

Board of Education

ACTION

TITLE: Consider Adopting Student Related Policy Changes
(Section 4 - Board Policy)

DATE: April 28, 2025

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

BACKGROUND/CONSIDERATIONS:

The administration desires to update the section Four (4): Students - of Fort Smith Public Schools Board Policies to reflect modifications of model policies provided by the Arkansas School Board Association (ASBA).

On April 17, 2025 the Student Policy Review Committee met to review and discuss the following recommendations made by the Arkansas School Board Association. Members of this review committee voted unanimously to bring these proposals as written to the Fort Smith School Board. Mr. Marshall Ney has subsequently reviewed and approved these recommendations from ASBA and the district's Student Policy Review Committee.

Clean and redline versions are being provided to enable the Board to see the specific changes that are being proposed. If approved, revisions to Policy 4.2, 4.13F, 4.17, 4.18, 4.22, 4.23, 4.24, 4.27, 4.50, 4.63, and 4.64 will become effectively immediately.

4.2—ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS - The language regarding residence requirements and kindergarten enrollment was updated to try and make the different options easier to read. Changes were made to international student's enrollment procedures to be consistent for all enrolling students.

4.13F—OBJECTION TO PUBLICATION OF DIRECTORY INFORMATION - A change was made to standardize the formatting of the document. Note: your district does not have to include the separate options listed on this form, but students do have the right to opt out of either category separately. If approved, this objection document would be a link in the FSPS Student Handbook section VII. Student Records B. Directory Information.

4.17—STUDENT DISCIPLINE - The reasons for potentially disciplining a student for off campus activity was broken down into a list format for easier reading.

4.18—PROHIBITED CONDUCT - Prohibited conduct #7 was updated to more closely match the statutory language in A.C.A. § 6-18-515. Prohibited conduct #21 was amended to match the new terminology of policy 4.27.

4.22—WEAPONS AND DANGEROUS INSTRUMENTS – A definitions section was added and several list sets were broken out into bulleted lists for ease of reading. The policy was updated to add DESE Rules Governing Student Discipline and School Safety to the list of Legal References.

4.23—TOBACCO, ELECTRONIC NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEMS, AND TOBACCO RELATED PRODUCTS – The title of the policy was changed to more accurately indicate what is prohibited under policy.

4.24—DRUGS AND ALCOHOL - Several list sets were broken out into bulleted lists for ease of reading. The Legal References were updated to include section 6 of Amendment 98.

4.27—STUDENT SEX DISCRIMINATION AND SEX-BASED HARASSMENT - The policy was updated to incorporate changes to the definition of complaint as well as to select the single investigator model as the default procedural process for sex-based harassment complaints. This policy mirrors the investigative procedures found in Section 3 – Licensed Personnel.

4.50—SCHOOL MEAL MODIFICATIONS - The policy is being updated to incorporate language dealing with the USDA’s position regarding “lactose free” milk.

4.63—STUDENT RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION - The policy was amended to be proactive for instances when such a request is made and to have an established policy before the request.

4.64—STUDENT USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (NEW ASBA POLICY) - Due to multiple requests, ASBA establish a new policy that is intended to govern the use of artificial intelligence by students when completing homework or other projects. In July 2024 the School Board proactively adopted a Student Artificial Attendance Policy which is subsequently (April 2025) being repealed and replaced by the ASBA policy. The district Board Policy Review Committee (April 2025) supported this revision.

RECOMMENDATION:

The administration recommends the Board approve the changes to Board Policy 4.2, 4.13F, 4.17, 4.18, 4.22, 4.23, 4.24, 4.27, 4.50, 4.63, and 4.64 as presented to be effective upon board approval. If the Board agrees, the motion would read:

Move to approve Board Policies 4.2, 4.13F, 4.17, 4.18, 4.22, 4.23, 4.24, 4.27, 4.50, 4.63, and 4.64 as presented to be effective on board approval.