

RES16-057

Wilmington, Delaware
June 16, 2016

#4242

WHEREAS, according to Delaware Department of Education data, thousands of children throughout the state receive out-of-school suspensions each year for minor infractions such as being late to class or violating dress codes; and

Sponsors:

**Council
President
Gregory**

WHEREAS, in 2013, only 2 percent of out-of-school suspensions were for serious offenses – such as those involving weapons, narcotics or serious violence; and

**Council
Members
Wright
Chukwuocha
Congo
Shabazz
Dorsey Walker
Cabrera**

WHEREAS, state data also reveal disparities related to which students receive out-of-school suspensions: in 2013, African-American students made up 32 percent of the student population but accounted for 62 percent of such suspensions, while students with disabilities made up 13 percent of the student body but accounted for 24 percent of out-of-school suspensions; and

Co-Sponsors:

WHEREAS, many have argued that out-of-school suspensions fail to address the root causes of misbehavior, and can result in students falling behind in their studies; and

**Council
Members
D. Brown
Williams**

WHEREAS, federal education and justice officials have issued new educational discipline guidance, instructing schools to regularly review policies; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware General Assembly has introduced Senate Bill 239, which follows this mandate through replacing out-of-school suspensions with more effective and restorative interventions, and working towards addressing and correcting disparities in school discipline across various groups of students.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, that the Council supports Senate Bill 239, and respectfully encourages members of the Delaware General Assembly to support the measure as a means to enhance the educational experience for students in Wilmington and throughout the state by instituting restorative justice practices and reforming disciplinary policies to emphasize learning.

Passed by City Council,
June 16, 2016

Attest: Maribel Seijo
City Clerk

Approved as to form this 14th
day of June, 2016.

Dany Pharo
Assistant City Solicitor