

👉 **07hr\_sb0251\_SC-Ed\_pt02**



Details: Public Hearing – February 21, 2008

(FORM UPDATED: 07/12/2010)

**WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ...  
PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS**

**2007-08**

(session year)

**Senate**

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on ... Education (SC-Ed)**

**COMMITTEE NOTICES ...**

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**
- Record of Comm. Proceedings ... **RCP**

**INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL**

- Appointments ... **Appt**
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule**
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions  
(**ab** = Assembly Bill)                      (**ar** = Assembly Resolution)                      (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)  
(**sb** = Senate Bill)                              (**sr** = Senate Resolution)                      (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

*MB*



Affiliated with the National Education Association

- For your information
- Per your request
- Please handle
- Return with recommendations
- Please File

Sara,

Here are stories  
I shared w/ Rep Ballweg  
on the  
SB 251 / AB 484

Thanks,

Michael



**Michael Walsh**  
 Government Relations Program Specialist  
 Southwest Region  
 Political Action, Legislative,  
 Federal and Agency Relations  
 1-800-362-8034 Ext. 346  
 WalshM@weac.org



cell 220-0458

**Walsh, Michael**

---

**From:** Hoppe, Rodney [hopperod@bonduel.k12.wi.us]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 05, 2007 9:54 AM  
**To:** Walsh, Michael  
**Subject:** AB 484  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Red

Michael,

On March 26, 2006. I was involved in an incident where a student was spitting on other students in a lunchline. I had to intervene because there were only 2 people in the lunchroom at that time, myself and the school secretary who was checking in kids to eat. When I asked the student to go to the office to see the principal, he threw a punch at me hitting in the stomach. I grabbed the student, took him to the office and called for administration. I informed them of what happened and they took the student from there. I had to call law enforcement on my own because of the physical assault. ( they didn't feel it was necessary).

How many ESP people are put in situations where there are no teachers or administrators? If I don't call law enforcement and there is no report and this gets turned around by kids or their parents, Do I lose my job for just trying to do my job? We are all adults here. What if police officers were not allowed to stop criminals unless their superiors were present? YEA THAT WOULD WORK.

Thanks Michael for the info. I'm sure you will be getting thousands of these stories. If the administrators had to deal with these problems when they first happen and not after the smoke clears they might change their way of looking at this.

*Bonduel S.D.*

## Walsh, Michael

---

**From:** Deb Bloede [dbloede@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 05, 2007 4:43 PM  
**To:** Walsh, Michael  
**Subject:** AB 484

I just wanted to tell you about our principal. She DOES NOT want anyone to be sent to the office for any discipline matters - because the child is losing out on "learning."

My question is: what's happening to the other students' learning?  
It's my opinion that she doesn't want to deal with the child or the guardians!

A few years ago, I was teaching 1st grade. I received a student that had been in 5 different schools before the age of 7. Long story short, the child appeared to have mental health issues. (Jeckle & Hyde) Without provocation, he would jump up, throw his desk over, and start biting and scratching others. One day he grabbed a scissors and went for the eyes of another student. I literally had to physically put my body between him and the rest of the class. (Remember, he's only 7 years old.)

I was told by the office personnel that they "didn't want him in there!" I kept taking him down to the office. Then the administration FINALLY started the process to try and get this boy some help.

Deb Bloede  
Banting School  
dbloede@gmail.com

*Waukesha S.D.*

## Walsh, Michael

---

**From:** Mary Modder [marymodder@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 05, 2007 5:20 PM  
**To:** Walsh, Michael  
**Cc:** Modder, Mary; Heideman, Sally  
**Subject:** RE: Legislative Alert from School Administrators Alliance opposed to ESP Discipline Bill AB 484

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Red

**Attachments:** Judy's Letter.doc; Ann's Letter.doc; Kim's letter.doc



Judy's Letter.doc (35 KB) Ann's Letter.doc (43 KB) Kim's letter.doc (38 KB)

I talked to the ESP's in my building, John Bullen Middle School. I am attaching three letters that were given to me. The fourth letter is from Mrs. Diane Green, an ESP who works in our "Intensive Care" Room, otherwise known as In-School Suspension. I am typing in her letter, as it was handwritten:

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Diane Green and I live in Kenosha Wisconsin. I am writing on behalf of all the support personnel. I work at John Bullen Middle School. Middle School itself can be a challenge from the start. I'm reminded of the expression, "It takes a village to raise a child." Well, I live in this village with the students. I am expected to drive them home when they get into trouble, but I can't remove them from a class? That is just silly! I am expected to work with students that already proven to be disruptive, but I can't kick them out of my room when they start a fight? That is even sillier!

Some students need more than the teacher telling them to leave, they need to know that the teacher has support. We all have to support each other and the students have to have respect for all the staff. After working with students for almost 25 years, I don't have as much authority as a 1st year teacher? Wake up and smell the coffee! Why bother having support personnel if they are going to be rendered powerless?

I am in the school to help the teachers and staff. We have a saying at Bullen, "Together, we are at our best!" I will not let someone tell me that I can't remove a violent or disruptive student from class, if that is what needs to happen. Because, at Bullen, we are in it together for the kids!!

Please pass AB 484...It's the right thing to do!!

Diane Green  
ESP  
John Bullen Middle School

*Kenosha*

Help yourself to FREE treats served up daily at the Messenger Café. Stop by today.  
[http://www.cafemessenger.com/info/info\\_sweetstuff2.html?ocid=TXT\\_TAGLM\\_OctWltagline](http://www.cafemessenger.com/info/info_sweetstuff2.html?ocid=TXT_TAGLM_OctWltagline)

Oct 5<sup>th</sup> 2007

To Whom it may concern,

My name is Judith Devine. I work at a Kenosha Unified middle school. I am an educational assistant, ESP, and I work in Student Services, where the students come when in trouble. There have been times when I am in the office alone and students have come in very upset. If I have more than one student in the office, fights can and often do, break out. If I don't have the authority to remove disruptive students, then I can't stop fights and it could get very serious. By not allowing EA's the authority to remove disruptive students, you are saying that they don't know how to do their job and that is insulting.

I strongly encourage you to pass Assembly Bill 484.

Thank You,

Judith Devine  
ESP

John Bullen Middle School

*Kenosha*

To whom it may concern,

I am an educational Assistant in a Special Ed, self-contained classroom. I guess I didn't realize that I didn't have the authority to remove disruptive students from the classroom. I do it every day and with the full support of my staff and administration.

An educational assistant is supposed to work with the students and help the teacher. If a student is being disruptive, it affects the entire class. If an EA removes a student, the teacher can continue teaching. But if the EA cannot remove a student from class, the teacher has to stop teaching and either leave the class or wait for an administrator.

Also, in our building, the EA's staff the lunch detentions and operate our In-School Suspension room, called the IC (Intensive Care) room. Without the authority to remove disruptive students, these positions would be unmanageable!

I strongly urge you to pass Assembly Bill 484!

Sincerely,

Kim Cochran, ESP

John Bullen Middle School  
Kenosha, WI

October 4, 2007

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Ann Jolicoeur. I am an EA in Special Education. I work for Kenosha Unified School District, at Bullen Middle School.

Throughout the day I am in multiple classrooms, hallways, and other locations. I have witnessed many incidents involving "unruly students". Most of these times there are no teachers or administration present, and these incidents must be addressed immediately. If I were to wait until I can locate a teacher or administration my authority would be undermined. The student(s) would have little or no respect for me. Believe me, in a middle school environment with over 850 students, respect is essential.

There are times in a classroom when the teacher is busy or distracted. I will witness students acting inappropriately or vandalizing school property. I will pull the student aside and inform the teacher. Since I am witness to these incidents, I have to write up the reports.

The school staff needs to present a united front. By not giving EA's the authority to deal with these incidents/students, we are reduced to nothing more than "tattle-tales".

I encourage you to pass Assembly Bill 484.

Thank you,

Ann Jolicoeur  
Special Education  
Education Assistant  
John Bullen Middle School

*Kenosha*

**Walsh, Michael**

---

**From:** Gary Ruhl [ruhl3160@sbcglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2007 6:01 PM  
**To:** Walsh, Michael  
**Subject:** classroom removal of student by paraprofessional  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Dear Mr. Walsh,

I just not real sure exactly what you need to know. I work at two elementary schools. I have to be very careful about confidentiality. So this may be vague. I have worked for the school system for almost 18 yrs. I use to really love what I do but it has changed. Children are very street smart now days. The majority of what I have dealt with is a disrespectful child not only to adults but classmates. Whether it is playground, office, hallway or classroom. I have a real good sense of humor so I try to redirect their behaviors which aren't appropriate. Not always successful I might add. For instance a young person who has temper tantrums by breaking all of his pencils so he doesn't have to work, who then resorts to making alot of noise for everyone to hear. Another one is that a child totally trashes a classroom while all others watch. (this was regular ed.) I have been hit by a child but not hurt, just caught off guard. Most teachers are supportive but not all principals. I think the tendancy is to ignore behaviors. The paras are very good hardworking people who deserve the right to remove a child with their good judgement. Not only am I a Paraprofessional, but a wife, mother of two very successful children one a teacher, and the other a woman's advocate for domestic violence victims. Thank You Donna Ruhl

