

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011

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HOUSE BILL 736
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/20/11

Short Title: Amend Law Re: School Discipline.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 7, 2011

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REORGANIZE THE GENERAL STATUTES RELATING TO SCHOOL
3 DISCIPLINE; PREVENT LITIGATION BY ADDING DEFINITIONS TO, AND
4 CLARIFYING AMBIGUITIES IN, THE CURRENT LAW; CODIFY EXISTING CASE
5 LAW; AND INCREASE LOCAL CONTROL AND FLEXIBILITY REGARDING
6 DISCIPLINE.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-390 and G.S. 115C-391 are repealed.

9 **SECTION 2.** Article 27 of chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by
10 adding the following new sections:

11 "**§ 115C-390.1. State policy and definitions.**

12 (a) In order to create and maintain a safe and orderly school environment conducive to
13 learning, school administrators and teachers need adequate tools to maintain good discipline in
14 schools. However, the General Assembly also recognizes that removal of students from school,
15 while sometimes necessary, can exacerbate behavioral problems, diminish academic
16 achievement, and hasten school dropout. School discipline must balance these interests to
17 provide a safe and productive learning environment, to continually teach students to respect
18 themselves, others, and property, and to conduct themselves in a manner that fosters their own
19 learning and the learning of those around them.

20 (b) The following definitions apply in this Article:

21 (1) Alternative education services. – Part or full-time programs, wherever
22 situated, providing direct or computer-based instruction that allow a student
23 to progress in one or more core academic courses. Alternative education
24 services include programs established by the local board of education in
25 conformity with G.S. 115C-105.47A and local board of education policies.

26 (2) Corporal punishment. – The intentional infliction of physical pain upon the
27 body of a student as a disciplinary measure.

28 (3) Educational property. – Any school building or bus, school campus,
29 grounds, recreational area, athletic field, or other property under the control
30 of any local board of education or charter school.

31 (4) Expulsion. – The indefinite exclusion of a student from school enrollment
32 for disciplinary purposes.

33 (5) Firearm. – Any of the following:

34 a. A weapon, including a starter gun, which will or is designed to or
35 may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an
36 explosive.

37 b. The frame or receiver of any such weapon.



1 c. Any firearm muffler or firearm silencer.

2 The term shall not include an inoperable antique firearm, a BB gun, stun
3 gun, air rifle, or air pistol.

4 (6) Long-term suspension. – The exclusion for more than 10 school days of a
5 student from school attendance for disciplinary purposes from the school to
6 which the student was assigned at the time of the disciplinary action. If the
7 offense leading to the long-term suspension occurs before the final quarter of
8 the school year, the exclusion shall be no longer than the remainder of the
9 school year in which the offense was committed. If the offense leading to the
10 long-term suspension occurs during the final quarter of the school year, the
11 exclusion may include a period up to the remainder of the school year in
12 which the offense was committed and the first semester of the following
13 school year.

14 (7) Parent. – Includes a parent, legal guardian, legal custodian, or other
15 caregiver adult who is acting in the place of a parent and is entitled to enroll
16 the student in school under Article 25 of this Chapter.

17 (8) Destructive device. – An explosive, incendiary, or poison gas:

18 a. Bomb.

19 b. Grenade.

20 c. Rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces.

21 d. Missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than
22 one-quarter ounce.

23 e. Mine.

24 f. Device similar to any of the devices listed in this subdivision.

25 (9) Principal. – Includes the principal and the principal's designee.

26 (10) Short-term suspension. – The exclusion of a student from school attendance
27 for disciplinary purposes for up to 10 school days from the school to which
28 the student was assigned at the time of the disciplinary action.

29 (11) Substantial evidence. – Such relevant evidence as a reasonable person might
30 accept as adequate to support a conclusion; it is more than a scintilla or
31 permissible inference.

32 (12) Superintendent. – Includes the superintendent and the superintendent's
33 designee.

34 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of this Article, the policies and procedures for the
35 discipline of students shall be consistent with the requirements of the Gun Free Schools Act, 20
36 U.S.C. § 7151, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 29 U.S.C. § 1400, et
37 seq., section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 701, et seq., and with other
38 federal laws and regulations.

39 **§ 115C-390.2. Discipline policies.**

40 (a) Local boards of education shall adopt policies to govern the conduct of students and
41 establish procedures to be followed by school officials in disciplining students. These policies
42 must be consistent with the provisions of this Article and the constitutions, statutes, and
43 regulations of the United States and the State of North Carolina.

44 (b) Board policies shall include or provide for the development of a Code of Student
45 Conduct that notifies students of the standards of behavior expected of them, conduct that may
46 subject them to discipline, and the range of disciplinary measures that may be used by school
47 officials.

