



GENEVA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 304
FROM THE OFFICE OF LEARNING AND TEACHING

TO: Policy Committee of the Board of Education
FROM: Patty O'Neil
RE: New Policy and Policy Change Recommendations
DATE: May 26, 2015

This memo contains the rationale for revisions to Policy 5200 Attendance and Policy 5600 Discipline. These revisions are responsive to recent legislation and the current state of law. They should be adopted by the Board of Education in order to remain compliant with legislative mandates. In addition, the following new policy has been developed and presented by our policy service. Policy 5517.01 has been developed in response to recent legislation regarding specific procedures and requirements of Districts in response to incidents of bullying and, more specifically, cyber-bullying.

1. Attendance

Policy 5200 (Revised)

This is a revised policy from NEOLA which addresses changes to Illinois Legislation regarding student attendance. This policy change was presented to both the Policy Committee and the Board of Education previously but was delayed in its adoption due to questions regarding “cross-referencing” policies in NEOLA’s service. Since then we have learned that in the electronic version of the Board’s online policies (hosted by NEOLA), Policy numbers referenced in one policy will actually be hyper-linked to the referenced policy which should eliminate the need for parenthetical clarification each time a different policy is referenced.

Provisions contained in this policy reflect the current state of the law regarding definitions of “chronic or habitual” truants; specifically the new policy provisions outline a more restricted level of student “unexcused” absence. In addition, once a student is identified as a “chronic or habitual” truant, the policy identifies supportive services as well as consequences that may be imposed.

Revision of this policy is in response to Illinois Legislation.

2. Discipline

Policy 5600 (Revised)

This is a revised policy from NEOLA which in essence removes the language related to bullying, as there is now a more expansive and separate policy addressing these

issues, Policy 5517.01, which is required by law. In addition, this Policy now contains specific language indicating that student discipline provisions must be reasonable in their application and that they apply to students at school-related events and functions as well as to students on their journey to and from school.

Revisions to this policy reflect the current state of the law and should be adopted to maintain accurate policies.

3. Prevention of and Response to Bullying and Aggressive Behavior

Policy 5517.01 (New)

This is a new policy from NEOLA. Inclusion of this policy complies with Illinois Legislation. This policy pulls language from a previously existing policy and amplifies the definitions and procedures regarding identification of and response to incidents of bullying including, specifically, cyber-bullying.

Provisions contained in this policy are required by law and should be adopted to maintain accurate policies.