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SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, each local board of education is required to develop a written policy on student discipline.

This bill would define the role of assistant principal and provide that it is the assistant principal's responsibility to assist the principal with student discipline, instruction, management, safety, security, and certain other duties.

This bill would require each public K-12 school to employ an assistant principal, provided the funding to do so is available.

This bill would also authorize the local superintendent of education, or his or her designee, to determine how to divide the responsibility if a public K-12 school employs more than one assistant principal.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to public K-12 schools; to amend Section 16-28A-3, Code of Alabama 1975; to provide legislative findings; to define the role of assistant principal as



29 assisting the principal with certain duties, including student
30 discipline; to require each public K-12 school to have an
31 assistant principal, if funding is available; and to provide
32 procedures for dividing the responsibility if a public K-12
33 school employs more than one assistant principal.

34 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

35 Section 1. The Legislature finds and declares:

36 (1) The role of the public K-12 principal has been
37 enhanced by the Legislature to emphasize his or her role as
38 instructional leader of the school through legislation such as
39 the Alabama Literacy Act and the Alabama Numeracy Act; and

40 (2) It is necessary to provide additional support for
41 public K-12 principals by designating the duties of the
42 assistant principal and authorizing local superintendents of
43 education to delegate those duties among assistant principals.

44 Section 2. Section 16-28A-3, Code of Alabama 1975, is
45 amended to read as follows:

46 "§16-28A-3

47 (a) (1) Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, the
48 role of the assistant principal at each public K-12 school
49 shall include assisting the principal with administration and
50 enforcement of board policy and all applicable laws,
51 including, but not limited to student discipline, instruction,
52 management, safety, security, and any other duties assigned
53 pursuant to subsection (b). For purposes of this section, the
54 term "assistant principal" refers to any school administrator
55 who reports directly to the principal and is charged with
56 assisting the principal in the overall administration of a



57 school.

58 (2) Each public K-12 school in this state shall have an
59 assistant principal, provided the funding to do so is
60 available. In the event that a public K-12 school employs more
61 than one assistant principal, the local superintendent of
62 education, or his or her designee, shall determine how to
63 divide duties among the assistant principals.

64 (b) To fully implement the provisions of this chapter,
65 the State Board of Education shall require each local board of
66 education to develop a written policy on student discipline
67 and behavior and to broadly disseminate ~~them~~ the policy
68 following its adoption. Copies of the student discipline and
69 behavior policy shall be given to all teachers, staff,
70 parents, and students."

71 Section 3. This act shall become effective October 1,
72 2024.