

For Executive Cabinet Review Monday, September 14, 2020

Policy 2214/Procedure 2214P Alternative Learning Experience (ALE) Courses

Proposed revisions are to comply with recent changes to the rules that govern Alternative Learning Experience (ALE). The changes remove the requirement to obtain a parent or guardian's signature documenting their understanding of the difference between home-based instruction and ALE. However, the requirement to notify families of the difference between home-based and ALE programs at the time of enrollment still remains. These rule revisions became effective August 10, 2020 with the exception of the truancy section, which defines truancy and a truancy protocol in ALE settings. The truancy section will take effect January 1, 2021.

Policy 2216/Procedure 2216P Academic Acceleration

This proposed new policy complies with the passage of HB 1599 which requires districts to adopt a policy by the 2021-22 school year. Academic acceleration is a design to advance each student's coursework as soon as the student is ready by making advancement automatic. For example, for students who meet or exceed state standard in eighth grade and high school, the district automatically enrolls those students in the next most rigorous level of advanced course or program that aligns with the student's Plan. Once the student completes that advanced course, the district automatically enrolls the student in the next most rigorous course. This process continues so that when the student is ready, they are automatically enrolled in courses that offer the opportunity to earn dual credit for high school and college. The goal of academic acceleration is to reduce historic and systemic barriers to advanced coursework for students from low-income families or students of color. It is crucial to remember that academic acceleration must align with the goals in the student's Plan, and students and parents have the opportunity to opt out of academic acceleration for an alternative course or program.

Policy 3121/Procedure 3121P Enrollment and Attendance Records

Revisions are to comply with House Bill (HB) 1191—Concerning School Notifications. During the 2020 legislative session, our Legislature passed HB 1191 to act on recommendations from the State Auditor's Office (SAO) audit and stakeholder workgroups. HB 1191 includes several helpful provisions. As mentioned, state law previously required notifications even when students were not going to return to school, as well as notifications to schools the students are not going to attend. HB 1191 modified the notification obligations both on the part of the agencies providing districts and schools with notice and on the part of districts and schools receiving the notice. As modified, notification requirements no longer include former students who are now over 21 or who have already received a high school diploma or students between 18 and 21 who have not indicated they will enroll in an educational program. Other provisions of HB 1191 address the sensitivity of information regarding student juvenile offenses. For example, the information included in the notification process is no longer subject to disclosure under the Public Records Act. Another example is that HB 1191 provides students and/or their parents the opportunity to appeal a principal's decision to share with teachers and other school staff information of a student's controlled substance violation. This right to appeal applies only to violations of controlled substances. The district superintendent hears the appeal and makes the final determination. This provision is intended to assuage concerns about the deleterious effect that notification can have on a student's relationships with teachers and the potential to impair a student's scholastic career.

Policy 3122/Procedure 3122P Attendance

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) has adopted emergency rules that define absence in the context of remote instruction and address daily attendance taking. The emergency rules also offer an expanded list of excused absence categories specific to the COVID-19 pandemic, provide a new non-truancy absence code, and address tiered supports for students accruing absences. The emergency rules are intended to give educators access to meaningful data so they can ensure student safety and reduce chronic absenteeism. The emergency rules are already in effect and will remain in effect for the 2020-2021 school year.

Policy 3143/Procedure 3143P District Notification of Juvenile Offenders

Revisions are to comply with House Bill (HB) 1191—Concerning School Notifications. Based on the need for a comprehensive, cohesive approach, WSSDA is recommending merging the content of Policy 3143 with Policy 3144, Release of Information Concerning Student Sex and Kidnapping Offenders. The new version is also retitled as District Notification and Dissemination of Information about Student Offenses and Notification of Threats of Violence or Harm.

Policy 3144/Procedure 3144P Release of Information Concerning Student Sex and Kidnapping Offenders

Proposed deletion of this policy and procedure is because the language regarding release of information has been incorporated into proposed revisions to Policy 3143, District Notification of Juvenile Offenders.

Policy 3414/Procedure 3414P Infectious Diseases

Revisions are to reflect official health guidance related to COVID-19.

Policy 3423/Procedure 3423P Response to Student Injury or Illness

Revisions are to reflect official health guidance related to COVID-19.

Policy 3510/Procedure 3510P Associated Student Bodies

Revisions are to address House Bill (HB) 1660 –Participation of Students Who Are Low Income in Extracurricular Activities. The legislation requires districts that collect fees for extracurricular participation to adopt a policy that includes provisions for both waiving and reducing such participation fees for students who are eligible for the Free and Reduce Price Meals program.

Policy 4300/Procedure 4300P Limiting Immigration Enforcement in Schools

This new policy is to comply with Senate Bill (SB) 5497 with the purpose of ensuring the state of Washington “remains a place where the rights and dignity of all residents are maintained and protected in order to keep Washington working.” Washington’s Office of Attorney General (AGO) was asked to develop guidance for limiting immigration enforcement to the fullest extent possible and permissible at courthouses, publicly operated health facilities, shelters, and of particular note, public schools. Washington’s public schools are recognized as special institutions—and with good reason. Public schools have a legal and moral obligation to ensure that no one is denied the opportunity to succeed because of where they were born. This proposed new policy reproduces the AGO model in its entirety.

Policy 4316/Procedure 4316P Notification of Threats of Violence or Harm

Proposed deletion of this policy and procedure is because the language regarding release of information has been incorporated into proposed revisions to Policy 3143, District Notification of Juvenile Offenders.

Policy 6112 Rental, Lease, or Use of Surplus District Real Property

Revisions are based on HB 2617 – Lease or Rental of Surplus Property of School Districts. The revisions add a “recapture clause” to the lease or rental of district surplus property. Additionally, the revisions add an exception to the prohibition of weapons on district property when districts rent property that will be used as a personal domicile.