

**Report of the School Safety and Discipline Committee
Submitted by Sasha A. Cervantes, Chair**

The NSEA Delegate Assembly committee on school safety, discipline and attendance met several times beginning in the fall of 2022. The committee was represented by a cross-section of members and staff that developed recommendations for the NSEA Government Relations team to address during testimony during the legislative hearing for LB 811. The committee concluded that the Association should increase its professional development offerings in high-yielding Tier 1 classroom management strategies. The committee also concluded that the Association must partner with area governmental and non-profit organizations that address mental health and chemical dependency concerns. Finally, the committee determined that legislation and policies that criminalize chronic absenteeism are inappropriate but attempts by legislators to recommend psychological evaluations of chronically absent students would increase the workload of school psychologists to levels that would be difficult to manage. The task force will study the disproportionality in referrals of students with disabilities and students of color in Nebraska public schools to ensure equitable and appropriate services for all students. Finally, the discipline tracking system proposed through LB 154 in 2021 by Senator Wayne is still awaiting a release date, making it difficult for the committee to address the disproportionality of office discipline referrals amongst students of color as well as students with disabilities.

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