

RIDE'S FIELD MEMO JULY 15, 2016

In the July 15 [Field Memo](#) (see item #5), we transmitted a table summarizing all of the education legislation that the 2016 General Assembly voted to pass into law. Since the start of the school year, we have received inquiries about legislation (S2168 as amended/H7056 as amended) that amended RIGL §16-2-17: Right to a Safe School. This law now contains a new paragraph (16-2-17.1), which states: “Suspensions issued shall not be served out of school unless the student’s conduct meets the standards set forth in §16-2-17(a) [see below] **or** the student represents a demonstrable threat to students, teachers or administrators.”

16-2-17(a), which is unchanged, states that students and staff members have a right to attend or work in a school “which is free from the threat, actual or implied, of physical harm by a disruptive student. A disruptive student is a person who is subject to compulsory school attendance who exhibits persistent conduct which substantially impedes the ability of other students to learn or otherwise substantially interferes with the rights stated above, and who has failed to respond to corrective and rehabilitative measures presented by staff, teachers, or administrators.”