



Resolution

17. RESOLUTION TO CLARIFY INTENT OF STUDENT SUSPENSIONS FOR OHIO SCHOOL DISTRICTS

The Capacity Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the State Board of Education **ADOPT** the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, the superintendent of schools of a city, exempted village, or local school district, or the principal of a public school may suspend a pupil from school for not more than ten school days; and

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code Section 3313.661 requires boards of education to adopt policies regarding suspension, expulsion, removal and permanent exclusion that specify the type of misconduct for which a pupil may be suspended, expelled, or removed; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education respects the authority and judgement of local boards of education, superintendents and principals; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education remains concerned that students subject to an out-of-school suspension or expulsion may miss valuable instruction time or intentionally abuse disciplinary policies to avoid school; and

WHEREAS, receipt of even one suspension is associated with higher likelihood of academic failure, school dropout, and involvement in the juvenile justice system¹; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education recognizes that strategies, such as Positive Behavioral Intervention & Supports (PBIS), are designed to reduce out-of-school suspensions and create an alternative method to improve student behavior and school climate; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education acknowledges an out-of-school suspension or expulsion may be necessary or required in some cases, to protect the safety and security of students and staff; and

WHEREAS, the objective of school policies is to establish and maintain effective school environments that maximize academic achievement and behavioral competence of all learners;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the State Board of Education recommends that local boards of education, local superintendents, and principals implement strategies designed to reduce out-of-school suspensions and create an alternative method to improve student behavior and school climate when considering student suspensions; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, the State Board of Education urges districts to revise discipline policies to reflect preventative strategies and alternatives to out-of-school suspensions or expulsions.

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the action taken by the State Board of Education at its meeting on November 15 2016.

Columbus, Ohio
November 21, 2016


Paolo DeMaria
Superintendent of Public Instruction