

Dear Committee on Education:

03/09/23

AB194

Please SUPPORT AB194. This bill revises provisions so that a pupil of any age can be expelled, suspended or permanently expelled, who commits an assault on any school employee or another pupil on public school property, school bus or school event. The violence in our schools is horrific. Teachers and pupils are being assaulted, battered and bullied. School Principals need this tougher legislation in order to bring school order back under control. Students should be expelled and the parents should be held accountable for the actions of their child.

Also, it stipulates that a pupil age 11 years or older who sells or distributes a controlled substance, can be expelled and should be immediately. This legislation gives the School Official's the law's to enforce the extreme bad behavior of students. Vote Yes on AB194.

Thank You,

Ann Sweder

Sparks, Nv. 89441

Good afternoon,

I am a teacher with 9 years experience. A few years ago, I had a student in class with oppositional defiance disorder. Four months into the school year with more than weekly clearing of the classroom because of violent behavior, I was in a situation that I never thought I would be in. This student would be set off by another student walking by his desk. When this happened on this particular day, the student went "crazy". He was throwing items from his desk, and I yelled "CLEAR" which meant that the rest of the class went to assigned classrooms for safety. The student then turned on me. He ultimately finished by throwing a desk at me. I blocked it from hitting me in the face with my hand, which ended up being broken. The school said since I didn't take a day off that it wasn't considered a traumatic experience. I didn't take a day off because I was afraid for the other students in the class if a substitute teacher was in the room. This is something that no teacher should have to deal with without proper training. It took another 2 months for this student to be removed from my classroom. I was told that because this student fell under the special education umbrella that there was nothing the district could do. This is not fair to the other children in class. I was also told that the rights of the special education student mattered more than the other student's rights. There needs to be interventions that actually protect both the students in the class and the teachers. There is no reason for anyone to have to put up with this kind of violence in a classroom.

Amy Frontino

I've been in a kinder classroom since 1994. Over the many years, I have seen student's behavior getting worst. I have to say in the last 10 years, the classroom setting has changed. With sped ed students being mainstreamed into the classrooms without sped ed teachers and paras, has caused even more disruptions. We have no real support system for behavior students. We call administration, they come down get the student, then a little later the student returns. We have to evacuate the classroom while the students throw items around the room, a student choked another student, a teacher was hit while trying to keep the student from hurting others, there are so many stories, and this is kindergarten, at one site.

Educators teach all students, but because in our case, the sped ed students are being put into regular setting classrooms because of the poor way the department runs it. This is serious. I can tell you, there are students that we feel if a student was able to get a weapon, the student would fire it. We shouldn't have to think this way.

I'm retiring because it's getting out of control, no one listens to the staff. I love what I do, but it's unpredictable. I have grandkids in schools, and I don't always feel they are safe. At the high school, a sped ed student got a gun, but was not able to fire it. Guns were found recently at the high school. We have heard of student as young as 6 years, shot a teacher.

Teachers and staff are not there to raise students. You will continue to see staff leave the education profession that many love, but not willing to be subject to harm.

Lorretta Marcin

As a former teacher, I was asked more than once by a principal or vice principal to keep very destructive students in the classroom. This made teaching and student learning much more difficult, of course. Students then knew there would be no lasting consequences for inappropriate behavior. I hope you pass these bills in efforts to keep students and teachers safe. Thank you for your consideration of these bills.

Elaine Bishop

March 15, 2023

Dear Legislators,

I am writing in support of Assembly Bills 194 and 285.

I have worked in elementary education for almost thirty-eight years. Over the years I have seen a significant increase in violent behaviors in these young students towards other students and staff. I have been hit, cursed at, and have had items thrown at me. I have witnessed a first grader destroy a room and throw books at his classmates while having a meltdown. I have heard a student sit in the hallway and scream obscenities for more than half an hour. I have witnessed a first grader kick our principal. I have been in several classrooms where there is constant disruption by students, which takes instruction time from the entire class while the teacher attempts to deal with the disruptive student(s). When violent behaviors occur we are instructed to evacuate the other students from the room for their safety. It is detrimental to not only their education but their emotional and mental well being as well.

In our district alone a para received a traumatic brain injury when headbutted by a student, a teacher received an eye injury and was so traumatized by a student that she quit, another para received a concussion and black eye from a student, another teacher received a broken arm, and a para was literally choked by a student. The list goes on. It's no wonder why people are leaving the education field at such a high rate.

