

# Understanding and Implementing the Provisions of Act 565 of 2025

## Summary of Key Provisions

Act 565 of 2025, the Teacher and Student Protection Act of 2025, amended Arkansas Code § 6-18-511 and became effective on August 4, 2025. While the full text of Act 565 should be consulted for exact language, the following sections summarize the central components. To ensure successful implementation of Act 565, school and district leaders are encouraged to review this information, then:

- Evaluate current practices and policies to identify areas that require modification to meet the new requirements; and
- Inform and train employees on new requirements.

## Scope and Definitions

Act 565 addresses the removal of a student from the classroom by a teacher, and provides clear definitions for terms and concepts crucial to understanding its application. Stakeholders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with these definitions to avoid misinterpretation.

1. "Appropriate interim learning environment"<sup>1</sup> means an appropriate learning environment that is used for a period of time not to exceed ten (10) days.
2. "Appropriate learning environment" means a setting within a public school or public school district that provides a similar structure to the following without limitation:
  - A classroom; or
  - In-school suspension.
3. "Violent or abusive behavior" means without limitation:
  - Using threatening language;
  - Throwing an item that risks or causes:
    - Harm to another individual;
    - Injury to another individual; or
    - Damage to property;
  - Physically abusing a teacher or another student; or
  - Any other similar action that presents a physical danger or a threat of physical danger to a teacher or another student.



<sup>1</sup> An "appropriate learning environment" under this section does not have the same meaning as an "alternative learning environment" under Arkansas Code § 6-48-102.

# Statutory Requirements

Act 565 introduces new requirements to existing obligations for schools when a student is removed from the classroom by a teacher for “unruly, disruptive, *violent*, or *abusive behavior* that seriously interferes”, or behavior that repeatedly interferes, with teaching and learning in the classroom. Requirements after removal include:

1. Placing the student into an appropriate learning environment or in-school suspension;
2. Returning the student to the classroom *only after a conference is held* to determine the cause(s) of the behavior(s) and possible solutions; or
3. Taking other appropriate action consistent with district policy.

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- If the student is removed due to “violent or abusive behavior against a teacher or another student”, the student shall be placed in an appropriate interim learning environment until the conference required under (2) above is held, not to exceed ten (10) days.
  - The conference required under (2) above shall include:
    - The principal or designee,
    - The teacher,
    - The school counselor,
    - The parent(s) or guardian(s), and
    - The student, if appropriate.
  - If it is determined during the conference that the student was removed due to violent behavior, attendees shall determine if a behavioral threat assessment is necessary for the student.
  - After the conference is conducted, the student shall NOT be returned to the classroom with the teacher or student against whom the violent or abusive behavior was directed.
  - If a student is removed from a classroom due to violent or abusive behavior three (3) or more times during one (1) school year, the student shall be:
    - Placed in an appropriate interim learning environment for the remainder of the school year; or
    - Disciplined according to district policy.



**For provisions specific to students with disabilities, please refer to the attached, *Act 565: Considerations for Students with Disabilities*.**