

# Youth, Rights & Justice

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

## Summary of SB 553-3

The Dash-3 amendments represent language agreed upon by the proponents of SB 553 and the representatives of school boards, administrators, teachers and school staff.

SB 553-3 amends Oregon's school discipline statutes in ORS 339.250 to do the following:

1. Prohibit out-of-school suspension and expulsion for students in Grade 5 and younger, except in instances when:
  - A. The student causes serious physical harm to a student or school employee through non-accidental conduct.
  - B. An administrator determines that the student's behavior poses a direct threat to the health or safety of students or school employees.
  - C. When required by law.

In the cases of A and B, the school is not required to exclude the student from school if the administrator determines that alternative forms of discipline are adequate and appropriate to deal with the behavior.

2. Require schools to take steps when elementary school students are suspended so that the behaviors can be reduced or avoided in the future and so that the amount of time the student misses academic instruction is minimized. The bill does not prescribe specific strategies for accomplishing this requirement, but instead allows individual schools and districts to determine their own procedures to comply with this requirement.
3. Standardizes the manner that all schools count student suspension and expulsion days regarding half and full school days, based upon the length of the day(s) during which the student is excluded. Exclusion that lasts more than half of the scheduled day is reported as a full day of suspension or expulsion.

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