We constantly are told that due to FAPE (Free appropriate public education) there is little that can be done. It seems the focus is on free and public with little concern for appropriateness. It should be appropriate for all students and staff to attend a school that is safe and conducive to education. More often than not the hands of the administrators are tied in dealing with these aggressive, disruptive, and /or violent students. The children are aware that there is little that can be done.

We need to have more choices in consequences than sitting a student in the office or going to a calming area when they are often repeat offenders. Children need to learn there are consequences for their actions. This will not only affect them now but as they grow into adults. Undisciplined children become undisciplined adults. It is our job as educators to not only prepare them for academic success but to prepare them for productive lives.

For these reasons, I sincerely hope that you will support and pass both Assembly Bills.

Thank you,
Beverly Singleton
Special Ed Paraprofessional
Carson City School District

3/15/2023

Good afternoon, madame chair and committee members,

My name is Kerri Finn and I am a clinical aide in the health office at Pioneer Academy in Carson City. I am also the President of the Carson Educational Support Association.

I am speaking in support of both AB194 and AB285 this afternoon.

As a healthcare professional, I have worked district-wide at many schools. It is not uncommon for me to have to render first aid to different staff members who often come to me in tears. Staff members come to me who have been bit, hit, punched, choked, kicked, and pinched; they come to me with concussions and other head injuries, broken bones, and bruises from being thrown against the wall or having objects thrown at them.

If that's not bad enough, despite all of that, there are little or no consequences at all for the students who harmed our staff.

Violence against staff is at an all-time high and behaviors are escalating. Throughout the state, educators are one more violent incident away from leaving this profession forever. Physical abuse is not in the job description for an education support professional, teacher, or administrator.

Educators are constantly told that we must provide a safe, respectful learning environment for students but what are Legislators doing to provide a safe and respectful working environment for educators in Nevada?

In 2019, the Carson Educational Support Association along with NSEA warned what could happen if restorative practices were implemented with a lack of funding, guidance, and instruction. Unfortunately, 4 years later, now we know. The current restorative practices Nevada has in place are not working and need to be fixed. The time for change is now!

Educators have spoken a great deal about respect this Session. Many are likely aware of our campaign called The Respect Educators Act. One of the largest components of The Respect Educators Act is about safety. We support AB194 and AB285 to deliver real accountability for any violence committed against us and give all educators the tools necessary to deal with disruptive behavior. Passing these measures goes a long way to showing educators the respect we deserve.

In closing please, consider the ramifications to public education and our educators' safety across the state of Nevada if restorative practice laws do not change. I urge you to respect educators and pass AB194 and AB285.

Thank you.

Hello, I work in a special need's classroom, I am constantly being kicked, punched and pinched. The children range in age from 6 to 10 years old. I really feel someone needs to come up with some sort of solution for this problem. There are times when chairs and whatever go flying across the classroom.

Thank you for the help

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Sandra Guzzetta

3/15/2023

Good afternoon, madame chair and committee members.

My name is Lynn Garrett and I am an Administrative Assistant at Carson High School. I am also the Treasurer for the Carson Educational Support Association.

I am writing in support of both AB194 and AB285 this afternoon.

Violence against staff is at an all-time high and behaviors are escalating. I have seen several employees of the district that have been truly hurt and have been out of work for weeks from the abuse. We still have employees working physical therapy after the abuse happening several months prior. Throughout the state, educators are one more violent incident away from leaving this profession forever. Physical abuse is not in the job description for an education support professional, teacher, or administrator.

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Thank you,

Lynn Garrett

Dear Assemblyperson,

AB194 is desperately needed in our schools. Here in Washoe County alone:

WCSD Crime Stats for current year 2023*:

Drug crimes: 291

Assault to staff: 4

Battery to staff: 23

Assault: 5

Battery: 115

A ballpark average of 4 assaults/batteries on teachers-staff every month

Assault is an attempted battery

*source: WCSD Police, August 2022 to Feb 27, 2023, less than 7 months

The Restorative Justice Model is most obviously not working as demonstrated by the statistics. What is the definition of insanity? Doing the same thing and expecting different results. AB194 provides that students can be expelled if they commit an act of violence against another student or school employee. Violence in the schools is out of control. It also provides that students who are selling drugs can be expelled. This is a very reasonable measure.

Please protect the children and protect the teachers and staff. Vote YES on AB194.

