



SEATTLE
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SCHOOLS

News Release

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Seattle Public Schools Board adopts revisions to Religion Policy and Procedure

On Wednesday, August 15, 2007, the Seattle Public Schools Board approved revisions to the District's existing Religion Policy and Procedures (D150.00 and D150.01). The policy changes address the District's obligation to reasonably accommodate the religious beliefs of the students and staff. By creating a more uniform process for the consideration of requests for religious accommodations, the District will be able to provide more consistent responses to students and staff. The adoption of these policies, which describes how religious accommodations will be requested and granted, places Seattle Public Schools at the forefront of this important national issue.

The District's new policy was guided by numerous sources of expertise, including the input of staff and community members as well as the examination of other school district policies across the nation. A committee comprised of teachers, administrators, and community members representing various faith and non-faith perspectives recommended the changes to the original 1983 policy. The process also included feedback from school principals.

Seattle Public Schools' primary mission is to support each student's academic success. This policy improves the District's ability to create an environment for student and staff that fosters respect and promotes excellence. Additionally, the District recognizes its obligation as an employer to provide reasonable accommodations to our employees, including those requested because of a staff member's religious beliefs.

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