48 (c) Board policies may authorize suspension for conduct not occurring on educational
49 property, but only if the student's conduct otherwise violates the Code of Student Conduct and
50 the conduct has or is reasonably expected to have a direct and immediate impact on the orderly
51 and efficient operation of the schools or the safety of individuals in the school environment.

1 (d) Board policies shall not allow students to be long-term suspended or expelled from
2 school solely for truancy or tardiness offenses and shall not allow short-term suspension of
3 more than two days for such offenses.

4 (e) Board policies shall not impose mandatory long-term suspensions or expulsions for
5 specific violations unless otherwise provided in State or federal law.

6 (f) Board policies shall minimize the use of long-term suspension and expulsion by
7 restricting the availability of long-term suspension or expulsion to those violations deemed to
8 be serious violations of the board's Code of Student Conduct that either threaten the safety of
9 students, staff, or school visitors or threaten to substantially disrupt the educational
10 environment. Examples of conduct that would not be deemed to be a serious violation include
11 the use of inappropriate or disrespectful language, noncompliance with a staff directive, dress
12 code violations, and minor physical altercations that do not involve weapons or injury. The
13 principal may, however, in his or her discretion, determine that aggravating circumstances
14 justify treating a minor violation as a serious violation.

15 (g) Board policies shall not prohibit the superintendent and principals from considering
16 the student's intent, disciplinary and academic history, the potential benefits to the student of
17 alternatives to suspension, and other mitigating or aggravating factors when deciding whether
18 to recommend or impose long-term suspension.

19 (h) Board policies shall include the procedures to be followed by school officials in
20 suspending, expelling, or administering corporal punishment to any student, which shall be
21 consistent with this Article.

22 (i) Each local board shall publish all policies, administrative procedures, or school
23 rules mandated by this section and make them available to each student and his or her parent at
24 the beginning of each school year and upon request.

25 (j) Local boards of education are encouraged to include in their safe schools plans,
26 adopted pursuant to G.S. 115C-105.47, research-based behavior management programs that
27 take positive approaches to improving student behaviors.

28 (k) School administrators are encouraged to use a full range of responses to violations
29 of disciplinary rules, such as conferences, counseling, peer mediation, behavior contracts,
30 instruction in conflict resolution and anger management, detention, academic interventions,
31 community service, and other similar tools that do not remove a student from the classroom or
32 school building.

33 **"§ 115C-390.3. Reasonable force.**

34 (a) School personnel may use physical restraint only in accordance with
35 G.S. 115C-391.1.

36 (b) School personnel may use reasonable force to control behavior or to remove a
37 person from the scene in those situations when necessary for any of the following reasons:

38 (1) To correct students.

39 (2) To quell a disturbance threatening injury to others.

40 (3) To obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects on the person,
41 or within the control, of a student.

42 (4) For self-defense.

43 (5) For the protection of persons or property.

44 (6) To maintain order on educational property, in the classroom, or at a
45 school-related activity on or off educational property.

46 (c) Notwithstanding any other law, no officer or employee of the State Board of
47 Education or of a local board of education shall be civilly liable for using reasonable force in
48 conformity with State law, State or local rules, or State or local policies regarding the control,
49 discipline, suspension, and expulsion of students. Furthermore, the burden of proof is on the
50 claimant to show that the amount of force used was not reasonable.

51 **"§ 115C-390.4. Corporal punishment.**

1 (a) Each local board of education shall determine whether corporal punishment will be
2 permitted in its school administrative unit. Notwithstanding a local board of education's
3 prohibition on the use of corporal punishment, school personnel may use physical restraint in
4 accordance with federal law and G.S. 115C-391.1 and reasonable force pursuant to
5 G.S. 115C-390.3.

6 (b) To the extent that corporal punishment is permitted, the policies adopted for the
7 administration of corporal punishment shall include at a minimum the following:

8 (1) Corporal punishment shall not be administered in a classroom with other
9 students present.

10 (2) Only a teacher, principal, or assistant principal may administer corporal
11 punishment and may do so only in the presence of a principal, assistant
12 principal, or teacher who shall be informed beforehand and in the student's
13 presence of the reason for the punishment.

14 (3) A school official shall provide the student's parent with notification that
15 corporal punishment has been administered, and the official who
16 administered the corporal punishment shall provide the student's parent a
17 written explanation of the reasons and the name of the second school official
18 who was present.

19 (4) The school shall maintain records of each administration of corporal
20 punishment and the reasons for its administration.

21 (5) In no event shall excessive force be used in the administration of corporal
22 punishment. Excessive force includes force that results in injury to the child
23 that requires medical attention beyond simple first aid.

