



GOVERNING BOARD AGENDA ITEM
AMPHITHEATER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 10

DATE OF MEETING: May 7, 2013

TITLE: Review of Proposed Revisions to the 2013-2014 Student Code of Conduct

BACKGROUND:

State law mandates that each school district Governing Board establish rules for student behavior, to include consequences deemed appropriate. The Student Code of Conduct is the mechanism through which the District communicates its expectations for student behavior and the consequences for violating those rules. A student's failure or refusal to comply with the rules of the district and/or his school will subject the student to disciplinary action.

An effective Code must explain expectations for behavior so that all members of the school community can fully understand them; it must also provide fair and consistent guidelines for consequences to be applied when behavioral incidents do occur to help ensure schools are safe places for students, staff, and the public.

The Code's 2013-2014 version has been drafted to be as conversational as possible. It is important to recognize, however, that any code of conduct must comply with certain legal mandates for public schools and must be very clear about expectations, to include precise definitions where required. In that regard, this Code contains definitions directed for use by the State of Arizona Department of Education.

Beginning in 2010-2011, the Code of Conduct has been prepared in two formats - one for elementary schools and one for middle schools and high schools. The elementary code contains a more simplified section and graphics for younger readers. Three years later we continue that tradition as it was very well received by parents and educators.

The provisions for the Code are, in large measure, now driven by state mandated definitions of terms and reporting requirements. The specific language used in most rule definitions, specifically, is directed by state requirements for consistency across districts. Added to this draft of next year's Amphitheater Code, however, is new language to address potential waiver of consequences for students actively pursuing and attending the Amphitheater Academy, as well as minor changes to address increasing issues with "e-cigarettes" and related devices.

RECOMMENDATION:

This Board item is presented to permit the Board to study proposed revisions to the Code of Conduct for the 2013-2014 school year. No action is required at this time.

INITIATED BY:

Todd A. Jaeger, Associate to the Superintendent

Date: May 1, 2013

Patrick Nelson, Superintendent