

# Senate Bill 1126

Sponsored by Senator GORSEK

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: Requires students to be provided with recess time each day. (Flesch Readability Score: 69.7).

Requires public elementary school students to be provided with recess time each day.

Prohibits the withholding of recess or the imposition of physical activity as a form of discipline.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to physical activity in schools; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 339.250.

**Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

**SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2025 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 329.**

**SECTION 2. Every public school student in kindergarten through grade five, and every public school student in grade six at a school that teaches kindergarten through grade six, shall be provided recess time of at least 30 minutes for each school day that is at least five hours.**

**SECTION 3. (1) Section 2 of this 2025 Act becomes operative on July 1, 2026.**

**(2) Section 2 of this 2025 Act first applies to the 2026-2027 school year.**

**SECTION 4. ORS 339.250 is amended to read:**

339.250. (1) Public school students shall comply with rules for the government of such schools, pursue the prescribed course of study, use the prescribed textbooks and submit to the teachers' authority.

(2) Each district school board shall adopt written policies for the discipline, suspension or expulsion of any refractory student. The policies:

(a) May allow discipline, suspension or expulsion for conduct that includes, but is not limited to:

(A) Willful disobedience;

(B) Open defiance of the authority of a school employee;

(C) Possession or distribution of tobacco, alcohol, drugs or other controlled substances;

(D) Use or display of profane or obscene language;

(E) Willful damage or injury to school property;

(F) Use of threats, intimidation, harassment or coercion against a student or a school employee;

(G) Assault of a school employee or another student; or

(H) Intentional attempts, by word or conduct, to place a school employee or another student in fear of imminent serious physical injury.

(b) Must require consideration of the age of a student and the past pattern of behavior of a student prior to imposing the suspension or expulsion of a student.

(c) Must limit the use of expulsion to the following circumstances:

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

- 1 (A) For conduct that poses a threat to the health or safety of students or school employees;
- 2 (B) When other strategies to change student conduct have been ineffective, except that expulsion may not be used to address truancy; or
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- 4 (C) When the expulsion is required by law.
- 5 (d) In addition to any limitations imposed by paragraph (c) of this subsection, for a student who
- 6 is in fifth grade or lower, must limit the use of out-of-school suspension or of expulsion to the following circumstances:
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- 8 (A) For nonaccidental conduct causing serious physical harm to a student or school employee;
- 9 (B) When a school administrator determines, based upon the administrator's observation or upon
- 10 a report from a school employee, that the student's conduct poses a direct threat to the health or
- 11 safety of students or school employees; or
- 12 (C) When the suspension or expulsion is required by law.
- 13 (e) When an out-of-school suspension is imposed as provided under paragraph (d) of this subsection, must require the school district to take steps to prevent the recurrence of the behavior that
- 14 led to the out-of-school suspension and return the student to a classroom setting so that the disruption of the student's academic instruction is minimized.
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- 17 (f) Must be limited so that:
- 18 (A) The duration of an expulsion may not be more than one calendar year.
- 19 (B) The duration of a suspension may not be more than 10 school days.
- 20 (g) Notwithstanding ORS 336.010, may require a student to attend school during nonschool hours
- 21 as an alternative to suspension if the total number of hours does not exceed the equivalent of 10
- 22 school days.
- 23 **(h) May not allow for the withholding of recess time or the imposition of physical activity**
- 24 **as a form of discipline.**
- 25 (3) Pursuant to the policies adopted as provided by subsection (2) of this section, each school
- 26 district shall develop a student handbook, code of conduct or other document that:
- 27 (a) Defines and helps create a learning environment that students respect;
- 28 (b) Defines acceptable norms of behavior for students and the types of behavior that are subject
- 29 to discipline;
- 30 (c) Establishes procedures to address behavior or circumstances that pose a threat to the safety
- 31 of students or employees of the school;
- 32 (d) Establishes a system of consequences that are designed to correct student misconduct and
- 33 promote behavior within acceptable norms; and
- 34 (e) Makes the system of consequences known to the school community through the dissemination
- 35 of information to students, parents, legal guardians and school district employees.
- 36 (4) Each district school board shall adopt written policies on managing students who threaten
- 37 violence or harm in public schools. The policies adopted by a district school board under this section
- 38 shall include all of the following:
- 39 (a) Staff reporting methods.
- 40 (b) Provisions that allow an administrator to consider and implement any of the following
- 41 options:
- 42 (A) Immediately removing from the classroom setting any student who has threatened to injure
- 43 another person or to severely damage school property.
- 44 (B) Placing the student in a setting where the behavior will receive immediate attention, including, but not limited to, the office of the school principal, vice principal, assistant principal,
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1 counselor or a school psychologist licensed by the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission or  
2 the office of any licensed mental health professional.

3 (C) Requiring that a school obtain an evaluation of a student by a licensed mental health pro-  
4 fessional before allowing the student to return to the classroom setting. A student who is removed  
5 from the classroom setting for an evaluation may not be removed for more than 10 school days un-  
6 less the administrator is able to show good cause that an evaluation could not be completed in that  
7 time period. The policy must describe the circumstances under which the district school board may  
8 enter into contracts with licensed mental health professionals to perform any evaluations required  
9 under this subparagraph.

