School Suspensions

Senate District 39

Senator Rob Rolison

School Districts: Arlington CSD, Beacon CSD, Carmel CSD, Dutchess BOCES, Garrison UFSD, Haldane CSD, Highland CSD, Hyde Park CSD, Marlboro CSD, Millbrook CSD, Newburgh CSD, Orange-Ulster BOCES, Pawling CSD, Pine Bush CSD, Port Jervis CSD, Poughkeepsie CSD, Putnam Valley CSD, Spackenkill UFSD, Valley CSD, Wallkill CSD, Wappingers CSD

Charter Schools: Little Water Preparatory CS

Jan. 2026

LEAs retrieved from NYSED Public Reports Portal – "All Institutions: Active Institutions with Congressional, Assembly & Senate Districts"

In New York, students are suspended from schools in response to a wide range of behaviors, including minor infractions like being late to class and dress code violations. This form of punishment begins as early as Pre-Kindergarten. The overreliance on exclusionary discipline continues despite research that indicates suspensions are ineffective and harmful and that they deepen academic inequities, especially for students of color, those from low-income backgrounds, and students with disabilities.

Some of the short- and long-term impacts of suspension on a child include:

- Lower math and reading scores
- Decreased school trust and identification with school
- Increased risk of drop out and criminal justice system involvement

During the 2024-2025 school year…

New York State

132,281 students suspended

including 8,329 *in Pre-K to Grade 3 and* 7,350 *for 20 or more days cumulatively*

840,067 total lost days of education

S39 Your District

5,396 students suspended

including 319 *in Pre-K to Grade 3 and* 339 *for 20 or more days cumulatively*

35,654 total lost days of education

		as often as	
Black students suspended	**3x**		White students
Students with disabilities suspended	**1.7x**		General education students
Economically disadvantaged students suspended	**2.3x**		Students who are not economically disadvantaged

For additional legislative district fact sheets, please visit: thechildrensagenda.org/nys-legislative-district-reports

For county-level fact sheets, please visit: https://thechildrensagenda.org/county-level-research/

TheChildren'sAgenda
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Solutions Not Suspensions

S.134/A.118

Students deserve policies that allow them to thrive in a supportive educational environment focused on accountability, healing relationships, and repairing harm.

The Solutions Not Suspensions bill would:

1. **Require school codes of conduct to include restorative approaches** to discipline and proactively foster a positive school climate
2. **Limit the use of suspensions in Pre-Kindergarten through 3rd grade** to only the most serious behaviors
3. **Shorten the maximum length of suspension from 180 to 20 school days** (except when required by federal law)
4. **Prohibit suspensions for minor infractions** such as tardiness, dress code violations, or insubordination
5. **Require that students who are suspended receive academic instruction** and the opportunity to complete assignments, take exams, and earn credit
6. **Require charter schools to follow state education law** on student behavior and discipline

What New York Voters Are Saying

A December 2025 statewide voter poll conducted on behalf of The Children's Agenda found that **73% of voters support Solutions Not Suspensions** legislation, with even higher rates of support for key elements of the bill: **limiting suspensions for small infractions (82%)**; eliminating suspensions in **Pre-K to 3rd grade (80%)**; and limiting suspensions to **no more than 20 days (74%)**.

24 *states have already enacted similar legislation limiting the length of suspensions*

Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Washington, D.C., Wisconsin

17 *states have already enacted similar legislation limiting suspensions by grade level*

Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, D.C.

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