



**Board Meeting Date:** 8/14/2023

**Title:** Policy 506 Review

**Type:** Discussion

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Randy Smasal, Assistant Superintendent

**Description:** Changes to Policy 506 have been proposed and attached. The proposed changes are a reflection of new legislation and feedback from administrators, teachers and parents.

**Recommendation:** No recommendation is being made at this meeting.

**Desired Outcome(s) from the Board:** Review suggested changes and bring any questions you may have.

**Attachments:**

1. Policy 506 Student Conduct and Discipline

**Background Information:**

Legislative changes to MN statute require that we make updates to Policy 506, Student Conduct and Discipline. The legislative changes center around a few themes which focus on the importance of students being in school, and learning at high levels. Many of our current practices address these new requirements, however, updates and changes from the new legislation and suggested edits from Edina stakeholders are described in the attached policy.

The first major change to policy is the addition of preK into policy. The addition of preK aligns practices with grades K-3 regarding how we teach students to be a successful learner in a school setting.

Secondly, Disciplinary Dismissals (suspensions, expulsions or exclusions) are not allowed in preK-3 except for situations where non-exclusionary practices have been exhausted and only in circumstances where there is an ongoing safety threat to the child or others. Non-exclusionary practices include positive behavior interventions or supports, social and emotional services, school-linked mental health services, counseling services, social work services, academic screening for Title 1 services or reading interventions and alternative education services. The statute helps schools ensure that a variety of steps have been taken to modify student behavior before the dismissal step is exercised.

A third theme is focused on communication. Expectations for communication with families and

students regarding student behavior in school have been expanded. For those who are not satisfied with a school response to a behavior incident, a complaint procedure will be posted in schools and available in the Rights and Responsibilities handbook on the district website.

The final theme is regarding student safety. The standard for restraint using Reasonable Force has changed. No prone (face down) restraints or restraints that obstruct the breathing airway are allowed in schools. Reasonable force restraints are used when or if a student is harming themselves, others or about to harm another person.

Appendix I describes actions taken by administrators for about 50 categories of behaviors. An asterisk denotes when the action is at the discretion of the administrator and is largely based upon unique or specific circumstances. A recommendation to use Restorative Practices has been added to ensure that students are learning from behavior mistakes and are working to make amends or repair harm if needed. Restorative practices ask students to reflect on their behavior, why they did what they did, understand who or what was impacted and restore relationships, resolve conflicts and or repair damage. Each category of actions is developed with a progressive approach to ensure that behavior expectations are met. Parent and student communication are key to the partnership between schools and families.

Review of Policy 506 began in the Spring of 2023 and involved the following groups:

- District Equity Advisory Committee 4-27-23
  - Parents, Teachers, Site Administrators, District Office Administrators
- K-12 Principals and Site Leaders 5-15-23
- Legal Counsel Review June, 2023
- K-12 Principals and Site Leaders 6-26-23
- Policy 506 Working Group 7-27-23
  - 2 HS Teachers, 2 Secondary Principals, 2 Elementary Principals, Assistant Superintendent
- K-12 Principals and Site Leaders 7-27-23
- School Board Policy Committee 8-7-23
- School Board Work Session 8-14-23

Principals have received training on the legislative changes and the updates needed for policy 506. A training session for teachers will be provided by legal counsel on the district inservice day, Aug. 23. Also, a teacher working group is being developed to ensure that teachers get the support they need to meet the new expectations as described in the changes to the policy.