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SUMMARY

Expulsion policies

- Permits a public school to establish a policy that authorizes the district superintendent, or equivalent administrator, to expel a student for not more than 180 school days for actions that pose “imminent and severe endangerment” to the health and safety of other students or school employees.
- Requires the superintendent to develop conditions for a student expelled for imminent and severe endangerment to satisfy before that student may be reinstated, including an assessment to determine whether the student poses a danger.
- Requires the superintendent to assess the student at the end of the expulsion period to determine whether the student has shown “sufficient rehabilitation” to be reinstated, and permits the superintendent to extend the expulsion for up to 90 additional school days, subject to further reassessment and extensions.
- Requires that cost of the assessment, if done by a psychiatrist, psychologist, or school psychologist employed or contracted by the district or school, be paid by the district or school.
- Requires that cost of the assessment, if done by a psychiatrist, psychologist, or school psychologist who is not employed or contracted by the district or school, be referred for payment to the student’s health insurance, with the remainder paid by the district or school.
- Permits a superintendent to develop contingent conditions for a student’s reinstatement and to revoke a student’s reinstatement if those conditions are not met.
- Expressly makes all determinations by a superintendent regarding an expulsion for imminent and severe endangerment subject to the same notification requirements and appeals process as other types of expulsions under continuing law.

- Requires the superintendent to develop a plan for the continued education of a student during the expulsion period within 15 school days of the beginning of the expulsion period for a student who does not have an individualized education program (IEP), or within ten school days for a student who does have an IEP.
- Requires the district or school to specify reasons for which the expulsion period may be reduced and establish guidelines regarding appropriate reinstatement.
- Requires the superintendent to develop a list of alternative educational options for those expelled in accordance with the act.
- Requires boards to provide the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) records of each expulsion made under a policy adopted under the act and any changes to a pupil's expulsion status.
- Permits a school to which a student with an expulsion record transfers to request the student's expulsion record from the student's former school or from DEW and requires the former school or DEW to provide the requested records.
- Prohibits a school from withholding records related to a student's expulsion for outstanding debt attributed to the student.
- Requires public schools to include specified demographic data on expelled students and information on those expulsions in the expulsion records submitted to DEW.

School choice program administration funding

- Increases the appropriation authority for school choice program administration in FY 2025 from up to \$4 million to up to \$8.14 million.

Community school automatic closure exemptions

- Exempts from closure requirements for the 2024-2025 school year any community school that meets established closure criteria but, for any of the 2022-2023, 2023-2024, or 2024-2025 school years, receives a performance index score on its report card within five points below the score required to receive two stars on its achievement rating.
- Requires an exempted community school to close if it continues to meet the closure criteria in the 2025-2026 school year or if it meets the similar specified criteria in the 2026-2027 school year.

Storage and use of drugs used to treat seizures

- Permits a public or chartered nonpublic school to store a student's prescribed seizure drug in an easily accessible location.
- Permits a student to possess the student's prescribed seizure drug if the school principal or school nurse receives written approval from the student's physician and, if the student is a minor, from the student's parent or guardian.

- Permits an authorized school employee, contractor, or volunteer to administer a student’s prescribed seizure drug if the individual receives a copy of the written approval from the student’s physician or training.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Expulsion of student for imminent and severe endangerment

The act permits a school district board of education, community school governing authority, or STEM school governing body to adopt a resolution establishing a policy that authorizes the district superintendent, or equivalent of a community or STEM school, to expel a student from school for not more than 180 school days for actions that the superintendent determines pose “imminent and severe endangerment” to the health and safety of other students or school employees.¹ The act specifically states that such an expulsion may be sought even if the student’s actions do not qualify for permanent exclusion from the Ohio public school system by the Director of Education and Workforce.

The act defines “imminent and severe endangerment” to include:²

1. Bringing a firearm or a knife capable of causing serious bodily injury to school, a property owned or controlled by the school board, or to an interscholastic competition, extracurricular event, or other program or activity sponsored by the district or school, in which the district or school is a participant;
2. Committing an act that is a criminal offense when committed by an adult and that results in serious physical harm to persons or property while at any of the above locations;
3. Making a bomb threat to a school building or to any premises at which a school activity is occurring at the time of the threat; or
4. Making an articulated or verbalized threat, including a hit list, threatening manifesto, or social media post, that would lead a reasonable person to conclude that the student poses a serious threat.