24 (6) Corporal punishment shall not be administered on a student who is a child
25 with a disability as defined in G.S. 115C-106.3(1) or on a student with a
26 disability who is covered under section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act
27 of 1973, as amended, 29 U.S.C. § 704, whose parent has stated in writing
28 that corporal punishment shall not be administered on that student. In school
29 administrative units where corporal punishment is permitted, parents shall be
30 given a form to make such an election at the beginning of the school year or
31 when the student first enters the school during the year. If a parent has not
32 submitted in writing that corporal punishment shall not be used on the
33 student, then the form shall be presented to the parent at the first
34 individualized education program or section 504 plan meeting held during
35 the school year.

36 (c) Each local board of education shall report annually to the State Board of Education,
37 in a manner prescribed by the State Board of Education, on the number of times that corporal
38 punishment was administered. The report shall be in compliance with the federal Family
39 Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, and shall include the following:

40 (1) The number of students who received corporal punishment.

41 (2) The number of students who received corporal punishment who were also
42 students with disabilities and were eligible to receive special education and
43 related services under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education
44 Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1400, et seq.

45 (3) The grade level of the students who received corporal punishment.

46 (4) The race, gender, and ethnicity of the students who received corporal
47 punishment.

48 (5) The reason for the administration of the corporal punishment for each
49 student who received corporal punishment.

50 **§ 115C-390.5. Short-term suspension.**

1 (a) The principal shall have authority to impose short-term suspension on a student who
2 willfully engages in conduct that violates a provision of the Code of Student Conduct
3 authorizing short-term suspension.

4 (b) If a student's short-term suspensions accumulate to more than 10 days in a semester,
5 to the extent the principal has not already done so, he or she shall invoke the mechanisms
6 provided for in the applicable safe schools plan adopted pursuant to G.S. 115C-105.47(b)(5)
7 and (b)(6).

8 (c) A student subject to short-term suspension shall be provided the following:

9 (1) The opportunity to take textbooks home for the duration of the suspension.

10 (2) Upon request, the right to receive all missed assignments and, to the extent
11 practicable, the materials distributed to students in connection with the
12 assignment.

13 (3) The opportunity to take any quarterly, semester, or grading period
14 examinations missed during the suspension period.

15 **"§ 115C-390.6. Short-term suspension procedures.**

16 (a) Except as authorized in this section, no short-term suspension shall be imposed
17 upon a student without first providing the student an opportunity for an informal hearing with
18 the principal. The notice to the student of the charges may be oral or written, and the hearing
19 may be held immediately after the notice is given. The student has the right to be present, to be
20 informed of the charges and the basis for the accusations, and to make statements in defense or
21 mitigation of the charges.

22 (b) The principal may impose a short-term suspension without providing the student an
23 opportunity for a hearing if the presence of the student creates a direct and immediate threat to
24 the safety of other students or staff, or substantially disrupts or interferes with the education of
25 other students or the maintenance of discipline at the school. In such cases, the notice of the
26 charges and informal hearing described in subsection (a) of this section shall occur as soon as
27 practicable.

28 (c) The principal shall provide notice to the student's parent of any short-term
29 suspension, including the reason for the suspension and a description of the alleged student
30 conduct upon which the suspension is based. The notice shall be given by the end of the
31 workday during which the suspension is imposed when reasonably possible, but in no event
32 more than two days after the suspension is imposed. The notice shall be given by certified mail,
33 telephone, facsimile, e-mail, or any other method reasonably designed to achieve actual notice.

34 (d) If English is the second language of the parent, the notice shall be provided in the
35 parent's primary language, when the appropriate foreign language resources are readily
36 available, and in English, and both versions shall be in plain language and shall be easily
37 understandable.

38 (e) A student is not entitled to appeal the principal's decision to impose a short-term
39 suspension to the superintendent or local board of education. Further, such a decision is not
40 subject to judicial review.

41 **"§ 115C-390.7. Long-term suspension.**

42 (a) A principal may recommend to the superintendent the long-term suspension of any
43 student who willfully engages in conduct that violates a provision of the Code of Student
44 Conduct that authorizes long-term suspension. Only the superintendent has the authority to
45 long-term suspend a student.

46 (b) Before the superintendent's imposition of a long-term suspension, the student must
47 be provided an opportunity for a hearing consistent with G.S. 115C-390.8.

48 (c) If the student recommended for long-term suspension declines the opportunity for a
49 hearing, the superintendent shall review the circumstances of the recommended long-term
50 suspension. Following such review, the superintendent (i) may impose the suspension if it
51 consistent with board policies and appropriate under the circumstances, (ii) may impose

1 another appropriate penalty authorized by board policy, or (iii) may decline to impose any
2 penalty.

