



S.B. 134

123rd General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sen. Watts

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires boards of education to adopt a policy for early identification of troubled students consistent with those included in *Early Warning, Timely Response: A Guide to Safe Schools* published by the federal departments of Education and Justice.
- Requires boards of education to adopt a policy deciding whether or not to require school uniforms.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Early identification of troubled students

(sec. 3313.537)

The bill requires the board of education of each city, local, exempted village, and joint vocational school district, not later than 30 days after the effective date of this bill, to adopt a policy for the early identification of troubled students. That policy must be consistent with the early warning signs presented in *Section 3 of Early Warning, Timely Response: A Guide to Safe Schools* (1998) published by the U.S. Departments of Education and Justice (see the **COMMENT** for additional information on the report).

The following are the topics that are included in *Section 3, Early Warning Signs*, referenced in the bill and with which the district policies must be consistent. The complete text of *Section 3* is included as an appendix to this analysis.¹

¹ The full report, Early Warning, Timely Response, is available at the U.S. Department of Education's home page: <http://www.ed.gov/iffuces/OSERS/OSEP/earlywrrn.html>.

Section 3. Early Warning Signs

Principles of identifying the early warning signs of school violence

Do no harm

Understand violence and aggression within a context

Avoid stereotypes

View warning signs within a developmental context

Understand that children typically exhibit multiple warning signs

Early Warning Signs

Social withdrawal

Excessive feelings of isolation and being alone

Excessive feelings of rejection

Being a victim of violence

Feelings of being picked on and persecuted

Low school interest and poor academic performance

Expression of violence in writings and drawings

Uncontrolled anger

Patterns of impulsive and chronic hitting, intimidating, and bullying behaviors

History of discipline problems

Past history of violent and aggressive behavior

Intolerance for differences and prejudicial attitudes

Drug use and alcohol use

Affiliation with gangs

Inappropriate access to, possession of, and use of firearms

Identifying and Responding to Imminent Warning Signs

Using the Early Warning Signs to Shape Intervention Practices

School uniforms

(sec. 3313.665)

Under existing law, a board of education may adopt as part of its code of conduct, a reasonable dress code or it may establish a school uniform to be worn by students in one or more schools in the district. Prior to adoption of the dress code, the board must provide ample opportunity for comment. If the board policy requires a specific uniform, parents must be given six months notice of that requirement. Any uniform code must provide for a procedure of economic assistance to help economically disadvantaged students acquire a school uniform and district or other funds may be used to provide that assistance. Additionally, any dress code must provide for an exception so that students may wear the uniform of a nationally recognized youth organization on a day that the organization has scheduled activities.

The bill does not change the existing law regarding dress codes and uniform policies, but requires that within 30 days after the effective date of the bill, the board of education of each school district adopt a policy deciding whether or not to require school uniforms in one or more schools pursuant to the existing law.

COMMENT

The guide referenced in the bill is:

Dwyer, K., Osher, D., and Warger, C. (1998). *Early Warning, Timely Response: A Guide to Safe Schools*, Washington D.C.: U.S. Department of Education.

The guide was produced at the direction of President Clinton by the Center for Effective Collaboration and Practice of the American Institutes for Research, in collaboration with the National Association of School Psychologists, under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Office of Special Education Programs.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
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