If the superintendent expels a student under the act, the superintendent is required to develop conditions for the student to satisfy before that student may be reinstated. A written copy of the conditions must be provided at the beginning of the expulsion period to the district’s or school’s board, the student, and the student’s parent.³ The district’s or school’s board must establish guidelines for appropriate conditions.⁴

¹ R.C. 3313.66(B)(6) and 3313.661. R.C. 3313.66 and 3313.661 apply to community schools and STEM schools by reference in R.C. 3314.03 and 3326.11, neither in the act.

² R.C. 3313.66(K)(4).

³ R.C. 3313.66(B)(6).

⁴ R.C. 3313.661(E)(1).

One of the conditions for reinstatement is an assessment to determine whether the student poses a danger to the student's self, other students, or school employees. The assessment must be completed by a psychiatrist, licensed psychologist, or licensed school psychologist, who is agreed upon by both the superintendent and the student's parent. (For the purposes of this analysis, the term "parent" means the student's parent, guardian, or custodian.)

A psychiatrist must be a licensed physician who meets specified requirements regarding training in psychiatry. A psychiatrist, licensed psychologist, or licensed school psychologist may include recommendations for contingent conditions on a student's reinstatement in the assessment.⁵

The act permits a district or school that adopts an expulsion policy under the act to subject the reinstatement of a student who is expelled for bringing a firearm to school to the reinstatement process under that policy. In alignment with federal law, Ohio generally requires superintendents to expel a student for one year for bringing a firearm to school.⁶

Assessment of an expelled student

At the end of the expulsion period, the superintendent must assess the student to determine whether the student has shown "sufficient rehabilitation" to be reinstated, meaning a student has met all conditions for reinstatement set by the superintendent and has been determined by the superintendent to no longer pose a danger to the student's self, other students, or school employees.⁷

If the student has not shown sufficient rehabilitation, the superintendent may extend the expulsion for another period of not longer than 90 school days.⁸ When determining reinstatement, the superintendent must consider both (1) the assessment that was completed by the psychiatrist, psychologist, or school psychologist, and (2) whether the student met the conditions developed by the superintendent.⁹

For an initial expulsion of 180 days or a 90-day extension, the superintendent must make the determination in consultation with a multidisciplinary team selected by the superintendent.¹⁰

Contingent conditions for reinstatement

The act permits a superintendent to impose contingent conditions for a student's reinstatement. These conditions may include the conditions developed for the original expulsion period and recommendations made by the psychiatrist, psychologist, or school psychologist who conducted the student's reinstatement assessment. The superintendent must set a duration

⁵ R.C. 3313.66(B)(6); see also R.C. 5122.01, not in the act.

⁶ R.C. 3313.66(B)(2)(a); see also the federal Gun-Free Schools Act, 20 United States Code 7961.

⁷ R.C. 3313.66 (B)(6)(a) and (K)(5).

⁸ R.C. 3313.66(B)(6)(a)(ii).

⁹ R.C. 3313.66(B)(6)(a).

¹⁰ R.C. 3313.66(B)(6)(a).

within which the student must meet these contingent conditions, which may extend to the student's graduation date. The superintendent must also provide a copy of the contingent conditions in writing to the board, student, and the student's parent when issuing the superintendent's reinstatement determination.

The act permits a superintendent to revoke a student's reinstatement and establish an extended expulsion period if a student fails to meet the contingent conditions.¹¹

Extended expulsion periods

If the superintendent determines that the student has not shown "sufficient rehabilitation" and extends the expulsion period, the superintendent must develop a new set of conditions for the student to satisfy before that student may be reinstated. These conditions may be the same conditions that the superintendent developed for the original expulsion period. The superintendent again must provide these conditions in writing to the board, the student, and the student's parent at the beginning of the extended expulsion period.