10 (c) The requirement that an administrator provide to the parent or legal guardian of the student  
11 notification that describes the student's behavior and the school's response.

12 (d) A provision for the allocation of any funds necessary for the school district to implement the  
13 policies described in this subsection.

14 (5) In establishing and enforcing discipline, suspension and expulsion policies, a district school  
15 board shall ensure that the policy is designed to:

16 (a) Protect students and school employees from harm;

17 (b) Provide opportunities for students to learn from their mistakes;

18 (c) Foster positive learning communities;

19 (d) Keep students in school and attending class;

20 (e) Impose disciplinary sanctions without bias against students from a protected class, as defined  
21 in ORS 339.351;

22 (f) Implement a graduated set of age-appropriate responses to misconduct that are fair,  
23 nondiscriminatory and proportionate in relation to each student's individual conduct;

24 (g) Employ a range of strategies for prevention, intervention and discipline that take into ac-  
25 count a student's developmental capacities and that are proportionate to the degree and severity  
26 of the student's misbehavior;

27 (h) Propose, prior to a student's expulsion or leaving school, alternative programs of instruction  
28 or instruction combined with counseling for the student that are appropriate and accessible to the  
29 student in the following circumstances:

30 (A) Following a second or subsequent occurrence within any three-year period of a severe dis-  
31 ciplinary problem with the student; or

32 (B) When a parent or legal guardian applies for the student's exemption from compulsory at-  
33 tendance on a semiannual basis as provided in ORS 339.030 (2);

34 (i) To the extent practicable, use approaches that are shown through research to be effective in  
35 reducing student misbehavior and promoting safe and productive social behavior; and

36 (j) Ensure that school conduct and discipline codes comply with all state and federal laws con-  
37 cerning the education of students with disabilities.

38 (6) Except for policies adopted under subsection (7) of this section, any policies adopted under  
39 this section must provide for the dissemination of information about alternative programs of in-  
40 struction or instruction combined with counseling, as described in subsection (5)(h) of this section,  
41 in writing to the student and the parent, legal guardian or person in parental relationship with the  
42 student at least once every six months, unless the information has changed because of the avail-  
43 ability of new programs.

44 (7) Each district school board shall adopt a written policy involving firearms, as defined in 18  
45 U.S.C. 921. The policy shall:

1 (a) Require expulsion from school for a period of not less than one year of any student who is  
2 determined to have:

3 (A) Brought a firearm to a school, to school property under the jurisdiction of the school district  
4 or to an activity under the jurisdiction of the school district;

5 (B) Possessed, concealed or used a firearm in a school, on school property under the jurisdiction  
6 of the school district or at an activity under the jurisdiction of the school district; or

7 (C) Brought to or possessed, concealed or used a firearm at an interscholastic activity adminis-  
8 tered by a voluntary organization.

9 (b) Allow exceptions:

10 (A) For courses, programs and activities approved by the school district that are conducted on  
11 school property, including, but not limited to, hunter safety courses, Reserve Officer Training Corps  
12 programs, firearm-related sports or firearm-related vocational courses; and

13 (B) Identified by and adopted by the State Board of Education by rule.

14 (c) Allow a superintendent of a school district to:

15 (A) Modify the expulsion requirement for a student on a case-by-case basis.

16 (B) Propose alternative programs of instruction or instruction combined with counseling for a  
17 student that are appropriate and accessible to the student. If alternative programs are appropriate  
18 for a student, the superintendent shall ensure that information about programs of instruction or in-  
19 struction combined with counseling is provided in writing to the student and the parent, legal  
20 guardian or person in parental relationship with the student at least once every six months, or at  
21 any time the information changes because of the availability of new programs.

22 (d) Require a referral to the appropriate law enforcement agency of any student who is expelled  
23 under this subsection.

24 (e) Require an annual reporting to the Department of Education of the name of each school that  
25 had an expulsion under this subsection and the number of students expelled from each school.

26 (8) Each district school board shall adopt and disseminate written policies for the use of physical  
27 force upon a student. The policies must allow an individual who is a teacher, administrator, school  
28 employee or school volunteer to use reasonable physical force upon a student when and to the ex-  
29 tent the application of force is consistent with ORS 339.285 to 339.303.

30 (9)(a) The authority to discipline a student does not authorize the infliction of corporal punish-  
31 ment. Every resolution, bylaw, rule, ordinance or other act of a district school board, a public  
32 charter school or the Department of Education that permits or authorizes the infliction of corporal  
33 punishment upon a student is void and unenforceable.

34 (b) As used in this subsection:

35 (A) "Corporal punishment" means the willful infliction of, or willfully causing the infliction of,  
36 physical pain on a student.

37 (B) "Corporal punishment" does not include:

38 (i) The use of physical force authorized by ORS 161.205 (2), (4) or (5) for the reasons specified  
39 therein; or

40 (ii) Physical pain or discomfort resulting from or caused by participation in athletic competition  
41 or other such recreational activity, voluntarily engaged in by a student.

42 (10) For purposes of this section, calculations of the number of school days that a student is  
43 removed from a classroom setting shall be as follows:

44 (a) As a half day if the student is out of school for half, or less than half, of the scheduled school  
45 day; and

1 (b) As a full day if the student is out of school for more than half of the scheduled school day.

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