

KROKIDAS & BLUESTEIN

ATTORNEYS

CHARTER SCHOOL ALERT

MID-YEAR REMINDER: PREPARING FOR COMPLIANCE WITH NEW SCHOOL DISCIPLINE LAW

In preparation for the 2014-2015 school year, public schools, including charter schools, must be prepared to implement the new school discipline laws, set forth at Chapter 222 of the Acts of 2012, entitled *An Act Relative to Student Access to Educational Services and Exclusion from School* (the “New School Discipline Laws”). The New School Discipline Laws, which take effect July 1, 2014, impose many new obligations on charter and other public schools. Schools must provide students who are facing disciplinary action with detailed procedural protections, and students excluded through suspension or expulsion must be given the opportunity to make academic progress. The New School Discipline Laws also include truancy and drop-out prevention measures.

Schools should begin taking steps now in preparation for implementing the new requirements, including the following:

- develop models for education plans for expelled and suspended students, including lists of the services the school will provide;
- examine current appeals procedures and notice requirements for students who are expelled or suspended, and create appropriate protocols and notice forms;
- develop guidelines for exit interviews to prevent students from dropping out;
- develop a plan regarding truancy notifications; and
- update school handbooks, including codes of conduct.

According to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, regulations implementing the New School Discipline Laws are expected to be finalized in Spring 2014. For a copy of K&B’s April 2013 client alert on the New School Discipline Laws, please [click here](#).

Please contact Attorneys Elka Sachs (esachs@kb-law.com) or Anjali Waikar (awaikar@kb-law.com) if you would like assistance with preparing an education plan or reviewing or drafting policies and procedures to ensure compliance with the New School Discipline Laws.