3 (d) If a teacher is assaulted or injured by a student and as a result the student is
4 long-term suspended or reassigned to alternative education services, the student shall not be
5 returned to that teacher's classroom unless the teacher consents.

6 (e) Disciplinary reassignment of a student to a full-time educational program that meets
7 the academic requirements of the standard course of study established by the State Board of
8 Education as provided in G.S. 115C-12 and provides the student with the opportunity to make
9 timely progress towards graduation and grade promotion is not a long-term suspension
10 requiring the due process procedures described in G.S. 115C-390.8.

11 **"§ 115C-390.8. Long-term suspension procedures.**

12 (a) When a student is recommended by the principal for long-term suspension, the
13 principal shall give written notice to the student's parent. The notice shall be provided to the
14 student's parent by the end of the workday during which the suspension was recommended
15 when reasonably possible or as soon thereafter as practicable. The written notice shall provide
16 at least the following information:

- 17 (1) A description of the incident and the student's conduct that led to the
18 long-term suspension recommendation.
- 19 (2) A reference to the provisions of the Code of Student Conduct that the
20 student is alleged to have violated.
- 21 (3) The specific process by which the parent may request a hearing to contest
22 the decision, including the number of days within which the hearing must be
23 requested.
- 24 (4) The process by which a hearing will be held, including, at a minimum, the
25 procedures described in subsection (e) of this section.
- 26 (5) Notice that the parent is permitted to retain an attorney to represent the
27 student in the hearing process.
- 28 (6) The extent to which the local board policy permits the parent to have an
29 advocate, instead of an attorney, accompany the student to assist in the
30 presentation of his or her appeal.
- 31 (7) Notice that the parent has the right to review and obtain copies of the
32 student's educational records before the hearing.
- 33 (8) A reference to the local board policy on the expungement of discipline
34 records as required by G.S. 115C-402.

35 (b) Written notice may be provided by certified mail, fax, e-mail, or any other written
36 method reasonably designed to achieve actual notice of the recommendation for long-term
37 suspension. When school personnel are aware that English is not the primary language of the
38 parent or guardian, the notice shall be written in both English and in the primary language of
39 the parent or guardian when the appropriate foreign language resources are readily available.
40 All notices described in this section shall be written in plain English, and shall include the
41 following information translated into the dominant non-English language used by residents
42 within the local school administrative unit:

- 43 (1) The nature of the document, i.e., that it is a long-term suspension notice.
- 44 (2) The process by which the parent may request a hearing to contest the
45 long-term suspension.
- 46 (3) The identity and phone number of a school employee that the parent may
47 call to obtain assistance in understanding the English language information
48 included in the document.

49 (c) No long-term suspension shall be imposed on a student until an opportunity for a
50 formal hearing is provided to the student. If a hearing is timely requested, it shall be held and a
51 decision issued before a long-term suspension is imposed, except as otherwise provided in this

1 subsection. The student and parent shall be given reasonable notice of the time and place of the
2 hearing.

3 (1) If no hearing is timely requested, the superintendent shall follow the
4 procedures described in G.S. 115C-390.7(c).

5 (2) If the student or parent requests a postponement of the hearing, or if the
6 hearing is requested beyond the time set for such request, the hearing shall
7 be scheduled, but the student shall not have the right to return to school
8 pending the hearing.

9 (3) If neither the student nor parent appears for the scheduled hearing, after
10 having been given reasonable notice of the time and place of the hearing, the
11 parent and student are deemed to have waived the right to a hearing and the
12 superintendent shall conduct the review required by G.S. 115C-390.7(c).

13 (d) The formal hearing may be conducted by the local board of education, by the
14 superintendent, or by a person or group of persons appointed by the local board or
15 superintendent to serve as a hearing officer or hearing panel. Neither the board nor the
16 superintendent shall appoint any individual to serve as a hearing officer or on a hearing panel
17 who is under the direct supervision of the principal recommending suspension. If the hearing is
18 conducted by an appointed hearing officer or hearing panel, such officer or panel shall
19 determine the relevant facts and credibility of witnesses based on the evidence presented at the
20 hearing. Following the hearing, the superintendent or local board shall make a final decision
21 regarding the suspension. The superintendent or board shall adopt the hearing officer's or
22 panel's factual determinations unless they are not supported by substantial evidence in the
23 record.

24 (e) Long-term suspension hearings shall be conducted in accordance with policies
25 adopted by the board of education. Such policies shall offer the student procedural due process
26 including, but not limited to, the following:

27 (1) The right to be represented at the hearing by counsel or, in the discretion of
28 the local board, a non-attorney advocate.

29 (2) The right to be present at the hearing, accompanied by his or her parents.

