# FORT ✦ SMITH
## PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Board of Education

**ACTION**

**TITLE:**                                    Consider Approval of Student Handbook Changes for 2021-2022

**DATE:**                                     July 8, 2021

**RESPONSIBLE ADMINISTRATOR:**               Darian Layes
                                             Executive Director of Student Services

**VISION 2023 STRATEGY:**                     2. Equity

**BACKGROUND/CONSIDERATIONS:**

Earlier this spring, the Board approved on second reading new student policies based on the Arkansas School Board Association model policies. The District Handbook Committee then met on May 12 and developed the attached six recommendations for handbook changes to ensure that the 2021-2022 handbook aligns with the new student policies. The changes recommended by the handbook committee are presented here in redlined documents showing edits and changes from the previous year's handbook.

Approval of a handbook that aligns with the new student policies is an important milestone. Due to several changes made to education law in Arkansas during the most recent legislative session, additional work will need to be completed on the handbook over the next several months. In order to adapt to these changes, additional recommendations for policy updates and corresponding changes to the handbook will be prepared for the consideration of the Board. ASBA model policies designed to address these changes have recently become available. Because the handbook is now distributed electronically, future updates to it can also be posted for students and families as they are completed and approved. Paper copies will also continue to be available at campuses for distribution to families who request them.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The administration recommends the attached handbook changes be approved for inclusion in the 2021-22 District Handbook.

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**VISION 2023 STRATEGIES - 1. Career Planning:** Develop and implement education and career pathways so that each student graduates with a viable plan and relevant skill set for his or her future. **2. Equity:** Develop and implement a system-wide plan to provide all students with the resources they need to optimize their learning. **3. Instruction:** Design, develop and implement programs to promote rigor, relevance, collaboration, critical- thinking skills and learning environments designed to meet each student's unique needs and aspirations. **4. Learning Environment/Facilities:** Align resources, facilities and technology strategically and equitably across the district to maximize security and enhance the learning environment. **5. Staffing:** Recruit and retain highly-qualified faculty, staff and administration. **6. Technology:** Provide appropriate technology that is consistently available, effectively supported and equitably distributed for group and individual instruction. **7. Wellness:** Develop and train empathetic and nurturing employees to be sensitive to and supportive of the needs of all children and families.

If the Board agrees, the motion would read:

***Move to approve the attached changes to the 2021-22 FSPS District Handbook.***

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