

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

Proposes policies and strategies to help reduce the use of suspensions and expulsions for young children and for other children for whom alternative services in lieu of a dismissal from school may be available.

Section

- 1 **Parent notification and meeting.** At the meeting before removing a pupil from school, directs the school district and the parent or guardian to also consider whether it is appropriate to refer the pupil to a special education evaluation.
- 2 **Suspensions prohibited for young children.** Prohibits school administrators from suspending pupils in prekindergarten through grade 3 but allows the administrators to use alternatives to suspension unless the administrator determines the pupil creates an immediate and substantial danger to the pupil or surrounding persons or property.
- 3 **Report to commissioner of education.**
 - Subd. 1. Exclusions and expulsions.** Requires school boards to submit an electronic report to the education department when parents agree to withdraw a child from school as an alternative to expulsion.
 - Subd. 2. Report.** Requires the department to annually report to the commissioner summary data on the number of dismissals of one day or less. Requires school boards to post the same summary data on the district Web site unless doing so would risk disclosing personally identifiable information about a student.

Section

- 4** **Policies to be established.** (a) Requires school boards' dismissal policies to: emphasize avoiding the use of suspensions and expulsions from school until alternatives such as encouraging a parent to attend school with the pupil, assigning the pupil to attend school on Saturday, or petitioning the court that the pupil is in need of services have been tried, except where it appears to the school administrator that the pupil creates an immediate and substantial danger to the pupil or surrounding persons or property; and include strategies to reengage the pupil in learning.
- 5** **Alternatives to pupil suspension.** Allows a school administrator, after notifying a pupil of the grounds for suspension, to coordinate crisis intervention services with the county board to the extent funds are available, instead of imposing the suspension.
- 6** **Policy components.** Requires school disciplinary policies to include an agreement to coordinate crisis services, including the use of mobile crisis response teams.
- 7** **Parent notification.** Requires a school administrator to immediately contact the parent of a student who is removed from a school building or school grounds by a peace officer.