



# Oak Park Elementary School District 97

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**TO: Members, Board of Education  
Dr. Carol Kelley, Superintendent**

**FROM: District 97 Policy Review Team**

**RE: Policy Review and Discussion**

**DATE: July 12, 2016**

The district's policy review team (Amy Felton, Rupa Datta and Chris Jasculca) reviewed the policy changes provided by the Policy Reference Education Subscription Service (PRESS) in its February 2016 Update Memo. A number of these changes are tied directly to the amendments made to the state's student discipline statutes in conjunction with the passage of Senate Bill 100.

Below and attached are the recommended or required policy revisions that are being presented to the board tonight for review and discussion. A second reading and approval/adoption of these revisions are scheduled for the board meeting on July 26, 2016.

## **Student Behavior Policies**

As referenced above, the February 2016 update from PRESS featured changes to several policies that are based on the passage of Senate Bill 100. Those policies include:

- Policy 7:150 (Agency and Police Interviews)
- Policy 7:190 (Student Behavior, formerly known as Student Discipline)
- Policy 7:200 (Suspension Procedures)
- Policy 7:210 (Expulsion Procedures)
- Policy 7:220 (Bus Conduct)
- Policy 7:230 (Misconduct by Students with Disabilities)
- Policy 7:240 (Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities)

The revisions to policies 7:150, 7:230 and 7:240 are minor. In 7:150, the policy language is being updated in response to subscriber feedback seeking clarification that superintendents are responsible for "developing procedures and implementing this policy." In 7:240, the policy language is being updated to reflect that participants in extracurricular activities must abide by policy 7:190, as well as the code of conduct for the specific activity. In addition, the cross references for both of these policies, as well as policy 7:230, have been updated to reflect the name change for policy 7:190.

The revisions to policies 7:190, 7:200, 7:210 and 7:220 are more substantive in nature, and reflect a significant change in the way school districts will be administering student discipline going forward. With this in mind, we asked the board attorneys from Robbins Schwartz to review the updated versions of the PRESS policies, and provide feedback on the revisions. Robbins Schwartz suggested edits to each policy, as well as the corresponding administrative procedures and exhibits, that are aimed at strengthening their alignment with the law, aiding the ability of our stakeholders to navigate the changes in student discipline and helping to ensure that we are effectively meeting the needs of the children we serve.

Prior to this evening's meeting, our team thoroughly reviewed and vetted these policies. This process included having members of the district's administrative team (cabinet and principals) review the policies, as well as the corresponding administrative procedures and exhibits.

We are recommending that the board adopt the changes to all seven of these policies (7:150, 7:190, 7:200; 7:210; 7:220, 7:230 and 7:240) as written. For comparison purposes, we have attached the district's current versions of policies 7:190, 7:200, 7:210 and 7:220 and the revised versions provided by Robbins Schwartz.

### **Additional Policies in the Update Memo**

In addition to the changes to the student discipline policies, PRESS provided recommended revisions to policies 6:310 (Program for the Gifted) and 7:305 (Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries). Those proposed revisions include:

- **Policy 6:310 (Program for the Gifted)** – PRESS recommends adding language to the first sentence of the policy that would further define the purpose/goal of the program. The revised first sentence would read:

**The Superintendent or designee shall implement an education program for gifted and talented learners that will challenge and motivate academically advanced learners and engage them in appropriately differentiated learning experiences to develop their unique abilities.**

PRESS also recommends revising the language in the policy's last paragraph so that the board will have a mechanism for monitoring the program. The revised paragraph would read:

**The Board of Education will monitor this program's performance by meeting periodically with the Superintendent or designee to determine and/or review the indicators and data that evidence whether the educational program for gifted and talented learners is accomplishing its goals and objectives and is otherwise in compliance with this policy.**

Our team recommends that the board approve/adopt these changes as written.

- **Policy 7:305 (Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries)** – PRESS recommends making the following changes to the policy's legal references.
  - Removing the status of the trailer bill (Public Act 99-486) that delayed the deadline for complying with amendments to the Youth Sports Concussion Safety Act until the beginning of the 2016-17 school year.
  - Removing the reference to 105 ILCS 5/10-20.54, which required school boards to adopt a policy regarding student athlete concussions and head injuries and was repealed by Public Act 99-245.

Our team recommends that the board approve/adopt these changes as written.