At the end of the extended expulsion period, the superintendent must reassess the student in the same manner as for the original expulsion period and determine whether the student has shown "sufficient rehabilitation" to be reinstated. As with the original expulsion period, if the student has not, the superintendent may extend the expulsion for another period not to exceed 90 school days. The act expressly states that there is no limit on the number of times the superintendent may choose to extend an expulsion.¹²

Early assessment and reduction of an expulsion period

Prior to the end of the original or extended expulsion period, the student or the student's parent may request that the superintendent complete an early assessment of the student. If a request is made, the superintendent must complete an assessment and make a determination in the same manner as would apply at the end of the expulsion period. The student or the student's parent may request an early assessment only once for the original expulsion period and only once for each extended expulsion period.¹³

Additionally, the superintendent may reduce a student's expulsion on a case-by-case basis prior to the end of the original or extended expulsion period, if that student has met all the conditions developed by the superintendent at the beginning of the expulsion period.¹⁴

In making either of the above determinations, the superintendent must comply with the district's or school's policy regarding the reduction of an expulsion period.

¹¹ R.C. 3313.66(B)(6)(e).

¹² R.C. 3313.66(B)(6)(b).

¹³ R.C. 3313.66(B)(6)(d).

¹⁴ R.C. 3313.66(B)(6)(c).

Payment for assessment

The act prescribes the following payment structure for the assessment completed by a psychiatrist, psychologist, or school psychologist (“assessor”), as a required condition for reinstatement, to determine whether the student poses a danger to that student’s self, other students, or school employees:

1. If the assessor is employed or contracted by the district or school, the district or school must pay in full for the cost of that assessment.
2. If the assessor is not employed or contracted by the district or school, the cost of that assessment must be referred for payment to the student’s health insurance. Following referral, any costs that are not covered by the student’s health insurance must be paid by the district or school.¹⁵

Additionally, because the act requires the superintendent to assess a student during an early assessment or at the end of an extended expulsion period in the same manner as for the original expulsion period, this payment structure presumably would apply to the required assessment completed by an assessor for either of these circumstances.

Due process

A student subject to an expulsion authorized by the act is entitled to the same due process procedures as a student subject to any other type of expulsion, including procedures for notice and appeals.¹⁶ Any determination made by the superintendent regarding such an expulsion is subject to these requirements, including not only the decision to expel a student, but also the decision whether to reinstate the student or to extend the expulsion period.

Continued education of an expelled student

The act requires the superintendent to develop a plan for the continued education of a student who is expelled for imminent and severe endangerment. The plan may include educational options such as an alternative school operated by the district or school, instruction at home, enrollment in another public or nonpublic school, or any other form of instruction that complies with the compulsory school attendance law. In developing the plan, the superintendent must consult with the student, the student’s parent, and the student’s IEP team, if the student has one. The plan must be developed within 15 school days after the beginning of the original expulsion period or of any extended expulsion period for a student who does not have an IEP, or within ten school days of the beginning of an expulsion period for a student who has an IEP.¹⁷

The act requires the district superintendent to develop a list of alternative educational options for students who are expelled under the act.¹⁸

¹⁵ R.C. 3313.66(B)(6), second paragraph.

¹⁶ R.C. 3313.66(B)(6)(a) and (g).

¹⁷ R.C. 3313.66(B)(6)(f).

¹⁸ R.C. 3313.661(F).

Duties of the board

If a district or school board adopts a resolution authorizing the superintendent to expel a student for imminent and severe endangerment, the board must do three things. First, it must specify reasons for which the superintendent may reduce an expulsion period on a case-by-case basis.¹⁹ Second, the board must establish guidelines regarding appropriate conditions that the superintendent may develop for a student to satisfy prior to that student's reinstatement.²⁰ Finally, the board must provide the Department of Education and Workforce with records of each expulsion made under the policy.²¹

Transfer of expulsion records

The act requires a district or school to provide the Department with records of each expulsion made under a policy adopted under the act and of any changes to a student's expulsion status. Boards must submit these records without using a student's name and in accordance with laws regarding the statewide Education Management Information System and the confidentiality of student information. Expulsion records must include:

1. The name of the student's school;
2. The reason or reasons for the student's expulsion;
3. The duration of the student's expulsion and any extension of the expulsion;
4. The total number of students expelled by the district in the school year as of the date of the report; and
5. The student's age, gender, race, and other demographic information.

