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BILL: Senate Bill 578
TITLE: Public Schools - Student Discipline - In-School Suspensions
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POSITION: OPPOSE
COMMITTEE: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs
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Senate Bill 578 authorizes the principal of a public school to require a student to serve an in-school suspension for cause; and authorizing the principal of a public school to require a parent or guardian of a student serving an in-school suspension to attend 1 day of the in-school suspension with the student for a conference with appropriate school personnel.

PSSAM **opposes** Senate Bill 578.

Building stakeholder trust and confidence through open and transparent communication is a key priority for every school system. Developing and updating student discipline policies is an important component and ongoing process. School systems handle each discipline case individually. Local superintendents make every effort to establish disciplinary procedures that meet the individual needs of students. In addition, they must effectively communicate those policies to staff, students, parents, and the community.

As local superintendents, we strongly believe that it is critical that locally governed education policies and procedures, such as student discipline in-school suspensions, remain under the authority of local boards of education. Each local school board must have the flexibility to develop individual policies and practices that reflect the specific and diverse needs of their system. PSSAM firmly believes that this role belongs to local boards of education.

For the reasons noted above, PSSAM **opposes** Senate Bill 578 and requests an unfavorable committee report.