30 (3) The right of the student, parent, and the student's representative to review
31 before the hearing any audio or video recordings of the incident and,
32 consistent with federal and State student records laws and regulations, the
33 information supporting the suspension that may be presented as evidence at
34 the hearing, including statements made by witnesses related to the charges
35 consistent with subsection (h) of this section.

36 (4) The right of the student, parent, or the student's representative to question
37 witnesses appearing at the hearing.

38 (5) The right to present evidence on his or her own behalf, which may include
39 written statements or oral testimony, relating to the incident leading to the
40 suspension, as well as any of the factors listed in G.S. 115C-390.2(g).

41 (6) The right to have a record made of the hearing.

42 (7) The right to make his or her own audio recording of the hearing.

43 (8) The right to a written decision, based on substantial evidence presented at
44 the hearing, either upholding, modifying, or rejecting the principal's
45 recommendation of suspension and containing at least the following
46 information:

47 a. The basis for the decision, including a reference to any policy or rule
48 that the student is determined to have violated.

49 b. Notice of what information will be included in the student's official
50 record pursuant to G.S. 115C-402.

1 c. The student's right to appeal the decision and notice of the
2 procedures for such appeal.

3 (f) Following the issuance of the decision, the superintendent shall implement the
4 decision by authorizing the student's return to school or by imposing the suspension reflected in
5 the decision.

6 (g) Unless the decision was made by the local board, the student may appeal the
7 decision to the local board in accordance with G.S. 115C-45(c) and policies adopted by the
8 board. Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 115C-45(c), a student's appeal to the board of a
9 decision upholding a long-term suspension shall be heard and a final written decision issued in
10 not more than 30 calendar days following the request for such appeal.

11 (h) Nothing in this section shall compel school officials to release names or other
12 information that could allow the student or his or her representative to identify witnesses when
13 such identification could create a safety risk for the witness.

14 (i) A decision of the local board to uphold the long-term suspension of a student is
15 subject to judicial review in accordance with Article 4 of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes.
16 The action must be brought within 30 days of the local board's decision. A person seeking
17 judicial review shall file a petition in the superior court of the county where the local board
18 made its decision. Local rules notwithstanding, petitions for judicial review of a long-term
19 suspension shall be set for hearing in the first succeeding term of superior court in the county
20 following the filing of the certified copy of the official record.

21 **"§ 115C-390.9. Alternative education services.**

22 (a) Students who are long-term suspended shall be offered alternative education
23 services unless the superintendent provides a significant or important reason for declining to
24 offer such services. The following may be significant or important reasons, depending on the
25 circumstances and the nature and setting of the alternative education services:

26 (1) The student exhibits violent behavior.

27 (2) The student poses a threat to staff or other students.

28 (3) The student substantially disrupts the learning process.

29 (4) The student otherwise engaged in serious misconduct that makes the
30 provision of alternative educational services not feasible.

31 (5) Educationally appropriate alternative education services are not available in
32 the local school administrative unit due to limited resources.

33 (6) The student failed to comply with reasonable conditions for admittance into
34 an alternative education program.

35 (b) If the superintendent declines to provide alternative education services to the
36 suspended student, the student may seek review of such decision by the local board of
37 education as permitted by G.S. 115C-45(c)(2). If the student seeks such review, the
38 superintendent shall provide to the student and the local board, in advance of the board's
39 review, a written explanation for the denial of services together with any documents or other
40 information supporting the decision.

41 **"§ 115C-390.10. 365-day suspension for gun possession.**

42 (a) All local boards of education shall develop and implement written policies and
43 procedures, as required by the federal Gun Free Schools Act, 20 U.S.C. § 7151, requiring
44 suspension for 365 calendar days of any student who is determined to have brought or been in
45 possession of a firearm or destructive device on educational property, or to a school-sponsored
46 event off of educational property. A principal shall recommend to the superintendent the
47 365-day suspension of any student believed to have violated board policies regarding weapons.
48 The superintendent has the authority to suspend for 365 days a student who has been
49 recommended for such suspension by the principal when such recommendation is consistent
50 with board policies. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the superintendent may modify, in writing,
51 the required 365-day suspension for an individual student on a case-by-case basis. The

1 superintendent shall not impose a 365-day suspension if the superintendent determines that the
2 student took or received the firearm or destructive device from another person at school or
3 found the firearm or destructive device at school, provided that the student delivered or
4 reported the firearm or destructive device as soon as practicable to a law enforcement officer or
5 a school employee and had no intent to use such firearm or destructive device in a harmful or
6 threatening way.

7 (b) The principal must report all incidents of firearms or destructive devices on
8 educational property or at a school-sponsored event as required by G.S. 115C-288(g) and State
9 Board of Education policy.

