

TEACHER AUTHORITY LAW

I. Official Language

- A. Teachers and other instructional personnel shall have the authority to:
- Establish and enforce reasonable classroom rules that treat all students equitably;
 - Maintain an orderly and disciplined classroom with a positive and effective learning environment that maximizes learning and minimizes disruption;
 - Work with parents and other school personnel to solve discipline problems in their classrooms;
 - Seek professional development and/or other assistance to improve classroom management skills when data show that they are not effective in handling minor classroom disruptions.
- B. Better Educated Students and Teachers (BEST) legislation includes the “Teacher Authority Law” that empowers teachers to remove a disobedient, disrespectful, violent, abusive, uncontrollable, or disruptive student from the classroom....and, when appropriate and available, place such students in an alternative educational setting.
- C. Each school is required, by law, to have a “Placement Review Committee” (PRC.)
1. The PRC’s purpose is to determine placement of a student when a teacher withholds consent for the return of a student to the teacher’s class.
 2. The PRC membership must include, but is not limited to:
 - Two (2) teachers: one (1) selected by the faculty and one (1) selected by the teacher who removed the student and,
 - One (1) member from the school’s staff who is selected by the Principal.
 3. Each principal must notify each teacher in that school about the PRC, the availability, the procedures, and the criteria for the PRC.
 4. Once a teacher invokes the TAL, the PRC must render a decision within five (5) business days.
 5. If the PRC decides to return the student to the referring teacher’s classroom, the teacher may appeal the decision to the district’s superintendent or designee.
 6. Any teacher who removes 25% of his/her class shall be required to complete professional development to improve classroom management.

II. Teacher Authority Law - The Bottom Line

- A. The Teacher Authority Law is **SERIOUS!**
- B. The Teacher Authority Law is not the solution to classroom management issues and/or routine disciplinary referrals to administration.
- C. Principals must communicate and explain to their faculties:

1. Placement Review Committee: What its purpose is; Who may sit on the committee; What options this committee has available to them.
- D. The PRC will consist of two teachers—one selected by the faculty and one selected by the referring teacher; BUT, if the referring teacher is on the committee, it is understood that another teacher will need to be selected by the faculty to serve on that committee. The principal will select a staff member to serve on the committee.

III. Suggestions/Recommendations for schools

- A. The principal be available to serve the PRC in an advisory/resource capacity.
- B. If the BFT representative is not a member of the PRC, she/he will be available to serve the PRC in an advisory/resource capacity.
- C. The referring teacher be available, on campus, while the PRC meets.
- D. Teachers follow school and district Codes of Student Conduct procedures to support their efforts in maintaining classroom discipline.
- E. The PRC should be established early in the school year.
- F. Schools need to create a temporary placement for a student until the PRC renders a decision.

IV. The Placement Review Committee's purpose is to:

- A. Determine placement of a student when a teacher withholds consent for the return of a student to the teacher's class.
- B. Decide whether or not there is reason to move a student to a new educational setting.
- C. Determine if a student shall attend In-School Suspension.
- D. Determine if the teacher is singling out a student.

V. The Principal's responsibilities regarding TAL are to:

- A. Select a staff member to sit on the Placement Review Committee.
- B. Place the student in another appropriate, yet, temporary placement until the committee renders a decision, (i.e.: In-School Suspension, another classroom, academic intervention program, etc.).
- C. Report to the district each incident of a teacher withholding consent for a removed student to return to the teacher's class as well as the disposition of the incident.