
SUPPORT SOLUTIONS, NOT SUSPENSIONS

OVERVIEW

The Judge Judith S. Kaye Solutions Not Suspensions Act (A.5197) will end the reliance on suspensions as the default way to discipline students and establish a framework to instead use proven restorative approaches to inappropriate behavior and discipline. Students will be held accountable for their behaviors through age appropriate, graduated, and proportionate restorative and trauma-informed interventions. These techniques help kids learn from mistakes and remain in the classroom learning.

THE BILL WILL:

- Require school codes of conduct to use suspension as a last resort, encouraging restorative approaches to discipline and emotional supports to proactively foster a school community based on cooperation, communication, trust, and respect.
- Limit the use of suspensions for students in kindergarten through 3rd grade to only the most serious behavior.
- Shorten the maximum length of suspension from 180 to 20 school days (except when required by federal law).
- Prohibit suspensions for minor infractions, such as tardiness, dress code violations, or insubordination.
- Require that students who are suspended receive academic instruction, and the opportunity to earn credit, complete assignments, and take exams.
- Require charter schools to follow state education law on student behavior and school discipline.

Every student deserves a school environment where they are included, respected, and supported. **Support the passage of the Solutions Not Suspensions Act.**

THE COALITION

The Solutions Not Suspensions Coalition is a group of organizers, direct service providers, student leaders, education attorneys, and advocates working to improve school climate and stop the school to prison and deportation pipeline throughout New York State.

Advocates for Children of New York
Alliance for Quality Education
Brooklyn Defender Services
The Bronx Defenders
Children's Defense Fund-NY
Citizen Action of New York
Committee for Hispanic Children and Families
Families Together
Girls for Gender Equity
The Legal Aid Society
Mobilization for Justice
The New York Civil Liberties Union
Urban Youth Collaborative
Future of Tomorrow
Make The Road New York
Sistas and Brothas United
We the Parents - Buffalo
Westchester Children's Association
The Wright Group
YWCA Brooklyn