## Walsh, Michael

---

**From:** Arlene Braden [arlenebraden@usa.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2007 2:55 PM  
**To:** Walsh, Michael  
**Subject:** RE: Information from Arlene Braden re AB 484

Our assistant tells me that when the behavior reaches an unbearable state administration has supported her, but before that it's her problem. Sorry, that probably isn't going to help much.

Arlene

----- Original Message -----

Received: Fri, 28 Sep 2007 01:49:44 PM CDT  
From: "Walsh, Michael" <WalshM@WEAC.org>  
To: "McNett, Fran" <McNettF@WEAC.org>, "Braden, Arlene" <arlenebraden@usa.net>  
Subject: RE: Information from Arlene Braden re AB 484

Thank you, Arlene and Fran!

Arlene, do you know if the library assistant has ever had problems because s/he is not backed by the administration?

Thanks,

Michael

Michael Walsh  
Government Relations Specialist  
Southwest Region  
WEAC  
800.362.8034 Ext. 346  
608.298.2446 voice  
608.220.0458 cell  
608.276.8203 fax  
33 Nob Hill Road  
Madison, WI 53708-8003  
walshm@weac. <mailto:walshm@weac.org> org HYPERLINK "<http://www.weac.org/>"www.weac.org

---

From: McNett, Fran  
Sent: Friday, September 28, 2007 12:46 PM  
To: Walsh, Michael  
Cc: Braden, Arlene  
Subject: Information from Arlene Braden re AB 484

Hi Michael,

Arlene Braden asked me to forward this message from her. Please give her a call if you need additional information. Thank you.

AB 484

This is good news for our folks. Talking point #1 caught my eye; as recent as last week I had a meeting with a bus driver and administration to discuss bus discipline. A student had taken a swing at a bus driver, with a busload of kids and no other adult in sight. Unlike, being in a classroom where support and assistance would be there, our drivers can't simply remove the student from these kinds of situations. Giving bus drivers the ability, or having a concrete plan to move swiftly when these situations arise will only serve to insure the safety of all students riding the buses.

Many times support staff is asked to "baby-sit" the students who can not be in the classroom because they are disruptive. With continued staff cut-backs in our schools the only adult in the library is the library assistant. Assistants are being told to monitor a disruptive student along with to 40-50 other students in the library. This should not be considered an acceptable solution. As in the classroom, these disruptive students not only take away from the time the assistant can spend with the other 40 students, but once again is forcing the education support professional to do more with less.

Fran McNett  
Education Support Professionals Coordinator  
Wisconsin Education Association Council  
33 Nob Hill Drive, PO Box 8003, Madison, WI 53716  
Phone: 608-276-7711; 800-362-8034, ext. 304  
Treo Phone: 608-658-1698

Cell Phone: 253-334-6874  
Mail: [mcnettf@weac.org](mailto:mcnettf@weac.org) <<mailto:mcnettf@weac.org>>

## Walsh, Michael

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 04, 2007 7:39 AM  
**To:** Walsh, Michael  
**Subject:** 4B 484 Bill

Dear Michael,

You have my support for this Bill. However, I prefer my name is not used for the purpose of the story I will be sharing. During 2002-03, I worked at a school that did not support school conduct/disciplinary procedures. This school was very selective with whom to support under certain circumstances. The student that I worked with had numerous combative and disciplinary problems. Often times, administration would try to excuse students' behavior due to his diagnosis. Student knew very well right from wrong. My advice for student wasn't taken seriously and basically, I was on my own in dealing with student. As soon as I began taking other approaches to seek out additional help, retaliation began, and I received an unjust evaluation. I hope this helps. Again, please refrain from using my name. Thank you and have a Blessed Day.

*From Racine Unified Schools*

## Walsh, Michael

---

**From:** Marge Kosloske [MKoslosk@stfrancisschools.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 27, 2007 2:41 PM  
**To:** Walsh, Michael  
**Subject:** ESP/Assembly Bill 484

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Red

I work in a high school as an education support professional and have a study hall that I am responsible for every day. If I did not have the ability to remove disruptive students that study hall would be out of control. The age of most of these students is 17 or 18 years and they come into the study hall with things like head phones, and cell phones and such. I need to have that resource available to me to keep that room conducive to learning and quiet for those who want to use it for what it is intended for.