10 (c) Nothing in this provision shall apply to a firearm that was brought onto educational
11 property for activities approved and authorized by the local board of education, provided that
12 the local board of education has adopted appropriate safeguards to protect student safety.

13 (d) At the time the student and parent receive notice that the student is suspended for
14 365 days under this section, the superintendent shall provide notice to the student and the
15 student's parent of the right to petition the local board of education for readmission pursuant to
16 G.S. 115C-390.12.

17 (e) The procedures described in G.S. 115C-390.8 apply to students facing a 365-day
18 suspension pursuant to this section.

19 (f) Students who are suspended for 365 days pursuant to this section shall be
20 considered for alternative educational services consistent with the provisions of
21 G.S. 115C-390.9.

22 **"§ 115C-390.11. Expulsion.**

23 (a) Upon recommendation of the superintendent, a local board of education may expel
24 any student 14 years of age or older whose continued presence in school constitutes a clear
25 threat to the safety of other students or school staff. Prior to the expulsion of any student, the
26 local board shall conduct a hearing to determine whether the student's continued presence in
27 school constitutes a clear threat to the safety of other students or school staff. The student shall
28 be given reasonable notice of the recommendation in accordance with G.S. 115C-390.8(a) and
29 (b), as well as reasonable notice of the time and place of the scheduled hearing.

30 (1) The procedures described in G.S. 115C-390.8(e)(1)-(8) apply to students
31 facing expulsion pursuant to this section, except that the decision to expel a
32 student by the local board of education shall be based on clear and
33 convincing evidence that the student's continued presence in school
34 constitutes a clear threat to the safety of other students and school staff.

35 (2) A local board of education may expel any student subject to G.S. 14-208.18
36 in accordance with the procedures of this section. Prior to ordering the
37 expulsion of a student, the local board of education shall consider whether
38 there are alternative education services that may be offered to the student. As
39 provided by G.S. 14-208.18(f), if the local board of education determines
40 that the student shall be provided educational services on school property,
41 the student shall be under the supervision of school personnel at all times.

42 (3) At the time a student is expelled under this section, the student shall be
43 provided notice of the right to petition for readmission pursuant to
44 G.S. 115C-390.12.

45 (b) During the expulsion, the student is not entitled to be present on any property of the
46 local school administrative unit and is not considered a student of the local board of education.
47 Nothing in this section shall prevent a local board of education from offering access to some
48 type of alternative educational services that can be provided to the student in a manner that
49 does not create safety risks to other students and school staff.

50 **"§ 115C-390.12. Request for readmission.**

1 (a) All students suspended for 365 days or expelled may, after 180 calendar days from
2 the date of the beginning of the student's suspension or expulsion, request in writing
3 readmission to the local school administrative unit. The local board of education shall develop
4 and publish written policies and procedures for the readmission of all students who have been
5 expelled or suspended for 365 days, which shall provide, at a minimum, the following process:

6 (1) The process for 365-day suspended students.

- 7 a. At the local board's discretion, either the superintendent or the local
8 board itself shall consider and decide on petitions for readmission. If
9 the decision maker is the superintendent, the superintendent shall
10 offer the student an opportunity for an in-person meeting. If the
11 decision maker is the local board of education, the board may offer
12 the student an in-person meeting or may make a determination based
13 on the records submitted by the student and the superintendent.
14 b. The student shall be readmitted if the student demonstrates to the
15 satisfaction of the board or superintendent that the student's presence
16 in school no longer constitutes a threat to the safety of other students
17 or staff.
18 c. A superintendent's decision not to readmit the student may be
19 appealed to the local board of education pursuant to G.S. 115C-45(c).
20 The superintendent shall notify the parents of the right to appeal.
21 d. There is no right to judicial review of the board's decision not to
22 readmit a 365-day suspended student.
23 e. A decision on readmission under this subsection shall be issued
24 within 30 days of the petition.

25 (2) The process for expelled students.

- 26 a. The board of education shall consider all petitions for readmission of
27 expelled students, together with the recommendation of the
28 superintendent on the matter, and shall rule on the request for
29 readmission. The board shall consider the petition based on the
30 records submitted by the student and the response by the
31 administration and shall allow the parties to be heard in the same
32 manner as provided by G.S. 115C-45(c).
33 b. The student shall be readmitted if the student demonstrates to the
34 satisfaction of the board or superintendent that his or her presence in
35 a school no longer constitutes a clear threat to the safety of other
36 students or staff.
37 c. A decision by a board of education to deny readmission of an
38 expelled student is not subject to judicial review.
39 d. An expelled student may subsequently request readmission not more
40 often than every six months. The local board of education is not
41 required to consider subsequent readmission petitions filed sooner
42 than six months after the previous petition was filed.
43 e. A decision on readmission under this section shall be issued within
44 30 days of the petition.

