



# School Board Briefing/Proposed Action Report

**Informational** (no action required by Board)     **Action Report** (Board will be required to take action)

**DATE:** August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
**FROM:** Dr. Larry Nyland, Superintendent  
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## **I. TITLE**

Amend the 2016-2017 Student Rights and Responsibilities document (SR&R)    **For Introduction:** August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
**For Action:** September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016

## **II. WHY BOARD ACTION IS NECESSARY**

During the 2016 regular session, the WA State Legislature passed 4SHB 1541, a comprehensive education bill based on recommendations of the Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee (EOGOAC). Sections of the Bill include significant changes to student discipline laws, effective June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Board action is necessary because 4SHB 1541 requires school districts to periodically review and update discipline rules, policies, and procedures in consultation with staff, students, families, and the community.

The approved June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 SR&R is not in alignment with the student discipline laws that went into effect on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The recommended changes are intended to align Seattle Public Schools with the law (4SHB 1541).

In addition, through expedited rulemaking, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) will align rules with this new law before the upcoming school year. OSPI will provide further clarification through additional rulemaking during the 2016-2017 school year.

As of August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 OSPI has not made the rules available.

## **III. FISCAL IMPACT/REVENUE SOURCE**

The SR&R was already updated for the 2016-2017 school year and approved at the June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 School Board meeting. The updating and approval process of the SR&R was near completion when 4SHB 1541 became effective on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Since OSPI has not yet provided rules for school districts to align with this new law, several different SPS departments met throughout June and July to revise the approved SR&R and accompanying matrix for the 2016-2017 school year with a little guidance from OSPI. However, we anticipate needing to update the SR&R again once the final rules are adopted by OSPI.

While additional changes may be required, the team decided to move forward with the printing and translating of the approved SR&R and Basic Rules flyer so they would be available to students, staff, and families for the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year. Since the approved

SR&R was significantly revised from the 2015-2016 school year, the team felt it was important to move forward with the approved documents, instead of waiting to print and translate once the rulemaking had been completed.

The costs to translate and copy the SR&R as well as the Basic Rules flyer was part of the approval process for the June 15<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. The amended SR& R and Basic Rules flyer will not be re-translated at this time due to anticipating further edits in the near future.

However, once the SR&R is amended, a summary of changes will be translated into eight (8) languages (Amharic, Chinese, Somali, Spanish, Tagalog, Tigrigna, Vietnamese, and Oromo) and will primarily be made available on the District website to reduce further printing costs. Schools may print out copies for students and families as needed. Fiscal impact to this action will be approximately \$1000.

The current version of the SR&R will be immediately available on the website once the School Board approves the document.

The revenue source for this motion is the Attendance and Discipline budget. .

Expenditure:  One-time  Annual  Other Source

#### **IV. POLICY IMPLICATION**

Board Policy No. 3200, Written Rules of Student Conduct, includes the policy statement: “It is the policy of the Seattle School Board to adopt written rules regarding pupil conduct, discipline, and rights. To accomplish this objective, the Seattle School Board will annually approve a Student Rights and Responsibilities document pertaining to student rights, conduct, and corrective actions, updated by the superintendent.” The Policy also requires that “a condensed ‘Basic Rules of Seattle Public Schools’ flyer will be provided to all students and their parents at the beginning of each school year and when students newly enroll in Seattle Public Schools.”

Additionally, Board Policy No. 3240, Student Conduct and Discipline, outlines that “appropriate student behavior shall be maintained in the classroom, during school activities, and on school property at all times to ensure student and staff safety and maximize student learning.” The policy also states that “positive behavioral supports are used first to ensure that student behavior is appropriate.”

#### **V. RECOMMENDED MOTION**

I move that the Board amend the 2016-17 Student Rights and Responsibilities document, as attached to the Board Action Report.

#### **VI. BOARD COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

The version of the SR&R that was approved on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016, was reviewed at the Curriculum & Instruction Policy Committee on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The amended version was discussed at the C&I Policy Committee on August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The C&I Policy Committee recommended to move the item forward to the full Board with a recommendation for approval as amended.

## **VII. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The SR&R sets forth the rules and regulations of Seattle Public Schools regarding student conduct, discipline, and rights and responsibilities. The SR&R is created in compliance with the requirements of State law and community expectations. The SR&R is used by students and families to understand the rules, regulations, and due process procedures of Seattle Public Schools. The SR&R is also used by school administrators to guide the discipline decision making process.

The SR&R was already updated for the 2016-2017 school year and approved at the June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 School Board meeting. The updating and approval process of the SR&R was near completion when 4SHB 1541 became effective on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Since OSPI has not yet provided rules for school districts to align with this new law, several different SPS departments met throughout June and July to revise the approved SR&R and accompanying matrix for the 2016-2017 school year with a little guidance from OSPI. However, we anticipate needing to update the SR&R again once the final rules are adopted by OSPI.

## **VIII. STATEMENT OF ISSUE**

Whether to amend the 2016-17 *Student Rights and Responsibilities* document.

## **IX. ALTERNATIVES**

Keeping the June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 SR&R is not recommended because the recommended changes are intended to align Seattle Public Schools with the law (4SHB 1541).

## **X. RESEARCH AND DATA SOURCES / BENCHMARKS**

- June 9, 2016 Bulletin No. 024-16 Legal Affairs from OSPI.
- Final Bill Report on 4SHB 1541 from the Washington State Legislature.
- Communication with Josh Lynch, the Program Supervisor of Student Discipline, Behavior, and Readiness to Learn at the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

## **XI. TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION / COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Upon final approval, the document will be uploaded on the District's website and communication will be sent to all school administrators.

## **XII. ATTACHMENTS**

- Overview of proposed changes for SR&R 2016-17 (for reference)
- SR&R proposed for 2016-17 (Clean – for approval)
- SR&R proposed for 2016-17 (Redline – for reference)
- District Offenses Matrix proposed for 2016-2017 (Clean – for approval)
- District Offenses Matrix proposed for 2016-17 (Redline – for reference)
- Exceptional Misconduct Matrix proposed for 2016-17 (Clean – for approval)
- Exceptional Misconduct Matrix proposed for 2016-17 (Redline – for reference)

- Student Reengagement Conference Plan and Guidelines (for reference)
- Reengagement Conference and Plan Template (for reference)