
Board of Education

ACTION

TITLE: Consider Approval of Student Handbook Changes for 2024-2025

DATE: May 20, 2024

RESPONSIBLE ADMINISTRATOR: Dr. Michael Farrell
Executive Director of Student Services

BACKGROUND/CONSIDERATIONS:

The [District Handbook Committee](#) met on May 6, 2024 and developed the attached revision recommendations for the district student handbook changes. The objective was to ensure that the 2024-2025 handbook aligns with the proposed Arkansas School Board Association student policies, aligning with Arkansas law, and updating terminology. The changes recommended by the handbook committee are presented here in redlined documents showing edits and changes from the previous year's handbook.

Change 1: This change seeks to update the student handbook with regard to Smart Core and Core Curriculum requirements required by the State of Arkansas for the Classes of 2025 and 2026 as well as the Class of 2027 and classes thereafter. The redline additions under specific courses corresponds to specific course information that is also delineated in the Fort Smith Public School Student Course Catalog.

Change 2: This change seeks to update the student handbook with regards to technology and new legislation impacting student online accounts and privacy policy.

Change 3: This change seeks to update the student handbook with regards to the presence on campuses of police officers in contrast to school security officers.

Change 4: While not attached to this abstract, this change will alter the title page of the Fort Smith Public School Handbook to read [Adopted by the Board of Education May 20, 2024.](#)

Change 5: While not attached to this abstract, this change will alter the dates of two annual memos to Employees, Parents, and Students of the Fort Smith School District from Dr. Terry Morawski, Superintendent of Schools regarding Civil Rights Compliance and Sexual Harassment of Students or Staff Members to be dated [July 1, 2024.](#)

To align with subsequent changes to Arkansas law and the Division of Secondary and Elementary Education (DESE) rules and regulations additional work may be needed to update the handbook over the next several months. In order to adapt to these changes, additional recommendations for

handbook updates will be prepared for the consideration by the Board. Because the handbook is distributed in both paper and electronic formats, future updates to the handbook would be posted for students and families as they are completed and approved by the Fort Smith School Board.

Mr. Marshall has reviewed this recommendation for changes to the 2024-2025 Fort Smith District Student Handbook. The changes are submitted in both redline and clean copy for Board review.

RECOMMENDATION:

The administration recommends the attached handbook changes be approved as presented for inclusion in the 2024-2025 District Handbook. If the Board agrees, the motion would read:

Move to approve the attached handbook changes as presented for inclusion in the 2024-2025 Fort Smith Public School District Student Handbook.