45 (b) If a student is readmitted under this section, the board and the superintendent have
46 the right to assign the student to any program within the school system and to place reasonable
47 conditions on the readmission.

48 (c) If a teacher was assaulted or injured by a student, and as a result the student was
49 expelled, the student shall not be returned to that teacher's classroom following readmission
50 unless the teacher consents."

51 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 115C-391.1(i) reads as rewritten:

1 "(i) Nothing in this section modifies the rights of school personnel to use reasonable
2 force as permitted under ~~G.S. 115C-390~~ G.S. 115C-390.3 or modifies the rules and procedures
3 governing discipline under ~~G.S. 115C-391(a)~~ G.S. 115C-390.1 through G.S. 115C-390.12."

4 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 115C-12(27) reads as rewritten:

5 "(27) Reporting Dropout Rates, Corporal Punishment, Suspensions, Expulsions,
6 and Alternative Placements. – The State Board shall report by March 15 of
7 each year to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the
8 numbers of students who have dropped out of school, been subjected to
9 corporal punishment, been suspended, been expelled, been reassigned for
10 disciplinary purposes, or been ~~placed in an~~ provided alternative
11 program-education services. The data shall be reported in a disaggregated
12 manner ~~and~~, reflecting the local school administrative unit, race, gender,
13 grade level, ethnicity, and disability status of each affected student. Such
14 data shall be readily available to the public. The State Board shall not
15 include students that have been expelled from school when calculating the
16 dropout rate. The Board shall maintain a separate record of the number of
17 students who are expelled from school and the reasons for the expulsion."

18 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 115C-45(c)(1) reads as rewritten:

19 "(1) The discipline of a student under ~~G.S. 115C-391(e), (d), (d1), (d2), (d3), or~~
20 ~~(d4)~~ G.S. 115C-390.1 through G.S. 115C-390.12;"

21 **SECTION 6.** G.S. 115C-105.47(b)(6) reads as rewritten:

22 "(6) Mechanisms for assessing the needs of disruptive and disorderly students
23 and students who are at risk of academic failure, and providing them with
24 services to assist them in achieving academically and in modifying their
25 ~~behavior~~, behavior, including any positive behavior management or positive
26 behavior support programs that have been adopted, and removing them from
27 the classroom when necessary."

28 **SECTION 7.** G.S. 115C-105.47(b)(13)b. reads as rewritten:

29 "(13) Direction to school improvement teams within the local school
30 administrative unit to consider the special conditions at their schools and to
31 incorporate into their school improvement plans the appropriate components
32 of the local plan for:
33 a. maintaining safe and orderly schools; and
34 b. addressing the needs of students who are at risk of academic failure
35 or who are disruptive or ~~both~~, both, and including the components of
36 any positive behavior management or positive behavior support
37 programs that have been adopted."

38 **SECTION 8.** G.S. 115C-238.29B(b)(11) reads as rewritten:

39 "(11) The procedures by which students can be excluded from the charter school
40 and returned to a public school. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary,
41 any local board may refuse to admit any student who is suspended or
42 expelled from a charter school due to actions that would lead to suspension
43 or expulsion from a public school under ~~G.S. 115C-391~~ G.S. 115C-390.5
44 through G.S. 115C-390.11 until the period of suspension or expulsion has
45 expired."

46 **SECTION 9.** G.S. 115C-238.29F(g)(7) reads as rewritten:

47 "(7) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a charter school may refuse
48 admission to any student who has been expelled or suspended from a public
49 school under ~~G.S. 115C-391~~ G.S. 115C-390.5 through G.S. 115C-390.11
50 until the period of suspension or expulsion has expired."

51 **SECTION 10.** G.S. 115C-276(r) reads as rewritten:

1 "(r) To Maintain Student Discipline. – The superintendent shall maintain student
2 discipline in accordance with Article 27 of this Chapter and shall keep data on each student to
3 whom corporal punishment was administered, who was suspended for more than 10 days,
4 who was reassigned for disciplinary reasons, or who was expelled. This data shall include the
5 race, gender, age, grade level, ethnicity, and age disability status of each student, the duration of
6 suspension for each student, whether ~~an alternative education was considered or~~ services were
7 provided for each student, and whether a student had multiple suspensions. suspensions in that
8 academic year."

