Act No. 35 (S.16). Education; exclusionary discipline

An act relating to the Task Force on Equitable and Inclusive School Environments

This act creates the Task Force on Equitable and Inclusive School Environments, which shall make recommendations to end suspensions and expulsions for all but the most serious student behaviors and compile data regarding school discipline in Vermont public and approved independent schools in order to inform strategic planning, guide statewide and local decision making and resource allocation, and measure the effectiveness of statewide and local policies and practices.

This act also prohibits a student enrolled in a public school who is under eight years of age from being suspended or expelled from the school; provided, however, that the school may suspend or expel the student if the student poses an imminent threat of harm or danger to others in the school.

In addition, this act requires reporting on referrals of truancy to the State’s Attorneys.

Effective Date: May 18, 2021