This has to be a swift reaction when the students are noncompliant.

For years I have lunch duty; with one other paraprofessional and four classes of seventh and eighth graders. When you are out there with that number of students and just two adults you have to have the authority to remove the trouble makers fast, and get back on the playground to continue to supervise the students. I never stopped to ask myself if I could remove them, but if I needed to and how fast I could before that brought others into the problem or others joined in the problem. You just can not wait and take that chance when there are that many students out there. It would be unsafe for everyone in that area at that time.

**Walsh, Michael**


---

**From:** Theo Ramos [lil\_ted@ameritech.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2007 9:27 AM  
**To:** Walsh, Michael  
**Subject:** Fw: EBD removal of disruptive studenst  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** GERALD SZEJNA <ranger06@sbcglobal.net>  
**To:** Theo Ramos <lil\_ted@ameritech.net>  
**Cc:** www.WalshM@WEAC.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 22, 2007 11:29:29 AM  
**Subject:** EBD removal of disruptive studenst

Removal of Doris M. Szejna  
 Racine Educator Assistance Association  
 Ranger06@sbcglobal.net

I am sorry for my delay in responding to the ESP Removal of Disruptive students from the classroom. My computer has issues . I have tried to send this to Mr, Walsh several times it keeps returning

Lily Ramos, REAA President and Jenni Ticer REA Vice-President spoke with me briefly and I have read the Weac article about the issue. I had been an EBD assistant for 16 years, I am well aware of the issue, Disruptive and violent students in a classroom are a safety issue for the other students and the Teachers who don't have the experience on how to approach the student. We as the ESP have formed a personal bond with the child in non structured and structured areas and with that bond at times are more equipped to remove the child in a safer way because we have built up a trust. We are able to remove the child in a less stressful manner.. We understand the removal in a timely manner is also important causing the least amount of stress on the other classmates resulting in a smooth reentry for that student the next day he or she has to face his or her fellow students.

I do hope this helps you in addressing this very serious issue. If you have any further questions please contact me at my email address above of by my phone @ 1216 994-3110 that is my cell or work 1 262-619 4212 thank you again

---

**From:** Tommie Glenn [mailto:pooh350t@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 29, 2007 6:05 AM  
**To:** Walsh, Michael  
**Subject:** RE: REMOVAL OF OUT OF CONTROL STUDENTS

MICHAEL,

SORRY YOU DIDN'T GET WHAT YOU NEEDED FROM OUR FIRST CONTACT. THE SCHOOL THAT I WAS AT HAD NO SAFETY ASSISTANT FOR A FEW YEARS, BE AWARE OF OUR CONTRACTS..(TEACHER AND ASSISTANTS) FOR ME IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN KNOWN THAT EITHER OR ONLY THREE GROUPS OFF STAFF ARE EVEN ALLOWED TO TOUCH A CHILD FOR REMOVAL ON ANY STANCE, BE IT AN ALL OUT FIGHT, THE THROWING OF A CHAIR OR TABLE OR JUST OUT BURST LIKE SWEARING AT TEACHERS OR STUDENTS BY ANOTHER.

I, KNOWING THE RULES WOULD FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE EVERYTIME I WOULD GET A CALL TO A CLASSROOM.

I WAS CALLED TO A CLASSROOM LAST YEAR WHERE A CHILD WAS THROWING FURNITURE AROUND THE ROOM..ie EX ED.

I DON'T FEEL I'M GETTING TO THE CRICKS OF WHAT YOU WANT MIKE. LET ME JUST PUT IT THIS WAY, EACH SCHOOL USES WHO THEY HAVE FOR CLASSROOM REMOVALS WHEN THERE IS NO SAFETY OR THE ADMINISTRATORS ARE BUSY. ONE OF MY ADMINISTRATORS WAS IN A WHEELCHAIR AND COULD NOT RESPOND IN A FAST MANNER.

WITH THAT SAID THOUGH, CERTAIN ADMINISTRATORS I HAVE HAD WOULD TELL ME OR THE STAFF CALLING ME THAT I WASN'T SAFETY AND DON'T CALL ME FOR THAT DUTY AND AT OTHER TIMES IT WAS OK.

