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# SUPPORT SOLUTIONS, NOT SUSPENSIONS

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## OVERVIEW

The Judge Judith S. Kaye Solutions Not Suspensions Act (A.5197) will end the reliance on suspensions as the default way to discipline students and establish a framework to instead use proven restorative approaches to inappropriate behavior and discipline. Students will be held accountable for their behaviors through age appropriate, graduated, and proportionate restorative and trauma-informed interventions. These techniques help kids learn from mistakes and remain in the classroom learning.

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## THE BILL WILL:

- Require school codes of conduct to use suspension as a last resort, encouraging restorative approaches to discipline and emotional supports to proactively foster a school community based on cooperation, communication, trust, and respect.
- Limit the use of suspensions for students in kindergarten through 3rd grade to only the most serious behavior.
- Shorten the maximum length of suspension from 180 to 20 school days (except when required by federal law).
- Prohibit suspensions for minor infractions, such as tardiness, dress code violations, or insubordination.
- Require that students who are suspended receive academic instruction, and the opportunity to earn credit, complete assignments, and take exams.
- Require charter schools to follow state education law on student behavior and school discipline.

Every student deserves a school environment where they are included, respected, and supported. **Support the passage of the Solutions Not Suspensions Act.**

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## THE COALITION

The Solutions Not Suspensions Coalition is a group of organizers, direct service providers, student leaders, education attorneys, and advocates working to improve school climate and stop the school to prison and deportation pipeline throughout New York State.

Advocates for Children of New York  
Alliance for Quality Education  
Brooklyn Defender Services  
The Bronx Defenders  
Children's Defense Fund-NY  
Citizen Action of New York  
Committee for Hispanic Children and Families  
Families Together  
Girls for Gender Equity  
The Legal Aid Society  
Mobilization for Justice  
The New York Civil Liberties Union  
Urban Youth Collaborative  
Future of Tomorrow  
Make The Road New York  
Sistas and Brothas United  
We the Parents - Buffalo  
Westchester Children's Association  
The Wright Group  
YWCA Brooklyn

