

School Board Action Report

“Every student achieving, everyone accountable”



DATE: June 17, 2009
FROM: Dr. Maria Goodloe-Johnson, Superintendent
LEAD STAFF: Dr. Ruth McFadden, Student Discipline

**STRATEGIC THEME/
FOCUS AREA:** Improving Academic Achievement

TITLE AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Student Rights & Responsibilities document: Replacement of the existing document with clarifications and new information for 2009-10.

For Introduction:	June 3, 2009
For Action:	June 17, 2009

TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION/EVALUATION

- Action by district committees and parent advisory committee (May, 2009)
- Approved by Office of General Counsel (May, 2009)
- Approved by Chief Academic Officer (May, 2009)
- Recommended for approval by Executive Committee (May, 2009)

RECOMMENDED MOTION

I move that the Board adopt the revised Student Rights and Responsibilities document.

ISSUE

This annual revision replaces the existing Student Rights and Responsibilities document of August 2008. It provides new definitions for some offenses and related changes to standard discipline for Exceptional Misconduct and District Offenses. Changes have been reviewed by Safety Net Oversight Committee, the full Safety Net Committee, the Legal Office, and the Family & Community Engagement Committee of parents and community members.

BEST PRACTICES

Annual re-adoption of the Student Rights & Responsibilities document allows the disciplinary actions for SPS to be reviewed annually for clarity, appropriateness, and ongoing compliance with state law.

RESEARCH AND DATA SOURCES

The primary changes are to add knives with locking blades to the Standard Discipline for E-320 Dangerous Weapons, define a common knife more carefully for E-330 Common Knives, and clarify what constitutes D-320 Inappropriate Touching.

Other changes are minor and intended to clarify definitions and ensure that offense descriptions are clear.

POLICY IMPLICATION

D72.00 Written Student Discipline Rules

FISCAL IMPACT/REVENUE SOURCE

Expenditure is printing the Basic Rules of Seattle Public Schools brochure for dissemination in September 2009.

Expenditure: **One-time** **Annual**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

These changes were brought before the Superintendent's School Family Partnerships Advisory Committee and approved.

CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATION

It is in the best interests of Seattle Public Schools to approve the SR&R document at this time, to allow translations to be made and information disseminated through the SPS web site prior to the start of school.

ATTACHMENTS

Student Rights & Responsibilities document, which includes:

- **Code of Prohibited Conduct**
- **Standard Discipline for Exceptional Misconduct chart**
- **Standard Discipline for District Offenses chart**