



Summary Report

School Discipline Laws

School discipline laws determine the conduct that either requires or allows expulsion or suspension from school. In recent years there has been a trend toward reevaluating school discipline policies and practices, considering alternatives to disciplinary measures, and limiting the use of exclusionary discipline for certain grade levels. Learn more at www.lawatlas.org.

	<p>Expulsion for Willful Defiance</p> <p>As of December 1, 2018, 26 states permitted expulsion for “willful defiance,” which is often based on a broad and subjective standard not defined in the law.</p> <p>Jurisdictions: 26 (AZ, CA, CO, DE, FL, HI, IN, KS, KY, ME, MI, MN, MS, MT, NH, NJ, ND, OR, PA, SC, SD, UT, VT, WA, WV, WY)</p>
	<p>Are Alternatives Required?</p> <p>As of December 1, 2018, 13 states required the use of non-exclusionary alternatives prior to suspending or expelling a student. Alternatives may include in-school suspension, positive behavioral interventions, or referrals to counselors.</p> <p>Jurisdictions: 13 (CA, CO, CT, DE, FL, GA, ME, MD, MA, MS, NM, UT, WA)</p>
	<p>Exemptions Over Time</p> <p>In 2008, only 6 states exempted certain students from school discipline requirements based on age or grade level. As of December 1, 2018, 13 states exempt students from discipline. In some states, exemptions are narrow in scope and limited to specified conduct.</p> <p>Jurisdictions: 13 (AR, CA, CO, CT, KY, LA, MD, NE, NJ, OH, OR, TX, VA)</p>