



# Oak Park Elementary School District 97

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**TO: Members, Board of Education  
Dr. Albert Roberts, Superintendent**

**FROM: Chris Jasculca**

**RE: First Reading of Policies**

**DATE: June 14, 2011**

District 97 currently has 10 policies related to student discipline, including:

- Policy 5600 – Student Discipline
- Policy 5601 – Serious Misconduct
- Policy 5605 – Suspension/Expulsion of Students with Disabilities
- Policy 5610 – Suspension/Expulsion of Non-Disabled Students
- Policy 5610.02 – In-School Suspension
- Policy 5610.03 – Suspension – Athletics/Extra-Curricular Activities
- Policy 5611 – Due Process Rights
- Policy 5630 – Corporal Punishment/Student Restraint
- Policy 5771 – Search and Seizure
- Policy 5772 – Weapons

Superintendent Roberts established a committee comprised of members of the district's Administrative Leadership team (central office administrators, principals and assistant principals) that was charged with working with Hodges Loizzi Eisenhammer Rodick & Kohn LLP (HLERK), the district's legal counsel, to review/assess the district's discipline policies, administrative guidelines and forms; and determine what changes, if any, needed to be made to ensure they adhere to the law, create a secure, trusting environment for students, and keep the children of Oak Park safe.

The committee and representatives from HLERK met several times during the past few months. Among the results of these meetings was the consolidation of the 10 individual discipline policies into one comprehensive one that is broken down by sections. These sections include:

- General Disciplinary Authority
- Prohibited Student Conduct
- Progressive Discipline
- Mandatory Expulsion for Bringing Weapons to School
- Discipline Based on Parent Refusal to Administer Consent to Administration of Certain Medications
- Maintenance of Discipline by Teachers and Other Employees
- Disciplinary Consequences
- Students with Disabilities
- Enrollment
- Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee
- Distribution of this Policy
- Administrative Procedures

After the new policy was drafted, representatives from HLERK met with the District 97 policy committee and Superintendent Roberts on May 24, 2011 to review it. The committee members and Dr. Roberts suggested several revisions, which were made by HLERK. HLERK sent the policy committee a revised draft, which it reviewed during its meeting on June 3, 2011. The committee members made a few additional changes to the policy at that time.

All revisions that have been suggested to date are featured in the draft that was made available for review by the general public via the policies page (<http://www.op97.k12.il.us/boe/policies.html>) on the district's Web site, and is being presented to the board tonight for a first reading. While it is not customary for board members to review administrative guidelines, the policy committee believes there is benefit in having them review the drafts of this policy and these guidelines simultaneously to ensure they promote transparency, provide accountability, and offer consistency in the way disciplinary matters are handled throughout the district.

A second reading and adoption of the policy is scheduled for the board meeting on June 28, 2011.

Attachments:

- Draft of new discipline policy
- Draft of new administrative guidelines that correspond with the new discipline policy
- Current District 97 discipline policies, including:
  - Policy 5600 – Student Discipline
  - Policy 5601 – Serious Misconduct
  - Policy 5605 – Suspension/Expulsion of Students with Disabilities
  - Policy 5610 – Suspension/Expulsion of Non-Disabled Students
  - Policy 5610.02 – In-School Suspension
  - Policy 5610.03 – Suspension – Athletics/Extra-Curricular Activities
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  - Policy 5771 – Search and Seizure
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