

## LESN Listserv Responses

What states are reconsidering their zero tolerance policies in schools for weapons and/or drugs? (December 2012)

Colorado	HB 1345: Passed in 2011, this bill amended the statutory grounds for suspension or expulsion of a student to increase the discretion of school administrators and school district boards of education. The only circumstances under which expulsion remains mandatory are those that involve a student who is found to have brought a firearm to school or possessed a firearm at school, in accordance with federal law. Each school district is encouraged in the bill to consider each of many specific factors before suspending or expelling a student, and to also utilize prevention, intervention, restorative justice, peer mediation, counseling, or other approaches to address student misconduct.
Delaware	DE HR 120: Passed in 2009 this bill amended the zero tolerance provision in the Code to give discretion to school boards to modify the terms of expulsions when a school board determines that it is appropriate to do so.
Florida	SB 1540 passed in 2009, which provided that zero-tolerance policies do not require the reporting of petty acts of misconduct and misdemeanors to a law enforcement agency. The bill also encouraged school districts to use alternatives to expulsion or referral to law enforcement agencies. Two attempts to revise zero tolerance policy in 2012, HB 1445 and SB 1886, failed to pass. Both bills would have required district school boards to adopt policy for reporting acts that pose a serious threat to school safety to law enforcement agencies, as well as require acts that do not pose a serious threat to be dealt with within the school's disciplinary system.
Georgia	GA SB 299: This bill was passed in 2010 and changed provisions relating to the zero tolerance policy on weapons in schools.
Maryland	The State Board of Education recently underwent a multi-year study and issued a report this in July 2012 that can be found at <a href="http://marylandpublicschools.org">marylandpublicschools.org</a> . All possible state regulation changes are listed there as well, and additional actions including a reexamination of Maryland Guidelines for a State Code of Conduct, the formation of a workgroup to look at best practices in student discipline, and an examination of what is needed for our local school systems to fully implement Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports.
Michigan	
North Carolina	HB 736 was passed in 2011 and reorganized school discipline statutes and eliminated zero tolerance policies except for guns on campus to conform with federal law from the statute.
Rhode Island	RI HB 7867: Passed in 2012, this bill authorized teachers and administrators in independent charter schools to change and control standards for student

	interrogation, zero tolerance policies and at-risk students.
Tennessee	HB 687 passed in 2009 and established a school safety summit that would examine alternative approaches and solutions for management of safety problems, though no formal policy revisions has occurred since.