Sincerely,
Reva Crump
BS Medical Technology
BS Education
MS Cell and Molecular Biology

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Mon Bertolucci

March 15, 2023

Good afternoon,

I am a paraprofessional at an elementary school. I hope you support Assembly bills 194 and 285. We need to have tougher consequences for students that commit violence. I have been bruised by a small student that pinched me and tried to bite me. I have seen students and staff suffer bites to the extent of drawing blood. Students who injure other students or staff should be able to be suspended at the very least even though they may be IEP kids.

We have been told that if a student were to hit, kick, or spit on a member of law enforcement it would be assault, yet as school employees we have no recourse. It is accepted and expected as part of our jobs. This shows a complete lack of respect for anyone in the field of education and teaches children that anything goes without consequences.

Please support the bills and help restore safety and respect for school staff and fellow classmates.

Sincerely,
Patricia Favier

I no longer have school aged children but I still have an opinion.
The least that can be done to unruly students who physically attack teachers is to expel them. I don't think suspension is nearly enough to stop this.
We're heading toward teacherless schools if this keeps up.
The really sad part is that this is just one of many issues facing these kids futures.

Linda Powers

Educators are facing hostile and dangerous work environments, and students are facing dangers in schools because the district has allowed violent and aggressive students to continue to be at school at the cost of safety for all others. Last year I worked in a middle school, and it was my first year at that particular school. Within the first 6 weeks of school, the TikTok trend “Dangerous Licks” started, in which students were vandalizing school and teachers’ property. Items (such as a stapler and the remote control for the projector) were stolen from my classroom, and all four of my tires on my personal vehicle had screws embedded into them one afternoon when I went to leave work. I had to pay for all new tires on my SUV, which cost about \$1,000 out of my pocket. I asked admin to review the cameras, and I was told that would take too much time. I asked if I could review them myself then, and I was told that wouldn’t be possible due to confidentiality reasons. The culprits were never caught, and I was never reimbursed for any of the damage.

The school year did not get any better after that. Students were extremely aggressive and unruly all year. I faced false accusations of racism, students would yell and cuss at me as I walked through the halls or the cafeteria, they were extremely defiant in class and would come to class and encourage each other to antagonize me. One student brought raw eggs into my classroom and threw them at other students. Other students used their masks strings to cut chairs or threw and squished ketchup packets all over the walls and teachers’ desks and ruined several items with the ketchup. Another few students tried to light fires in my colleagues’ classrooms. We teachers tried to write referrals for students who were throwing things because we had a student who was blind, and it was a danger to her, but we were told that admin couldn’t address minor behaviors like throwing things. They didn’t have time. One SPED student would throw things at his classmates every single day, the other students would complain, and I called home and discussed this both his parents and with admin several times, yet nothing was done, and the behavior never changed. This was the class in which our blind student was in, and it was very dangerous to her and others. I felt helpless as the teacher in the classroom because there was nothing I could do to ensure the safety of the other students or provide a positive learning environment.

Behaviors got so bad that at one point, when I was trying to ensure that students were wearing their uniforms, as requested by admin that we do so, a student took off his shirt, wound it over his head like a helicopter, and paraded around the classroom half naked. I do not think he received any consequences for doing so, which allowed his classmates to see that he had no consequences, so they could act up too. In this class period, students would enter the classroom and encourage each other to “make the class lit today” by bullying and harassing me, often calling me a “racist bitch,” refusing to learn or comply with any school rules, and constantly yelling at me. I asked a (white) female student to take out her book, and I was accused of racism. I asked a (Hispanic) male student to sit down so I could start class, and again, I was accused of racism. Everything I did professionally was met with hostility, accusations, and anger from the students and zero consequences from the school. When covid restrictions were lifted, students would come up to me and intentionally cough on me, trying to make me sick, then would say they hoped I died in my sleep. I would cry every day before going to work, it was that bad. I spoke with admin about being harassed, bullied, and attacked pretty much all year and asked for their help in the matter. Admin. said, “Per the district, students cannot bully teachers,” and nothing was ever done to support me. I can personally tell you that students CAN and DO bully their teachers and each other. Something needs to be done about this. They need consequences to their actions. This needs to stop.

