

HOUSE BILL No. 2973

By Committee on Education

2-15

AN ACT concerning schools; requiring boards of education to adopt policies on pupil discipline; providing legal support for certain actions of teachers and school administrators.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. As used in this act:

(a) "Board of education" means the board of education of a unified school district or the governing authority of an accredited nonpublic school.

(b) "School" means a public school or an accredited nonpublic school.

(c) "Public school" means a school operated by a unified school district organized under the laws of this state.

(d) "Accredited nonpublic school" means a nonpublic school participating in the quality performance accreditation system.

(e) "School employees" means teachers, administrators and support staff employed by a school.

Sec. 2. (a) The board of education of each school shall develop, adopt and broadly disseminate a written policy on rules of discipline. Such rules shall include policy concerning academic and social behavior. Annually, copies of the policy shall be given to all school employees, parents and pupils.

(b) Annually, such rules shall be reviewed by:

(1) Pupils presented by a school employee during a class period; and

(2) school employees and board of education members.

Sec. 3. It shall be the responsibility of boards of education to provide legal support to each school employee exercising the employee's authority and responsibility to maintain order and discipline in the school as long as the school employee follows the board of education's policy. Such support for the school employee shall include, but not be limited to, providing appropriate legal representation to defend the school employee against charges that such school employee violated the rights of the student.

Sec. 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.