



WHITTED+TAKIFF+HANSEN^{LLC}

QUARTERLY E-NEWSLETTER

April — June 2015

LEGAL UPDATES

June 2014

- A newly-proposed Senate Bill, SB 226, would require the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to implement a program designed to screen and register disabled children for the Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services (PUNS) waiting list for services.
- Illinois Senate Bill 1591 was introduced, which would require charter school proposals to include any known civil or criminal investigations into an organization or member of the governing body of the organization.
- A new Illinois bill, HB 2657, was sent to the Governor for signature which would authorize the ISBE to use previously-allocated moneys in supporting the recruitment and retention of educators. The bill will also make changes to certain endorsements for chief school business officials and other administrator and teaching licenses in Illinois.

May 2014

- A newly proposed house bill, HB 2781, would allow school districts to create e-learning programs, permitting students to receive instruction electronically (not physically present at school) for a limited number of days during a school year.
- ISBE, through proposed HB 3197, is in the process of forming a new committee, the Attendance Commission, to study chronic absenteeism and make recommendations for strategies to prevent chronic absenteeism.
- A newly proposed Illinois senate bill, SB 706, would require non-public schools to perform criminal background checks on student teachers.

April 2014

- A new house bill, HB 3123, would amend the definition of “school counseling services,” to include: 1) Actively supporting students in need of special education services by implementing the academic, personal or social, and college or career development services or interventions as required by a school professional per an IEP, 2) Participating in or contributing to a student’s IEP, or 3) Completing a social developmental history.

- A new Senate Bill, SB 100, was introduced that would make significant changes to student suspension and expulsion procedures, including:
 - Requiring Districts to include in a written expulsion decision specific reasons why expulsion is in the best interest of the school;
 - Prohibiting “zero tolerance” discipline policies;
 - Prohibiting suspensions for more than three days unless the student’s continuing presence would pose a threat to school safety or disruption to other students’ learning opportunities;
 - Prohibiting 45-day removals unless all other appropriate and available behavioral and disciplinary interventions have been exhausted (documentation required);
 - Provision of “appropriate and available supports” for students suspended more than four days;
 - Requiring a policy to facilitate the re-engagement of students who are suspended or expelled; and
 - Requiring a policy to allow students the opportunity to make up work for equivalent academic credit.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Currently Pending Discipline Law Revision

UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS

Date	Title/Topic	Organization
7/8, 7/14, 7/15 and 7/28/15	Mental Health and Special Education Lecture Series	Compass Health Center
7/16 – 9/17/15	Psychiatry and the Law	University of Illinois at Chicago
11/5/15	The Latest Legal Issues Impacting Special Educators	Illinois Council for Exceptional Children
2/6/16	Latest Legal Issues Impacting Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disorders	Illinois Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders

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