KEY ELEMENTS OF ILLINOIS’ SB 100

Senate Bill 100, recently passed by both the Illinois House and Senate with broad bipartisan support, represents the strongest and most comprehensive effort ever made by a state to address the causes and consequences of the “school-to-prison pipeline.” Among the most significant components of the legislation are the following:

1. **Eliminates “zero-tolerance” policies**
   Schools will no longer be allowed to use policies that require suspension or expulsion in response to particular student behaviors.

2. **Puts tighter restrictions on the use of harsh disciplinary consequences**
   Out-of-school suspensions of longer than three days, expulsions, and disciplinary referrals to alternative schools can only be used when all other appropriate and available disciplinary interventions have been exhausted. School officials are also required to "limit the number and duration of expulsions and suspensions to the greatest extent practicable."

3. **Ensures out-of-school suspensions, expulsions, and disciplinary referrals to alternative schools are only used for legitimate educational purposes**
   The most severe disciplinary consequences are only to be used to preserve a safe and productive learning environment, not as punishment for misbehavior.

4. **Focuses on meeting student needs and addressing root causes of disciplinary issues**
   Students that are suspended out of school for longer than four days must be provided appropriate and available support services. School districts must also create a policy for re-engaging students returning to school from suspensions and expulsions.

5. **Promotes proven disciplinary alternatives and improved professional development for school officials and staff**
   Districts are recommended to provide ongoing professional development to all school officials and staff members on "the adverse consequences of school exclusion and justice-system involvement, effective classroom management strategies, culturally responsive discipline, and developmentally appropriate disciplinary methods that promote positive and healthy school climates."

6. **Protects students from additional academic consequences**
   Schools are required to provide suspended students with the opportunity to make up work they missed for equivalent academic credit.

7. **Ensures greater transparency and accountability to parents/guardians**
   Schools are required to give parents/guardians more information about why their children are being excluded from school and why the particular length of exclusion was chosen.

8. **Prohibits school “pushout”**
   Schools can no longer advise students to drop out when they have academic or behavioral challenges.

9. **Eliminates disciplinary fines and fees**
   Students can no longer be charged monetary fines or fees (an increasingly common practice in certain local charter schools) as a disciplinary consequence.

10. **Holds charter schools and traditional public schools to the same standards**
    Eliminates the exemption of charter schools from school discipline regulations.