DID THIS UPSET SCHOOL CLIMATE ?? OF COURSE!! THE TEACHERS IN SOME CASES DIDN'T FEEL SUPPORTED OR SAFE BECAUSE WE HAD NO SAFETY ASSISTANT.

THIS IS A TRUE DOUBLE EDGED MESS.

SORRY IF THE POINT WAS MISSED AGAIN.

TOMMIE

*"Walsh, Michael"* <WalshM@WEAC.org> wrote:

Dear Tommie Lee,

Thanks for getting back to me. I appreciate how difficult it is to do the work that you and your colleagues do--and how understaffed you are.

Just to clarify, this bill is not just for kids who are out of control. I know you work have the trust of kids so that you are able to keep them from getting out of control.

It sounds like your administration is smart enough to empower you so that you can do your job without being second-guessed and realize they could not do it without you.

Can you describe specific instances in detail in which you were hesitant to enforce the student/school code of conduct because you felt you were not empowered with the authority to intervene? And did this endanger student or staff safety or have a negative effect on school climate?

Or can you describe specific instances in which you attempted to enforce the student/school code of conduct, but you were not supported by administration or had your judgment questioned or ignored?

Thanks for you time on this issue.

Enjoy the weekend,

Michael

*Michael Walsh*

*Government Relations Specialist*

*Southwest Region*

*WEAC*

*800.362.8034 Ext. 346*

*608.298.2446 voice*

*608.220.0458 cell*

*608.276.8203 fax*

*33 Nob Hill Road*

*Madison, WI 53708-8003*

*[walshm@weac.org](mailto:walshm@weac.org)*

*HYPERLINK "<http://www.weac.org/>"[www.weac.org](http://www.weac.org/)*

---

**From:** Tommie Glenn [mailto:pooh350t@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, September 27, 2007 3:26 PM

**To:** Walsh, Michael

**Cc:** Johnson, Jeffery

**Subject:** REMOVAL OF OUT OF CONTROL STUDENTS

HI MICHAEL TOMMIE LEE HERE..

ARE THESE PEOPLE REALLY SERIOUS???

LETS SEE BEING THE ONLY ONE ON THE PLAYGROUND WITH THE KIDS FOR THE FIRST 35 MINUTES OF A MORNING ON THE PLAYGROUND AND ALL HELL BREAKS LOOSE AND YOU / ME BEING THE ONLY ESP OR ADULT AROUND PERIOD WHO'S GOING TO DE-ESCALATE THE PROBLEM??

I MY MANY YEARS ALONE A FEMALE TEACHERS CLASSROOM FOR THE MOST PART IF AN ESP IS PART OF THAT CLASS ALL DAY OR EVEN HALF DAY THE KIDS FROM THE CLASS COME FLYING OUT OF THE ROOM ASKING ME OR ANOTHER MALE ESP TO COME STOP A FIGHT OR SOME KID THROWING TABLES AND CHAIRS AROUND THE ROOM.

I REALLY CAN'T BELIEVE THEY WOULD QUESTION THIS AT ALL, ADMINISTRATORS MOST TIMES ARE SUPPOSE TO HANDLE THESE PROBLEMS ARE OTHER WISE ENGAGED IN OTHER SCHOOL BUSINESS AT THE EXACT TIME OF THE DRAMA AND USUALLY HITS THE SCENE MINUTES AFTER THE PROBLEM.

I JUST LAST NIGHT HAD AN ESP WHO WAS PISSED THAT SHE DOES THIS KIND OF THING OFTEN, SHE SAYS SHE HAS THAT TRAINING FOR CERTAIN HOLDS AND THE LIKE FOR RESTRAINING.

THANK GOD FOR THOSE SCHOOLS HERE THAT HAVE A SAFETY ASSISTANT.

MOST SCHOOLS CAN'T AFFORD THOSE NOW WITH ALL THIS FUNDING OR NON FUNDING FOOLISHNESS...SHEESH

SO YES MANY OF MY UNIT DOES THIS DAILY FOR NO EXTRA PAY BUT MORE TIMES THAN NOT WE CAN CALM THE SITUATION FASTER THAN SOME ADMINISTRATORS, WE ESPs HAVE A TRUST WITH THE CHILDREN AND THAT'S THE KEY.

I WISH JOAN AND JOHN GOOD LUCK AND A THANKS.

