKE REASONABLE ATTEMPTS TO

1 NOTIFY THE PUPIL'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN IN WRITING BY THE END OF THE SAME DAY  
2 THAT CONFINEMENT WAS USED.

3 C. Penalties adopted pursuant to subsection B, paragraph 1 of this  
4 section for excessive absenteeism shall not be applied to pupils who have  
5 completed the course requirements and whose absence from school is due solely  
6 to illness, disease or accident as certified by a person who is licensed  
7 pursuant to title 32, chapter 7, 13, 15 or 17.

8 D. The governing board shall:

9 1. Support and assist teachers in the implementation and enforcement  
10 of the rules prescribed pursuant to subsection B of this section.

11 2. Develop procedures allowing teachers and principals to recommend  
12 the suspension or expulsion of pupils.

13 3. Develop procedures allowing teachers and principals to temporarily  
14 remove disruptive pupils from a class.

15 4. Delegate to the principal the authority to remove a disruptive  
16 pupil from the classroom.

17 E. If a pupil withdraws from school after receiving notice of possible  
18 action concerning discipline, expulsion or suspension, the governing board  
19 may continue with the action after the withdrawal and may record the results  
20 of such action in the pupil's permanent file.

21 F. In all action concerning the expulsion of a pupil, the governing  
22 board of a school district shall:

23 1. Be notified of the intended action.

24 2. Either:

25 (a) Decide, in executive session, whether to hold a hearing or to  
26 designate one or more hearing officers to hold a hearing to hear the  
27 evidence, prepare a record and bring a recommendation to the board for action  
28 and whether the hearing shall be held in executive session.

29 (b) Provide by policy or vote at its annual organizational meeting  
30 that all hearings concerning the expulsion of a pupil conducted pursuant to  
31 this section will be conducted before a hearing officer selected from a list  
32 of hearing officers approved by the governing board.

33 3. Give written notice, at least five working days before the hearing  
34 by the governing board or the hearing officer or officers designated by the  
35 governing board, to all pupils subject to expulsion and their parents or  
36 guardians of the date, time and place of the hearing. If the governing board  
37 decides that the hearing is to be held in executive session, the written  
38 notice shall include a statement of the right of the parents or guardians or  
39 an emancipated pupil who is subject to expulsion to object to the governing  
40 board's decision to have the hearing held in executive session. Objections  
41 shall be made in writing to the governing board.

42 G. If a parent or guardian or an emancipated pupil who is subject to  
43 expulsion disagrees that the hearing should be held in executive session, it  
44 shall be held in an open meeting unless:

1           1. If only one pupil is subject to expulsion and disagreement exists  
2 between that pupil's parents or guardians, the governing board, after  
3 consultations with the pupil's parents or guardians or the emancipated pupil,  
4 shall decide in executive session whether the hearing will be in executive  
5 session.

6           2. If more than one pupil is subject to expulsion and disagreement  
7 exists between the parents or guardians of different pupils, separate  
8 hearings shall be held subject to this section.

9           H. This section does not prevent the pupil who is subject to expulsion  
10 or suspension, and the pupil's parents or guardians and legal counsel, from  
11 attending any executive session pertaining to the proposed disciplinary  
12 action, from having access to the minutes and testimony of the executive  
13 session or from recording the session at the parent's or guardian's expense.

14           I. In schools employing a superintendent or a principal, the authority  
15 to suspend a pupil from school is vested in the superintendent, principal or  
16 other school officials granted this power by the governing board of the  
17 school district.

18           J. In schools that do not have a superintendent or principal, a  
19 teacher may suspend a pupil from school.

20           K. In all cases of suspension, it shall be for good cause and shall be  
21 reported within five days to the governing board by the superintendent or the  
22 person imposing the suspension.

23           L. Rules pertaining to the discipline, suspension and expulsion of  
24 pupils shall not be based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin or  
25 ancestry. If the department of education, the auditor general or the  
26 attorney general determines that a school district is substantially and  
27 deliberately not in compliance with this subsection and if the school  
28 district has failed to correct the deficiency within ninety days after  
29 receiving notice from the department of education, the superintendent of  
30 public instruction may withhold the monies the school district would  
31 otherwise be entitled to receive from the date of the determination of  
32 noncompliance until the department of education determines that the school  
33 district is in compliance with this subsection.

34           M. The principal of each school shall ensure that a copy of all rules  
35 pertaining to discipline, suspension and expulsion of pupils is distributed  
36 to the parents of each pupil at the time the pupil is enrolled in school.

37           N. The principal of each school shall ensure that all rules pertaining  
38 to the discipline, suspension and expulsion of pupils are communicated to  
39 students at the beginning of each school year, and to transfer students at  
40 the time of their enrollment in the school.

41           Sec. 2. Emergency

42           This act is an emergency measure that is necessary to preserve the  
43 public peace, health or safety and is operative immediately as provided by  
44 law.