



Student Behavior Law Overview

During the 2026 Iowa legislative session, Senate File 2428 was passed and signed into law. This bill puts in place new requirements and processes following nonviolent or violent disruptions by students in classrooms. Additionally, each attendance center must establish an Oversight Review Committee (ORC) to develop policies for a student's readmittance to a classroom after being removed by the teacher.

Student Removal Summary – Nonviolent Behavior

The law states, "nonviolent disruption includes but is not limited to a disruption to classroom instruction that is a result of any of the following:

1. Disorderly conduct.
2. Abusive or profane language.
3. Bullying as defined in Iowa Code section 280.28, "any repeated and targeted electronic, written, verbal, or physical act or conduct toward a student that creates an objectively hostile school environment."
4. Repeated disruptive behavior."

A teacher may remove a student who causes a nonviolent disruption from the classroom and place the student under the supervision of the principal or the principal's designee for a minimum of 30 minutes. Following that, the teacher involved and the principal must meet prior to the student returning to the classroom. If the student is in grades 6-12, the student may not return to that class until the subsequent school day. If a student is removed from a classroom multiple times for a nonviolent disruption, a team must meet to establish a behavior plan and course of discipline to correct the student's behavior. This team must include the teacher(s) who removed the student from the classroom, the building principal, school counselor, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) if not an emancipated minor, and the student. In this meeting, the team will discuss the student's behaviors and develop a behavioral plan and course of action to correct the student's behavior, which may include placement in an alternative learning environment.

Student Removal Summary – Violent Behavior

The law states "violent disruption includes but is not limited to a disruption to classroom instruction that is a result of a threat of violence or an incident of violence that results in any of the following:

1. Injury.
2. Property Damage.
3. Assault, as defined under section 708.1. Iowa Code section 708.1: “A person commits an assault when, without justification, the person does any of the following:
 - a. Any act which is intended to cause pain or injury to, or which is intended to result in physical contact which will be insulting or offensive to another, coupled with the apparent ability to execute the act.
 - b. Any act which is intended to place another in fear of immediate physical contact which will be painful, injurious, insulting, or offensive, coupled with the apparent ability to execute the act.
 - c. Intentionally points any firearm toward another, or displays in a threatening manner any dangerous weapon toward another.
 - d. Intentionally points a laser emitting a visible light beam toward another person with the intent to cause pain or injury to another, or toward an aircraft.”

A teacher shall (is required to) remove a student who causes a violent disruption from the classroom and place the student under the supervision of the principal or the principal’s designee. The teacher who removed the student and the principal must meet prior to the student returning to the classroom. If the student is in grade 6 through grade 12 and is removed for a nonviolent disruption, the student is to be removed from that classroom until at least the immediately subsequent school day. A student shall not under any circumstance be readmitted to a teacher’s classroom if all of the following criteria are satisfied:

- The teacher removed the student from the teacher’s classroom because the student caused a violent disruption that included the student assaulting the teacher.
- The teacher does not consent to allowing the student to return to the teacher’s classroom

Special Education/504 Students

If a student with an IEP or 504 plan exhibits nonviolent or violent behavior, teachers need to ensure that the student’s federal IDEA/504 rights are not violated. Accommodations, supports, services, and interventions documented and implemented consistent with that student’s IEP, BIP, or 504 plan are not considered removals solely because they involve the student temporarily leaving the classroom. If a student with an IEP is removed under this law, the IEP team shall meet as soon as possible to discuss:

- The appropriateness of the student’s current educational programming.
- Whether adjustments need to be made to the student’s individualized education program to address the student’s behaviors.

- Whether the student's current placement or an alternative learning environment would best provide the student with a free appropriate public education.
- The accommodations, modifications, and adaptations that are required to allow the student to be successful in a general education setting, what supports are needed to assist the teacher and other school district employees in providing those accommodations, modifications, and adaptations, and whether it is possible for the school district to provide those supports, accommodations, modifications, and adaptations.
- Whether and to what extent the provision of special education services and activities in the general education environment will impact the student and the other students in the classroom

Note: This statutory requirement builds upon the existing IDEA requirement that IEP teams review and revise a student's IEP, as appropriate.

Oversight Review Committees

Each attendance center must establish an ORC which consists of two teachers who work in that attendance center and one administrative employee, mental health professional, or behavioral interventionist who works in the attendance center. The two teachers must be selected by the teachers of that attendance center. The other person is chosen by the principal of the attendance center.

The ORC is responsible for developing a policy, consistent with the new [law](#), that establishes the requirements which must be met before a student who was removed from a classroom for non-violent or violent behavior may may be readmitted to the classroom.

Resources

[Senate File 2428](#)

[Iowa Department of Education FAQ](#)

[ISEA Resources on SF 2428](#)

