



## Stand for Children Supports HB 2192A

Chair Hass, Vice-Chair Knopp and members of the committee.

Stand Oregon is devoted to educational equality in schools. Data show school discipline can be applied disproportionately to students, more greatly impacting low-income students, students with disabilities and others. These disparities lead to lower academic achievement and higher school dropout rates.

**HB 2192A modernizes Oregon's school discipline statutes.** The current statutes place too much emphasis on suspension and expulsion and include problematic "zero-tolerance" policies that tie the hands of school administrators.

**HB 2192A supports positive trends in schools** by encouraging the use of proven practices, such as Restorative Justice and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS).

**HB 2192A** recognizes that the best way to change problem behaviors is to **set clear expectations, keep students in class, teach them new skills and reward good behavior.**

**HB 2192A** makes important changes in our school discipline laws, including:

- ✓ ***Removes mandatory expulsion (zero tolerance) language*** that has been poorly understood and inconsistently applied to students. This change increases school administrator discretion.
- ✓ Clarifies existing requirements that schools ***consider a student's age and past behavior prior to imposing suspension or expulsion.***
- ✓ Adds ***additional guidance to school districts*** for making decisions about discipline, including:
  - Using consequences designed to ***promote positive behavior and correct misconduct;***
  - ***Keeping students in class as much as possible*** to maximize their opportunities to learn;
  - ***Using research-based interventions*** as much as is practicable.
- ✓ Specifies that school policies are designed to ***impose discipline without bias.***
- ✓ Requires districts to ensure that policies ***comply with state and federal laws concerning students with disabilities.***

Stand for Children believes every student, regardless of their background, should have access to a high quality education and graduate high school prepared for, and with access to, college. **HB 2192A** helps Oregon schools move closer to this goal.