



950 W. BANNOCK ST., SUITE 520 • BOISE, ID 83702
PHONE: (208) 331-1800 • FAX: (208) 331-1202 • WWW.MSBTLAW.COM

MEMORANDUM

2015 Model Policy Updates – First Quarter

SECTION 200: SCHOOL BOARD

204 – District Policy. This policy been retitled to address district policy more generally, has been given headings, and has also been updated to clarify the number of readings required prior to board adoption (this is up to board discretion) and temporary approval of policies in emergency situations. It also gives the superintendent the authority to act in accordance with the educational philosophy and financial needs of the district in absence of a directive policy.

277 – Record Retention. This policy is NEW and reflects record retention requirements as outlined in the Idaho Records Management Guide, available at:
http://history.idaho.gov/sites/default/files/uploads/RC_2014_%202002_%2018%20Idaho%20State%20Records%20Manual.pdf.

SECTION 400: PERSONNEL

407 – Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). This policy has been updated to clarify that the definition of “spouse” now includes legally married same-sex couples. It also clarifies the provisions as applied to teachers, as well as districts that employ spouses who need to take leave for the birth or adoption of a child. Don’t forget, the U.S. Department of Labor’s employee rights and responsibilities notice has been updated and **must be posted immediately**, if you haven’t already. A PDF copy of the required employee rights and responsibilities notice has been attached (clean copy folder).

SECTION 500: STUDENTS

522 – School Attendance and Habitual Truancy. This policy has been updated to include a definitions section, expand excused and unexcused absences to provide model language, and clean up the habitual truant section. The policy now gives the board discretion to include “opting-out” of state exams as an unexcused absence for the purposes of encouraging attendance to meet the district’s exam participation requirements. **522F1 – School Attendance and Habitual Truancy: Affidavit of Truancy** is NEW and has been provided for the purpose of notifying the local prosecuting attorney of a student that is a habitual truant.

572 – Eligibility and Participation in Interscholastic Activities. This policy has been updated to reflect transgender student participation requirements per the *Idaho High School Activities Association (IHSA), 2014-15 Rules and Regulations Manual*.

SECTION 600: EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

611 – High School Graduation Requirements: Alternate Measures for Demonstrating Proficiency. This policy has been updated to reflect the current requirements of IDAPA 08.02.02.105.06. Students who will graduate in 2016 and who have not received a proficient or advanced score on the ISAT in grade nine (9), will be required to complete an alternative plan for graduation, as designed by the district and may enter the alternate path prior to the fall of their senior year.

624 – Participation in Statewide Assessments. This policy has been updated to reflect the current requirements of IDAPA 08.02.03.111.

681 – Student Records. This policy has been modified to include a section on the retention and destruction of general education records, not just special education records, as well as the need to maintain Medicaid-related records for special education students for six (6) years.