TOMMIE LEE GLENN.(MEAA)  
MILWAUKEE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS ASSOCIATION ..PRESIDENT

Looking for a deal? [Find great prices on flights and hotels with Yahoo! FareChase.](#)

**Walsh, Michael**

---

**From:** Peg L. B. [Pegb615@charter.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 19, 2007 6:33 AM  
**To:** Walsh, Michael  
**Subject:** Re: ESP discipline bill

Good Morning Michael,

I talked to my Building Reps. last night. They all agree that this bill was importance of the bill. We are working without a contract (14 months), insurance up 16% last year, now 20%. To take a day off with out pay is something they just didn't feel they could do. Said it would have been nice for this to happen in the summer and not the first weeks of school. Sorry I tried. I'm trying to change some plans so I can come.

Thank you  
Peg Bestul  
Wausau ESP

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Walsh, Michael  
**To:** Bestul, Peg  
**Sent:** Monday, September 17, 2007 3:51 PM  
**Subject:** ESP discipline bill

Dear Peg,

Thanks so much for agreeing to help recruit an ESP to testify in favor of the ESP discipline bill on Tuesday, September 24, in Madison.

Below is my contact information.

All the best,

Michael

*Michael Walsh*  
*Government Relations Specialist*  
*Southwest Region*  
*WEAC*  
*800.362.8034 Ext. 346*  
*608.298.2446 voice*  
*608.220.0458 cell*  
*608.276.8203 fax*  
*33 Nob Hill Road*  
*Madison, WI 53708-8003*  
*walshm@weac.org*  
HYPERLINK "<http://www.weac.org/>"*www.weac.org*

**Walsh, Michael**

**From:** melissa westland [liss1954@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 07, 2007 8:23 PM  
**To:** Walsh, Michael  
**Subject:** Re: FW: ESP discipline  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Michael,

Thank you for your quick response. Our high school sends students to the Office of Student Management (OSM) where teachers who are disgusted with student behavior complain about getting no results. I have addressed my concerns and it seems to go to a lower priority. I will be in touch.

Melissa

"Walsh, Michael" <WalshM@WEAC.org> wrote:

Dear Melissa,

Thanks for responding to our plea for ESP discipline stories.

In that situation you would be empowered by statute to send a disruptive student out of the lab to the principal, just like a teacher. That is the point of the ESP discipline bill.

Please give me a call to discuss your experience further. I would appreciate talking to you. Thanks.

Sincerely,

Michael

Michael Walsh  
 Government Relations Specialist  
 Southwest Region  
 WEAC  
 800.362.8034 Ext. 346  
 608.298.2446 voice  
 608.220.0458 cell  
 608.276.8203 fax  
 33 Nob Hill Drive  
 Madison, WI 53708-8003  
 walshm@weac.org  
 HYPERLINK "http://www.weac.org/"www.weac.org

-----Original Message-----

**From:** melissa westland [mailto:liss1954@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 06, 2007 9:56 PM New Central Standard Time  
**To:** Sybell, Debra  
**Subject:** ESP

In the article it is mentioned "in the classroom." What about those that over see a computer lab and the teacher is neglectful(sp?) in following the school district policies? Leaves the students alone and looks at the ESP when questioned or told that policy is not followed? When the students are so disruptive that they are asked to leave and the teachers response is..."you're an aide, you have no voice." How would you deal with that?

Melissa

Ahhh...imagining that irresistible "new car" smell?

Check out new cars at Yahoo! Autos.

<http://us.rd.yahoo.com/evt=48245/\*http://autos.yahoo.com/new\_cars.html:\_yle=X3oDMTE1Yw1jcXJ2BF9TAzk3MTA3MDc2BHINIwNtYWlscGFnewRzbGsDbmV3LWNhcnM-

Expecting? Get great news right away with email Auto-Check.  
 Try the Yahoo! Mail Beta.

**Testimony to the Senate Education Committee**  
**in Support of SB 410, Relating to School Discipline**  
**November 29, 2005**

My name is Marge Rivard. I have worked in the public school setting for over 15 years as a Para-educator. I am currently employed at Madison Middle School in the Appleton Area School District. I have held various positions through the years, but I have worked mainly with special education students, primarily the behaviorally and emotionally challenged, and have done supervision of students in the general population such as lunch duty and hall monitoring.

In 1997 the legislature passed Act 335, which gives a teacher the authority to remove from the classroom dangerous and disruptive students. Today I am here to support Senator Grothman's bill SB 410. My support is based on a very simple premise: students should respect all adults, and as an employee of a school district, I and other educational support professionals (ESP) should have the same rights afforded the professional staff.

