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Washington Office of Superintendent of  
**PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**  
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

k12.wa.us

September 5, 2023

( ) Action Required  
(X) Informational

## BULLETIN NO. 058-23 STUDENT ENGAGEMENT & SUPPORT

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents  
School District Superintendents  
School District Administrators  
School District CEDARS Data Analysts  
School Building Principals

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Discipline Language Update: Emergency Expulsion to Emergency Removal

CONTACT: Ella DeVerse, Lead Program Supervisor, School Safety & Student Well-Being  
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Briana Kelly, Assistant Director, Restorative Practices & Student Discipline  
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## PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

[House Bill 1207 \(2023\)](#) requires the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to notify school districts and public schools that effective July 23, 2023, the term "emergency removal" must be used instead of the term "emergency expulsion" in the context of student discipline and as required by [RCW 28A.300.042](#) and [28A.600.015](#).

Per [House Bill 1207 \(2023\)](#), "the legislature recognizes that public schools have the authority to immediately remove a student from school if the student poses an immediate and continuing danger to other students or to school staff, or if the student poses an immediate and continuing threat of material and substantial disruption of the education process. The legislature acknowledges that emergency expulsion is limited to ten (10) consecutive school days, the school must provide an opportunity for the student to receive educational services during the emergency expulsion, and both the emergency expulsion and any suspension or expulsion that the emergency expulsion is converted to can be appealed. However, the legislature finds that emergency expulsion tarnishes a student's reputation and self-image,

which can result in school staff, fellow students, or the student's families making assumptions about the student, and, in some cases, these assumptions result in harassment, intimidation, or bullying of the student. **Therefore, the legislature intends to discontinue the use of the prejudicial term "emergency expulsion," and replace it with the term "emergency removal," which is a more accurate description of the temporary removal of a student from school to assess and properly respond to an emergent situation involving the student"** (10-11).

## STUDENT DISCIPLINE DATA COLLECTION GUIDANCE

Updates to the CEDARS Data Manual and supporting documents will be published on the [CEDARS web page](#) in early Fall 2023. The student exclusionary discipline detail display in CEDARS will be updated with the new language between October and December of 2023. LEAs will need to capture Emergency Removals in their student Information systems (SIS) as Emergency Exclusions (EE) and submit them to CEDARS Exclusionary File (R) until their SIS vendors update the terminology in their SIS systems. LEAs will need to communicate the need for this change to their SIS vendors.

LEAs are required to capture emergency removals using the new language and are responsible for the new language being used in any reports provided to students or families.

## HISTORICAL DATA COMPARISON

[House Bill 1207 \(2023\)](#) further requires that any student who was emergency expelled on or after September 1, 2019, may request that any reference to 'emergency expulsion' in the student's education record be revised to 'emergency removal'. LEAs are responsible for making requested changes to historical data in a student's education record.

## INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Ella DeVerse, Lead Program Supervisor, School Safety & Student Well-Being, at [ella.deverse@k12.wa.us](mailto:ella.deverse@k12.wa.us) or 360-725-6068, or Briana Kelly, Assistant Director, Restorative Practices & Student Discipline, at [briana.kelly@k12.wa.us](mailto:briana.kelly@k12.wa.us) or 564-200-2068. The OSPI TTY number is 360-664-3631.

This bulletin is also available on the [Bulletins](#) page of the OSPI website.

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