9 **SECTION 11.** G.S. 115C-288(e) reads as rewritten:

10 "(e) To Discipline Students and to Assign Duties to Teachers with Regard to the
11 Discipline, General Well-being, and Medical Care of Students. – The principal shall have
12 authority to exercise discipline over the pupils of the school under policies adopted by the local
13 board of education ~~as prescribed by G.S. 115C-391(a), in accordance with G.S. 115C-390.1~~
14 ~~through G.S. 115C-390.12.~~ The principal ~~shall~~ may use reasonable force ~~to discipline students~~
15 ~~under G.S. 115C-390 pursuant to G.S. 115C-390.3~~ and may suspend ~~or dismiss pupils~~
16 ~~under students G.S. 115C-391, pursuant to G.S. 115C-390.5.~~ The principal shall assign duties to
17 teachers with regard to the general well-being and the medical care of students under
18 G.S. 115C-307 and Article 26A of this Chapter."

19 **SECTION 12.** G.S. 115C-366 reads as rewritten:

20 "**§ 115C-366. Assignment of student to a particular school.**

21 ...

22 (a5) Notwithstanding any other law, a local board may deny admission to or place
23 reasonable conditions on the admission of a student who has been suspended from a school
24 under G.S. ~~115C-391~~ 115C-390.5 through G.S. 115C-390.10 or who has been suspended from
25 a school for conduct that could have led to a suspension from a school within the local school
26 administrative unit where the student is seeking admission until the period of suspension has
27 expired. Also, a local board may deny admission to or place reasonable conditions on the
28 admission of a student who has been expelled from a school under G.S. ~~115C-391~~ 115C-390.11
29 or who has been expelled from a school for behavior that indicated the student's continued
30 presence in school constituted a clear threat to the safety of other students or ~~employees~~ staff as
31 found by clear and convincing evidence, or who has been convicted of a felony in this or any
32 other state. If the local board denies admission to a student who has been expelled or convicted
33 of a felony, the student may request the local board to reconsider that decision in accordance
34 with G.S. ~~115C-391(d), 115C-390.12.~~ When a student who has been identified as eligible to
35 receive special education and related services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education
36 ~~Improvement~~ Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1400, et seq., is denied admission under this subsection, the
37 local board shall provide educational services to the student to the same extent it would if the
38 student were enrolled in the local school administrative unit at the time of the suspension or
39 expulsion, as required by G.S. 115C-107.1(a)(3).

40 ...

41 (h) The following definitions apply in this section:

42 ...

43 (3) Educational decisions. – Decisions or actions recommended or required by
44 the school concerning the student's academic course of study, extracurricular
45 activities, and conduct. These decisions or actions include enrolling the
46 student, receiving and responding to notices of discipline under
47 G.S. ~~115C-391,~~ 115C-390.5 through G.S. 115C-390.12, attending
48 conferences with school personnel, granting permission for school-related
49 activities, granting permission for emergency medical care, receiving and
50 taking appropriate action in connection with student records, and any other

1 decisions or actions recommended or required by the school in connection to
2 that student.

3"

4 **SECTION 13.** G.S. 115C-402(b) reads as rewritten:

5 "(b) The official record shall contain, as a minimum, adequate identification data
6 including date of birth, attendance data, grading and promotion data, and such other factual
7 information as may be deemed appropriate by the local board of education having jurisdiction
8 over the school wherein the record is maintained. Each student's official record also shall
9 include notice of any long-term suspension for a period of more than 10 days or of any
10 expulsion under-imposed pursuant to G.S. ~~115C-391-115C-390.7~~ through G.S. 115C-390.11
11 and the conduct for which the student was suspended or expelled. The superintendent or the
12 superintendent's designee shall expunge from the record the notice of suspension or expulsion
13 if the following criteria are met:

14 (1) One of the following persons makes a request for expungement:

15 a. The student's parent, legal guardian, or custodian.

16 b. The student, if the student is at least 16 years old or is emancipated.

17 (2) The student either graduates from high school or is not expelled or
18 suspended again during the two-year period commencing on the date of the
19 student's return to school after the expulsion or suspension.

20 (3) The superintendent or the superintendent's designee determines that the
21 maintenance of the record is no longer needed to maintain safe and orderly
22 schools.

23 (4) The superintendent or the superintendent's designee determines that the
24 maintenance of the record is no longer needed to adequately serve the child."

25 **SECTION 14.** G.S. 14-208.18(f) reads as rewritten:

26 "(f) A person subject to subsection (a) of this section who is eligible under
27 G.S. 115C-378 to attend public school may be present on school property if permitted by the
28 local board of education pursuant to G.S. ~~115C-391(d)(2)-115C-390.11(a)(2)~~."

29 **SECTION 15.** G.S. 20-11(n1)d.2. reads as rewritten:

30 "2. The bringing, possession, or use on school property of a
31 weapon or firearm that resulted in disciplinary action under
32 G.S. ~~115C-391(d1)-115C-390.10~~ or that could have resulted
33 in that disciplinary action if the conduct had occurred in a
34 public school."

35 **SECTION 16.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning
36 with the 2011-2012 school year.