The act permits a district or school to which a student with an expulsion record under a policy adopted under the act transfers to request those records from the student's former school or from the Department and requires the student's former school or the Department to provide the requested records.²² The act also prohibits a district or school from withholding records related to a student's expulsion due to outstanding debt attributed to the student.²³

School choice program administration funding

The act increases the appropriation authority for school choice program administration in fiscal year 2025 from up to \$4 million to up to \$8.14 million.²⁴

¹⁹ R.C. 3313.661(A).

²⁰ R.C. 3313.661(E).

²¹ R.C. 3313.66(B)(6)(h).

²² R.C. 3313.66(B)(6)(h); see also R.C. 3301.0714 and 3319.321, not in the act.

²³ R.C. 3319.324(E).

²⁴ Sections 3 and 4.

Community school automatic closure exemptions

The act exempts from closure requirements for the 2024-2025 school year any community school that meets established closure criteria under continuing law but, for any of the 2022-2023, 2023-2024, or 2024-2025 school years, receives a performance index score on its state report card within five points below the score required to receive two stars on the report card's achievement component.

If an exempted community school continues to qualify for closure in the 2025-2026 school year, the school must close. If an exempted community school does not qualify for closure in the 2025-2026 school year, the school may continue to operate.

If an exempted community school meets the following state report card criteria in the 2026-2027 school year, the school must close:

1. The school does not offer a grade level higher than three and satisfies either of the following criteria:
 - a. The school has received a performance rating of one star for early literacy.
 - b. The school has received an overall performance rating of less than two stars.
2. The school offers any of grade levels four to eight but does not offer a grade level higher than nine and satisfies either of the following criteria:
 - a. The school has received a performance rating of one star for both achievement and progress.
 - b. The school has received an overall performance rating of less than two stars and a performance rating of one star for progress.
3. The school offers any of grade levels ten to twelve and satisfies either of the following criteria:
 - a. The school has received a performance rating of one star for achievement and has not met annual measurable objectives for gap closing, as determined by the Department.
 - b. The school has received an overall performance rating of less than two stars and a performance rating of one star for progress.

If an exempted community school does not meet that criteria in the 2026-2027 school year, the act resets the starting point for closure determination based on performance over a number of school years for that community school.²⁵

Storage and use of drugs used to treat seizures

The act permits a public or chartered nonpublic school to store a drug prescribed to a student for a seizure disorder in an easily accessible location. The act also permits a student who is prescribed a drug to prevent the onset of a seizure or alleviate seizure symptoms to possess

²⁵ Section 5.

the drug while at school or at any school activity, event, or program if the school principal and school nurse, if there is one, have received written approval from the student's physician and, if the student is a minor, from the student's parent, guardian, or other person having care or charge of the student. The physician's written approval must include:

1. The student's name and address;
2. The name of the drug and the dosage, if any, to be administered;
3. The circumstances under which the drug is to be administered;
4. How the drug is to be administered;
5. Written instructions that outline procedures school personnel should follow in the event that the drug does not prevent the onset of a seizure or alleviate the symptoms of a seizure;
6. Any severe adverse reactions that may occur to the student for whom the drug is prescribed and that should be reported to the physician;
7. Any severe adverse reactions that may occur to another student for whom the drug is not prescribed, should such a student receive a dose of the drug;
8. At least one emergency telephone number for contacting the physician in an emergency;
9. At least one emergency telephone number for contacting the parent, guardian, or other person having care or charge of the student in an emergency; and
10. Any other special instructions from the physician.

Under the act, an authorized school employee, contractor, or volunteer may administer a drug prescribed to a student to prevent the onset of a seizure or alleviate the symptoms of a seizure if the employee, contractor, or volunteer receives either a copy of the written approval issued by the student's physician or training regarding the circumstances under which the drug is to be administered to the student and how the drug is to be administered to the student.²⁶

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	06-06-23
Reported, H. Primary & Secondary Education	11-29-23
Passed House (68-15)	12-04-24
Reported, S. Education	12-18-24
Passed Senate (23-7)	12-18-24
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²⁶ R.C. 3313.7117(D)(1) to (3).