

HB 318: Legislative Summary (As Signed into Law)

On August 3, 2018, HB 318 was signed into law. HB 318 addresses three main issues: 1) \$14 million in grants - \$12 million for school safety and \$2 million to support alternatives to suspensions and expulsions, 2) phasing out suspensions and expulsions for students in grades pre-K through three, and 3) creating standards for Ohio School Resource Officers (SROs). This fact sheet summarizes HB 318, which goes into effect November 2, 2018.

Issue #1: Provides \$12 million in school safety funding. HB 318 includes \$12 million for school safety, which will be distributed to schools statewide. Originally, this funding could have been used for riot shields or gun lockers in schools, but this provision was removed. The final bill allows funding to be used for:

- School resource officer (SRO) certification and training
- Active shooter and school safety training,
- Educational resources, and
- Training to identify and assist students with mental health issues
- Any other school safety training.

Research on school safety shows that punitive measures (i.e. cameras, metal detectors, etc.) can decrease safety in schools. In addition, SROs can increase the number of youth referred to the courts, escalate situations, and harm community-police relations; they are also not a guarantee for school safety – 4 out of 5 of the nation’s deadliest school incidents have occurred with an SRO or armed guard present. Instead, school safety is best addressed by 1) improving school climate and increasing access to school-based addiction and mental health services and licensed prevention and treatment professionals, such as counselors, social workers, and nurses and 2) putting in place research-based protocols to address threats.

Issue #2: Limiting the use of out-of-school suspensions and expulsions for pre-K-third graders. In 2015-2016 alone, Ohio pre-K - third grade students received 36,000 suspensions and expulsions, the majority of which were for disruption and disobedience. Suspension and expulsion have long-term negative impacts on student success not only for students who are suspended and expelled, but for other students in the school.

Under HB 318, students in pre-K through third grade can only be suspended for up to 10 days or expelled:

- For 1) bringing a firearm or knife capable of causing serious bodily harm, 2) making a bomb threat, or 3) committing a delinquency offense that causes serious physical harm to another person or property.
- Only as necessary to protect immediate health and safety concerns of the child or others.
- Whenever possible after consulting with a mental health professional. If mental health challenges seem to be the underlying reason for the student’s behavior, the school must assist the parent or guardian in locating a provider and accessing these services, including a referral, with no financial obligation for the school.

These changes will be phased in as follows:

School Year:	Compliance:
2018-2019	Baseline data collection
2019-2020	Reducing non-permissible suspensions/expulsions by 25% from baseline
2020-2021	Reducing non-permissible suspensions/expulsions by 50% from baseline
2021-2022	Eliminating all non-permissible suspensions/expulsions

HB 318 includes several additional provisions to support Ohio schools in creating and maintaining positive school climates, which have been shown to improve outcomes for students:

- **Provides \$2 million in grants to support alternatives to suspension and expulsion.** Under HB 318, schools can apply for grants to improve school climate by implementing positive behaviors interventions and supports (PBIS) frameworks, evidence- or research-based social and emotional learning, or both.
- **Includes PBIS frameworks on schools' annual report card.** Schools are required to report on their annual report card if they have implemented a PBIS framework, which may include data systems, evidence-based curriculum and effective instructional strategies, evidence-based and data-driven classroom practices, and improving staff climate and culture around discipline.
- **Creates a new K-12 teacher preparation standard on classroom management techniques.** This standard requires training in 1) PBIS and social-emotional development, 2) classroom strategies to build positive behaviors and reduce unwanted behaviors, 3) data collection systems, 4) effective instructional strategies, and 5) matching curriculum with data-identified student needs.
- **Clarifies emergency removal.** Ohio law currently allows for pre-K – third graders to be removed from school on an emergency basis under certain circumstances. HB 318 states that this removal can only be for one school day and the student must be permitted to return to school the following day. If the student cannot return the following day, the school must hold a hearing about the emergency removal the next day.
- **Continues learning opportunities during suspensions.** HB 318 requires Ohio students to be given a chance to complete missed classroom assignments during a suspension. In-school-suspensions must take place in a supervised learning environment where students are given a chance to complete their assignments.

Issue #3: School Resource Officers (SROs): For the first time, HB 318 creates standardization around SROs by:

- Creating a **standard definition** of the term SRO.
- Requiring new SROs to complete both basic training and **40 hours of SRO-specific training** that covers:
 - The unique role of police in schools and working with students, including understanding campus safety, SRO responses to discipline, and reducing juvenile court referrals.
 - How to work with students, including youths' unique psychological and physiological characteristics, developmentally appropriate interview, interrogation, de-escalation, and behavior management strategies, how to be a role model, classroom management, and working with students with disabilities.
 - Providing law-related education, compulsory attendance laws, and drugs in school.
- Requiring schools with an SRO to create a **memorandum of understanding (MOU)** between the school district and the law enforcement agency that employs the SRO 1) before a new SRO starts or 2) within one year if the school already has an SRO. The MOU can include anything that builds positive relationships, fosters safe learning, and decreases the number of youth referred to the juvenile courts, but must establish:
 - Clear goals, roles, responsibilities, and expectations of the SRO, law enforcement, school administrators, staff, and teachers.
 - Background requirements/expertise for employing an SRO, including understanding youth development.
 - Professional development, including training on developmentally appropriate conflict resolution, de-escalation, and crisis intervention.
 - Protocol for how suspected criminal activity versus school discipline and that administrators have the final decision with regard to discipline.
 - Developing and updating coordinating school crisis planning.