Not only are teachers at risk of danger every day they go to school, but so are students. One of my 8th grade students last year was involved in a situation where she and her friends hit a 7th grade girl in the back of the head as the 7th grader was walking onto the soccer field/track at lunch time. The 7th grader fell when she was punched in the back of the head, then hit her head on concrete, passed out, and the group of students continued to kick and beat her, putting her into a coma, breaking her arm, and breaking a few of her ribs. The group who beat the 12 year old unconscious included boys and several students recording this violence on their phones for their pleasure and to broadcast on social media later. Teachers and students believed they had killed the 7th grader for a few days until we heard otherwise. The 12 year old girl was in the hospital for several weeks. The girls who beat her were only suspended from school for three days! Why were they allowed to come back to school before their victim was even out of the hospital completely baffles me.

Now, let's jump to this school year. The 8th grade student I had last year who beat the 7th grader half to death is now in 9th grade. She was just involved in stabbing another 9th grader in the heart, and she killed the victim. This student who was only suspended for three days for almost killing a girl last year was able to continue to bully and harass another girl and even brutally murder her and take her life. She obviously did not learn anything from the first incident in which she was only suspended for three days and allowed to go back to school. It was a slap on the wrist. She had a record of bad behavior. Why didn't we expel her or send her to an alternative school after the first incident in order to protect other students? Maybe we could have saved a life if she wasn't allowed to just come back to school after three days.

My daughter attends the same school that those girls did. Not only am I worried about the safety of all students and teachers, but I'm also worried every day I send my daughter school for her own safety. I can't wait for her to graduate, so I know that she is not in danger when I send her to school and I go to work.

There were several other dangerous instances last year in which one student had a gun in her locker. She was not expelled. She was back in school after a few days as well. Another student who was actually sent to an alternative school earlier in the year was able to come onto our campus and rode a bike (stolen from a teacher's classroom) through the halls. What if he had a gun and was able to return and conduct a shooting, instead of just riding a bike? Although that one student was sent to an alternative educational facility, there were several more who should have been sent because they posed a danger to others but were not and continued to be a danger.

This year I am at a new school. We've already had several code yellows, gang violence, tagging, and dangerous situations. The students are always allowed to come back to school. This is not okay.

I cannot put into one letter how much violence and dangers teachers and students are facing because of new policies we've enacted that protect dangerous kids instead of the innocent teachers and students who truly come to school to teach and learn. How can we maintain any kind of learning environment when nobody is even physically safe in schools, much less where we allow mental and psychological torment and bullying to endure? Whatever happened to the "three strikes you're out" policies – or really any laws/rules that protect us from dangerous people? Having conversations with some students does not work. "Restorative justice" practices do not work with some students. Allowing violent and dangerous students to be on campus and threaten everyone else's safety and sanity is not okay. We need to have clear cut rules and consequences. This will be the only thing that keeps teachers

in the profession and guarantees our students' and children's safety. PLEASE DO SOMETHING TO STOP THIS! We need legislative support!!!

* I have intentionally not named any students or locations to maintain privacy. I would like this to remain confidential, so as to not incur any repercussions. It's sad that I even have to state that as well.

Dear Assembly persons,

Please support AB 194.

I support this because teachers, children, school personnel, aides, bus drivers, etc. need to be safe to do their job. Our state is last in Education and we need to retain teachers.

When I taught in another state, the discipline called, Give a Kid a Break, was enacted 15 years ago. In a Middle School 5 blocks from my inner city elementary school, chaos erupted. Students started to yell in the halls, slam lockers, toss chairs and desks around the room, throw food in the lunchroom, spit on teachers, assaulted them as well as other students, etc. The disruptive students were sent to the Vice Principal, and "counseled" for 15 minutes and then returned to the classroom to repeat the same behavior. Police were often called.

By Thanksgiving break, 65% of those master teachers either asked for and received a transfer to another school or retired.

Then teachers with little experience, were sent to that school and it sometimes happens in Clark County schools.

Many times drug dealers hit on kids as they walk to or from school. Opioids are killing too many unsuspecting innocent children. Expelling them from a school is a step in the right direction so that other students can learn and live and keep school personnel safe.

I encourage you to support AB194.

Yours truly,

Linda Buckardt
Clark County

To: Assembly Education Committee Members

Please Support AB194, as this bill allows students who commit violence against other students or school employees to be suspended or expelled. This bill includes students selling or distributes any controlled substance while on the premises of any public school, on a school bus, or at an activity sponsored by a public school.

This has become a serious issue in our public schools.

Sincerely,

Deborah Mardon

Nevada Resident