Those rights include the authority for a para-educator to remove from the classroom a disruptive student who is interfering with the learning of other students. Those rights include the authority for a food service employee to remove a disruptive student from the cafeteria so that others may enjoy their meal, for a bus driver to remove a student from a bus so he/she can transport students safely, or for a custodian to remove a disruptive student from a hallway so that other students may feel safe.

Educational support professionals should be able to remove that student without being told, "You can't do that because you are not a teacher or an administrator." ESP should be able to remove that student without being second-guessed by a professional staff member and made to feel inferior. We should be able to remove that student without fear of reprisals by the administration.

When we remove a student, the consequences for the student behavior should be the same as if reported by a professional staff member. I have seen in the past that there are different levels of consequences based on one's position within the district. The consequences can be quite different for a student who becomes disruptive or violent with a support staff member and one that becomes disruptive or violent with an administrator.

Sometimes it is implied that taking the verbal or physical abuse is part of our job description. I admit there are times that this may be true, but keeping an abusive student within the classroom because a support staff member is there is inappropriate.

Unfortunately too often what is heard is that I am "just an aide," or he's "just a custodian," or she's "just a kitchen helper." I believe we all do difficult and important work for the well being and learning of children no matter what our job title may be. We try to instill in students the philosophy that everyone is valued. It is time that we show that by empowering the educational support staff of the state and allow them remove disruptive students, just as our professional staff is empowered.

I ask you to please support AB 760 and make it law. This bill will give all school employees, no matter what their job title, the opportunity to keep our schools safer and more secure and the assurance that their work is valued.

Thank you.

Marjorie J. Rivard  
1230 E. Fremont Street  
Appleton, WI 54915

**Testimony to the Senate Education Committee  
In Support of SB 410,  
Sen. Grothman's Bill Relating to School Discipline  
November 29, 2005**

My name is Barbara Schwartz. I am an Educational Support Professional with the Port Washington-Saukville School District where I have worked for the past 11 years.

I am 100% in favor of the Senate Bill 410, relating to school discipline. I feel that the support staff of any Wisconsin School District needs this bill to pass and to be signed into law to benefit all children.

Education is very near and dear to my heart. Every child deserves a great education. Some support staff are with students during the day more than the teacher. The support staff is the teacher's right hand.

As an Educational Support Professional, I have been a student supervisor. I monitored study halls, the library, parking lots and hallways. I also did crowd control for some of the high school basketball games. At one of those games we had a group of students that became very rude to parents, other students and the opposing team. There was nothing that I could do except call the Port Washington Police Department and wait for them. Had this bill been in place, I would have had the legal authority to escort them out of the building.

I now work with teachers that have to stop teaching the students who want to learn in order to deal with those who don't. This is not fair to the other students who want to learn.

If this bill passes, it would give us, the Educational Support Professionals, the right to take the student out of a situation that is not good for them or others and let the teacher do what they were hired to do--teach our future leaders.

Thank you for listening to my concerns, and I encourage the legislature to pass this bill so that the governor can sign it into law.

Sincerely,

Barbara Schwartz  
102 Wisconsin  
Cedar Grove, WI 53013

**Testimony to the Senate Education Committee**  
**In Support of SB 410, Relating to School Discipline**  
**November 29, 2005**

My name is Cheryl Gruse and I am a Paraprofessional in the Oshkosh Area School District. I have been employed at Merrill Elementary School for eleven years, and have worked in a self-contained Emotional Behavioral Disabilities (EBD) classroom for eight years.

I feel very strongly about the SB 410 Bill because it affects me and other co-workers directly. This bill is needed to protect our support staff from harm and also needed to protect all students in our building. SB 410 allows paraprofessional the tools to do their job effectively.

There are many times during the day that we are alone with the students, whether it be lunch or bus duty, recess or in a class setting; at all times the teacher and/or staff member is with the students during art, music, and gym. There are times that the support staff spends more time with the students than the teachers, and how when a child may becoming frustrated and lose his or her temper. In a situation like this when the learning of other children is interrupted by another student's behavior, that behavior needs to stop.

I do my job because I love children and want to help make a difference in their education. Some of our students come from disadvantaged homes. Some students come to school from homes in which they have not been taught common courtesy and respect for authority. I know in our job that we take verbal abuse, almost on a daily basis, but keeping an abusive student within the classroom puts all of us at risk. SB 410 would give paraprofessionals the authority to enforce the rules and maintain order.

