Proactive Discipline : it's the law

Michelle Murphy
Colorado Association of School Boards
303-832-1000
mmurphy@casb.org

Student Discipline

Safe School Plan

Board Policies required by CRS 22-32-109.1

Conduct and Discipline Code:

- student conduct, safety and welfare;
- disruptive students;
- suspension/expulsion;
- physical intervention;
- drug use.

Reporting Requirements

SB 191

- CRS 22-9-101, et. seq.
- SB 191 establishes a statewide definition of "effectiveness" against which all teachers and principals shall be measured.
- Effective Educators:
  - Keep students safe.
  - Help students learn.

SB 46: Discipline Task Force Bill

- Review and revise conduct and discipline code as necessary in response to relevant data.
- Use reasonable efforts to ensure that students and their families are familiar with the code of conduct.
- Move away from zero tolerance: more discretion for administrators.
- Limit referrals to law enforcement.

SB 46 (cont'd)

- Commitment to equity in disciplinary outcomes.
- Move away from reactive and exclusionary strategies to manage student misconduct.
- Emphasis on restorative justice, mediation, graduated discipline polices.
- Suspension and expulsion should be last resort.
- Proportionate responses required.

Principles of Discipline

- Discipline should be equitable, timely, fair, developmentally appropriate, and match the severity of the student's behavior.
- Polices and practices must apply equally to all students regardless of economic status, race, gender, ethnicity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or disability.
- Review and understand data.

Principles of Discipline

- Focus on prevention and early intervention.
- Teach and model the behaviors you want to see.
- Don't assume students understand the first time they are taught.
- Be positive---reinforce behaviors.
- Be collaborative with the student, families, and community partners.

HB 1013:
Interventions for Middle School Students

- Review data to identify students in grades 6-9 who demonstrate behaviors indicating they are at greater risk of dropping out
  - Truancy, poor grades, disengagement and insubordinate behavior
- Provide appropriate interventions to improve performance and reduce drop out risk
  - Counseling, tutoring, parent engagement
- Notice to parents upon identification

Drop Out Prevention