

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #314 (98-99)(REVISED) June 14,1999

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: REVISION TO SCHOOL BOARD POLICY SECTION 450:
STUDENTS' RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES (SECOND
READING)

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and adopt the attached revision to School Board Policy, Section 450: Students' Rights and Responsibilities Policy (Attachment A) on Second Reading.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The Students' Rights and Responsibilities Policy 450 (Attachment B) has gone through a substantive review by the School Board Policy Subcommittee, the Instructional Team and ASD Legal Counsel, Andrena Stone, after soliciting input from all departments and schools as well as the Anchorage Council of PTAs. The policy revisions were requested by the Administration as a result of changing circumstances in the schools, the identification of procedures needing clarification that have become apparent from experience with various student hearings, disciplinary issues, and requests from the schools.

There are no major substantive changes in this latest revision, but rather a reorganizing of it into a more user-friendly document. The Administration and Legal Counsel also felt it was important to reinforce the fact that Special Education students are expected to follow the same rules and procedures as all other students, while recognizing that they do have additional rights guaranteed by federal law, IDEA 97.

The document must be viewed in a legal context as well as an explanation of the rules and regulations for students and parents. Once the revisions are authorized the Administration will revise the accompanying parent guide and consequences chart so that they can be incorporated into handbooks and information for

registration in the fall. The Administration will review all changes with administrators and staff in the fall with the expectation that the changes will be widely discussed by teachers and students during the first weeks of the 1999-2000 school year. It is also hoped that principals will work with their PTAs and Parent Organizations so they are well-informed about these changes.

The School Board approved these revisions on First Reading on May 24, 1999, with one amendment. Item #19 under Student Behavior/Prohibited Conduct was modified at the request of parents to allow more discretion on the part of the administrator in incidents involved with fighting and self-defense. A definition of self-defense and parameters for using minimum force for students was also added. In addition, the Student Advisory Board representative requested information be given to the group in the fall since they had not been involved in these revisions.

BC/CC

Attachments

Prepared by: Andrena Stone, Legal Counsel, Jermain, Dunnagan, and Owens

Carol Comeau, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction

Approved by: Carol Comeau, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction