
Governance highlights of the Education Act 2011:

More power to schools and to the Secretary of State, easier exclusions, more searches, more detentions, more academies, more faith academies, academy PRUs, boarding academies

1. Schools have more power to search pupils including for 'any other item which the school rules identify as an item for which a search may be made', and to examine and delete data on an electronic device: s2.
2. Independent Appeal Panels are replaced with Review Panels which will only be able to order reinstatement of an excluded pupil where the Head Teacher's decision was unlawful: s4.
3. Schools no longer need to give 24 hours' notice to parents of detentions: s5.
4. The Schools Adjudicator will no longer be able to make a modification to a school's admission arrangements in response to a complaint or referral: s34.
5. If a local authority considers a new school is needed, the presumption is (with limited exceptions) that it will be an academy and the authority will no longer have any role in deciding on the promoter: s37 + schedule 11.
6. Maintained schools can have only one staff governor and one local authority appointed governor: s38.
7. Schools in federations can become academies without leaving the federation first: s39.
8. The Secretary of State can now order the closure of (and thus the conversion into academies of) maintained schools 'eligible for intervention', not just those in 'special measures': s44. If the governing body do not then consult on conversion to an academy, the Secretary of State can put in someone else: s56.

9. Parents can no longer complain to the Local Government Ombudsman about maintained schools: s45.
10. The Secretary of State can order local authorities to change their scheme of finance for maintained schools: s46.
11. 16-19 and 'alternative provision' Academies can be established: s53.
12. Academies no longer need to have a 'specialism': s52.
13. Local authorities can still pay/support a school (eg through PFI) once an academy: s58.
14. Local authorities can be required to pay the costs of board and lodging at boarding academies: s61.
15. The Secretary of State can, by order, remove the protection for non-religious teachers in foundation or voluntary controlled schools which have become academies: s62.
16. The Secretary of State has greater power to make land available for free schools: s63 + schedule 14.
17. Adjudicators can consider objections to Academy admission arrangements: s64.
18. The YPLA is abolished (powers transfer to the Secretary of State): s66

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November 2011