

Department of Planning and Budget
2026 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

PUBLISHED: 2/9/2026 4:42 PM

ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB298

Patron: McQuinn

Bill Title: Public elementary or secondary school students; evidence-based restorative disciplinary practices.

Bill Summary: Prohibits any public elementary or secondary school student from being suspended, expelled, or excluded from attendance at school unless the school first implements at least one evidence-based restorative disciplinary practice, as defined in the bill, except in the case of certain serious enumerated firearm or drug offenses or aggravating circumstances, as defined in the bill. The bill requires the Department of Education to (i) add the use of evidence-based restorative disciplinary practices to the Student Behavior and Administrative Response survey in order to annually collect and analyze data on the use of such practices and to subsequently create and post publicly an annual report that contains an evaluation of the effectiveness of such practices based on the data collected and (ii) adopt and make available guidelines and support materials for implementing, monitoring, and evaluating evidence-based restorative disciplinary practices, including professional development and technical assistance.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes

Items Impacted: 117

Explanation: The Department of Education would require additional funding one time to develop and make available the resources required by this bill. Any impact to local school divisions is indeterminate.

Fiscal Summary: The Department of Education estimates a one time cost of \$72,000 general fund in FY27 to support the development of the resources.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

Agency	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031
201 (DOE)	\$0	\$72,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$0	\$72,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Fiscal Analysis: This bill requires the Department of Education (DOE) to add the use of evidence-based restorative disciplinary practices to the Student Behavior and Administrative Response survey and report on an evaluation of the effectiveness of such practices. The bill also requires DOE to adopt and make available guidelines and support materials related to these practices, including professional development. DOE anticipates the need to work with consultants and hold additional professional development events in order to meet these requirements. DOE estimates a one time cost of \$72,000 general fund in FY27 for this contractual support. Any impact to local school divisions is indeterminate.

Other: None