I ask you to please support SB 410 and add it to the existing statues that currently cover only teachers and administrators. This bill will give all school employees the authority to discipline and the opportunity to keep our schools safe.

Thank you,  
Cheryl Gruse  
1535 Harrison Street  
Oshkosh, WI 54901

**Testimony to the Senate Education Committee**  
**In Support of SB 410, Relating to School Discipline**

**November 29, 2005**

My name is Elaine Hoffer. I live at 5984 Schroeder Road in Madison. I am a para-educator in the Middleton Cross Plains School District, and I am also the president of the Middleton Educational Support Association. I have been employed in the education field for 15 years; first as a school bus driver and for the last five years as a special needs para-educator.

I feel very strongly about Senate Bill 410. It is needed to protect our support staff from harm and also needed to protect other students.

Due to many cuts in education, more supervision is being assigned to the support staff in our school districts. There are many times during the day those support staff are alone with children or assigned to be with one child. I receive e-mails and phone calls from para-educators saying they do not know what to do because a child has hit, bit and at times hurt them. Many times support staff feel the incident is not dealt with seriously and properly. The result is that support staff are then hesitant to intervene when students misbehave.

When the learning of other children is interfered with by another child's behavior, that behavior needs to be stopped. I am glad to see that this bill deals with more than just the classroom setting. Hallways, the lunchroom and after school activities are also included in this bill. These are places in which support staff also give attention to children in addition to the classroom.

Unfortunately we live in a sometimes-unsafe society that occasionally is evident in the schools. Many children come to school each day from disadvantaged homes. Some of these children bring to school serious family problems from those homes. Some come to school without having been taught common courtesy and a healthy respect for authority. I believe this bill will help support staff members have the authority to deal with these children more effectively and make schools a safe and orderly place, a place more conducive to learning.

Sometimes the support staff spends more time with the students than teachers and can see when a child is reaching his or her point of no return. Para-educators need to have the authority to give the child the opportunity to make the choice that needs to be made. Making this bill a law can only give the support staff the support (no pun intended) they need to help our schools to be a safer and happier place for all concerned. Please support SB 410.

Thank you for allowing me to present my thoughts to you. I appreciate the work you do for the people of Wisconsin.

Elaine Hoffer  
Apt. A  
5984 Schroeder Road  
Madison, WI 53711

---

# WISCONSIN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION COUNCIL

---

Affiliated with the National Education Association

*Every kid  
deserves a  
Great School!*

## Testimony to the Senate Committee on Education In Support of SB 410, Relating to School Discipline November 29, 2005

Good afternoon, I am Tina Koch, and I have some very important duties as an aide at Black Hawk Middle School in Gratiot located in Lafayette County. I have worked for the Black Hawk school district for five years with both special needs and regular education students.

I would like to encourage your support of Senate Bill 410 giving school employees the right to remove disruptive and dangerous students to provide a safe learning environment for all. Due to tightening of budgets, support staff duties have increased to where they are often in independent supervisory roles both in and out of the classroom. We need the same level of respect and authority as teachers to handle students who violate the school code of conduct.

While working with a group of students independently in a classroom or within another teacher's room, when a student becomes disruptive, the learning process is interrupted for the entire group. If the teacher has to stop the lesson to deal with this one student, everyone else in the room is cheated of his or her time to learn.

There have been several times in just the past year in which students on the playground have gotten into a disagreement and one or more was starting to get violent. They then need to be removed as quickly as possible before someone is hurt. There is not time to send someone in to get a teacher or administrator to remove them, that would take minutes when there may only be seconds to respond. For the safety of the children, all school personnel should have the authority to remove the unruly child from the setting to take to the office.

Support staff have been assigned to supervise students in classes, lunchrooms, hallways, on buses and playgrounds, but they need to be empowered to remove the few disruptive ones. Let's keep our great schools safe and effective learning institutions while giving all employees the respect and authority they deserve.

Tina Koch  
802 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Monroe, WI 53566

Stan Johnson, President  
Dan Burkhalter, Executive Director

**Walsh, Michael**

---

**From:** Cecelia Collins [yourhighness\_see@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 05, 2007 2:52 PM  
**To:** Walsh, Michael  
**Subject:** ESP supporting bill

Mike;  
if this bill had come up sometime in the past few years I could have lent a story with substance and just the everyday misuse of language or how support team members are overlooked , under paid, under mined, and under rated as a driving force in their schools and community at best!  
Cecelia

---

Looking for a deal? [Find great prices on flights and hotels with Yahoo! FareChase.](#)