



SCHOOL BOARD ACTION REPORT

DATE: February 14, 2017
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1. TITLE

Amending Policy No. 3121, Attendance

For Introduction: April 19, 2017
For Action: May 3, 2017

2. PURPOSE

This Board Action Report makes edits to Board Policy No. 3121, Attendance, in order to update language to be more in line with current District initiatives and messaging.

3. RECOMMENDED MOTION

I move that the School Board amend Board Policy No. 3121, Attendance, as attached to the Board Action Report.

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

a. Background

Superintendent Procedure 3121 needs updating in large part due to new requirements outlined in Second Substitute House Bill (2SHB) 2449, which became effective June 9, 2016. In part, 2449 adds requirements to the District’s annual attendance notice to families, requires elementary schools respond to excused absences, and mandates the District implement Community Truancy Boards (CTBs) by the 2017-18 school year. The Policy is being updated alongside the Procedure to align language with current District initiatives and messaging (e.g. change references to “interventions” to “interventions and supports”).

b. Alternatives

Not updating District Policy. This is not recommended because the current language is not in line with current District initiatives and messaging.

c. Research

Reviewed 2SHB 2449, surveyed Building Leaders and school-based attendance staff, collaborated with other departments, and looked at other Districts' and the Washington State School Directors' Association's (WSSDA) policies and procedures.

5. FISCAL IMPACT/REVENUE SOURCE

There is no fiscal impact for the policy changes, but the changes to the procedure will point to additional staffing, which would be needed regardless to comply with the State's truancy laws.

The revenue source for this motion is the District's General Fund, which receives partial funding from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) (subject to legislative appropriation) to offset the cost of filing petitions for students who are truant. SPS received \$20,019.24 for the 2015-16 School Year.

Expenditure: One-time Annual Multi-Year N/A

Revenue: One-time Annual Multi-Year N/A

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

With guidance from the District's Community Engagement tool, this action was determined to merit the following tier of community engagement:

Not applicable

Tier 1: Inform

Tier 2: Consult/Involve

Tier 3: Collaborate

Because of the non-substantive nature of the Policy edits, it was determined that Tier 1 Community Engagement was appropriate. In addition to surveying Building Leaders and school-based attendance staff, a message was on the District's Attendance website informing of upcoming changes and soliciting feedback, and the current Policy and Procedure were shared with and feedback requested from both the Attendance Subcommittee of the African American Male Advisory Committee, and families and students attending the District's truancy workshops.

7. EQUITY ANALYSIS

Because of the non-substantive nature of the Policy edits, a full analysis was not completed. The department met with Race and Equity, defined racially equitable outcomes, and engaged with both the Attendance Subcommittee of the African American Male Advisory Committee and families and students attending the District's truancy workshops.

8. STUDENT BENEFIT

Consistent attendance is essential for students to achieve academic excellence. Clearly outlined expectations and consistent procedures will assist our students in meeting academic requirements and finding academic success. Through consistent attendance, learning environments are enriched and improved by the contributions, perspectives and presence of every student.

9. WHY BOARD ACTION IS NECESSARY

- Amount of contract initial value or contract amendment exceeds \$250,000 (Policy No. 6220)
- Amount of grant exceeds \$250,000 in a single fiscal year (Policy No. 6114)
- Adopting, amending, or repealing a Board policy
- Formally accepting the completion of a public works project and closing out the contract
- Legal requirement for the School Board to take action on this matter
- Board Policy No. _____, [TITLE], provides the Board shall approve this item
- Other: _____

10. POLICY IMPLICATION

The proposed policy changes align with and support the goals identified by the Board in Policy No. 0010, Instructional Philosophy.

Policy No. 3125, Attendance/Participation & Grades, also highlights that absences from school may affect a student’s grades or credits.

11. BOARD COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

This motion was discussed at the Curriculum and Instruction Policy Committee meeting on March 13th. The Committee reviewed the motion and moved the item forward with a recommendation for approval by the full Board.

12. TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Upon approval of this motion, Building Leaders and attendance staff will be updated and provided with a copy of the new Policy and Procedure. The new Policy and Procedure will be posted on the internal and external Attendance website. Training materials will be updated accordingly.

13. ATTACHMENTS

- Board Policy No. 3121, Attendance – clean (for approval)
- Board Policy No. 3121, Attendance – redline (for reference)
- Superintendent Procedure No. 3121 – clean (for reference)
- Superintendent Procedure No. 3121 – redline (for reference)