

7024

I N S E N A T E

March 17, 2016

Introduced by Sen. DIAZ -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to requiring persistently dangerous schools to file an incident reduction plan detailing the steps the school will take to reduce incidents of violence and disruption and requiring notice to be given to victims of harassment, bullying, or violent offenses of their right to transfer to another public school

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Subdivision 7 of section 2802 of the education law, as
2 added by chapter 425 of the laws of 2002, is amended to read as follows:
3 7. Notwithstanding any other provision of state or local law, rule or
4 regulation to the contrary, any student who attends a persistently
5 dangerous public elementary or secondary school, as determined by the
6 commissioner pursuant to paragraph a of this subdivision, or who is a
7 victim of HARASSMENT OR BULLYING, AS DEFINED PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION
8 SEVEN OF SECTION ELEVEN OF THIS CHAPTER, OR a violent criminal offense,
9 as defined pursuant to paragraph [b] C of this subdivision, that
10 occurred on the grounds of a public elementary or secondary school that
11 the student attends, shall [be allowed to attend] HAVE THE RIGHT TO
12 TRANSFER TO a safe public school within the [local educational agency to
13 the extent required by section ninety-five hundred thirty-two of the No
14 Child Left Behind Act of 2001] SCHOOL DISTRICT.
15 a. The commissioner shall annually determine which public elementary
16 and secondary schools are persistently dangerous in accordance with
17 regulations of the commissioner developed in consultation with a repre-
18 sentative sample of local educational agencies. Such determination shall
19 be based on data submitted through the uniform violent incident report-
20 ing system over a period prescribed in the regulations, which shall not
21 be less than two years, REPORTS OF VIOLENT INCIDENTS AND CRIMINAL
22 OFFENSES FROM SCHOOL SAFETY AGENTS AND POLICE OFFICERS, REPORTS OF
23 VIOLENT OR HARMFUL CONDUCT BY TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF, AND ANY
24 OTHER DATA REASONABLY REQUIRED BY THE COMMISSIONER RELATED TO SAFETY.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *ITALICS* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

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1 b. EACH PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL DESIGNATED AS PERSIS-
2 TENTLY DANGEROUS PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH A OF THIS SUBDIVISION SHALL, IN
3 THE SUBSEQUENT SCHOOL YEAR, SUBMIT TO THE COMMISSIONER AN INCIDENT
4 REDUCTION PLAN DETAILING THE STEPS THE SCHOOL WILL TAKE TO REDUCE INCI-
5 DENTS OF VIOLENCE AND DISRUPTION AND REMOVE THE PERSISTENTLY DANGEROUS
6 DESIGNATION BY THE FOLLOWING SCHOOL YEAR. SUCH PLAN SHALL INCLUDE, AT A
7 MINIMUM, THE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION STRATEGIES RECOMMENDED PURSUANT
8 TO PARAGRAPH C OF SUBDIVISION TWO OF SECTION TWO THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED
9 ONE-A OF THIS ARTICLE. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION TO THE CONTRARY, AN
10 ELEMENTARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOL DESIGNATED AS PERSISTENTLY DANGEROUS, AND
11 WHICH REMAINS ON THE PERSISTENTLY DANGEROUS LIST FOR THREE CONSECUTIVE
12 YEARS, SHALL BE SUBJECT TO CLOSURE ON JUNE THIRTIETH FOLLOWING THE THIRD
13 CONSECUTIVE YEAR OF SUCH PERSISTENTLY DANGEROUS DESIGNATION EXCEPT THAT
14 UPON A FINDING OF GOOD CAUSE, THE COMMISSIONER MAY GRANT SUCH SCHOOL UP
15 TO TWO ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC YEARS TO ACHIEVE RESULTS THAT WOULD REMOVE
16 THE PERSISTENTLY DANGEROUS DESIGNATION.

17 C. Each local educational agency required to provide unsafe school
18 choice shall establish procedures for determinations by the superinten-
19 dent of schools or other chief school officer of whether a student is
20 the victim of HARASSMENT, BULLYING, OR a violent criminal offense that
21 occurred on school grounds of the school that the student attends. Such
22 superintendent of schools or other chief school officer shall, prior to
23 making any such determination, consult with any law enforcement agency
24 investigating such alleged violent criminal offense and consider any
25 reports or records provided by such agency. The trustees or board of
26 education or other governing board of a local educational agency may
27 provide, by local rule or by-law, for appeal of the determination of the
28 superintendent of schools to such governing board. Notwithstanding any
29 other provision of law to the contrary, the determination of such chief
30 school officer pursuant to this paragraph shall not have collateral
31 estoppel effect in any student disciplinary proceeding brought against
32 the alleged victim or perpetrator of such violent criminal offense. For
33 purposes of this subdivision, "violent criminal offense" shall mean a
34 crime that involved infliction of serious physical injury upon another
35 as defined in the penal law, a sex offense that involved forcible
36 compulsion or any other offense defined in the penal law that involved
37 the use or threatened use of a deadly weapon.

38 [c.] D. Each local educational agency, as defined in subsection twen-
39 ty-six of section ninety-one hundred one of the No Child Left Behind Act
40 of 2001, that is required to provide school choice pursuant to section
41 ninety-five hundred thirty-two of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001
42 shall establish procedures for notification of parents of, or persons in
43 parental relation to, students attending schools that have been desig-
44 nated as persistently dangerous and parents of, or persons in parental
45 relation to, students who are victims of HARASSMENT, BULLYING, OR
46 violent criminal offenses of their right to transfer to a safe public
47 school within the [local educational agency] SCHOOL DISTRICT and proce-
48 dures for such transfer[, except that nothing in this subdivision shall
49 be construed to require such notification where there are no other
50 public schools within the local educational agency at the same grade
51 level or such transfer to a safe public school within the local educa-
52 tional agency is otherwise impossible or to require a local educational
53 agency that has only one public school within the local educational
54 agency or only one public school at each grade level to develop such
55 procedures]. SUCH NOTIFICATION SHALL ALSO INCLUDE A LIST OF DESIGNATED
56 SAFE PUBLIC SCHOOLS WITHIN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT TO WHICH THE STUDENT MAY

1 TRANSFER, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, BE PROVIDED IN THE DOMINANT
2 LANGUAGE AND MODE OF COMMUNICATION OF PARENTS OF, OR PERSONS IN PARENTAL
3 RELATION TO, SUCH STUDENTS, AND BE PROVIDED NO LATER THAN TEN DAYS AFTER
4 SUCH SCHOOL HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS PERSISTENTLY DANGEROUS, OR FOR
5 STUDENTS WHO ARE VICTIMS OF HARASSMENT, BULLYING, OR A VIOLENT CRIMINAL
6 OFFENSE, WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS OF SUCH DETERMINATION. IF THERE ARE NO
7 SAFE PUBLIC SCHOOLS WITHIN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AT THE SAME GRADE LEVEL,
8 THE NOTIFICATION OF THE RIGHT TO TRANSFER SHALL INCLUDE AN OFFER OF
9 ASSISTANCE IN PURSUING OPTIONS OUTSIDE OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT. The
10 commissioner shall be authorized to adopt any regulations deemed neces-
11 sary to assure that local educational agencies implement the provisions
12 of this subdivision.

13 S 2. This act shall take effect immediately, provided, however, that
14 the amendments to subdivision 7 of section 2802 of the education law
15 made by section one of this act shall not affect the repeal of such
16 subdivision and shall be deemed repealed therewith.