

BOARD POLICY EXPECTATION

The Superintendent shall not fail to establish a school environment that is safe, civil, supportive, conducive to effective teaching and learning, and free from unnecessary disruption.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby present my monitoring report on Executive Limitations Policy EL-8 “Student Safety, Attendance, Conduct and Discipline ” in accordance with the monitoring schedule set forth in board policy. I certify that the information contained in this report is true as of February 24th, 2015.

Dr. Mark Mansell, Superintendent

SUPERINTENDENT’S INTERPRETATION OF POLICY

I interpret the board’s expectation regarding student safety, attendance, conduct and discipline to mean that the district must make intentional and consistent efforts to ensure students have a safe learning environment, provide supports and encouragement to students to attend school as well as create and enforce student behavior standards that are conducive to a high quality learning environment. I further interpret this expectation to mean that if the behavior of a student is inappropriate, district staff must design and implement discipline action(s) aimed at changing student behavior in a manner that quickly refocus the student back onto their responsibility as a learner.

REPORT

There are four specific areas described in this policy. The following will address each specific area of EL-8 as best as possible. At the time of this report, I believe that the district is in compliance with the Board’s expectations.

1. The superintendent shall not fail to have in place comprehensive school safety plans and hold regularly scheduled safety drills and trainings to prepare for anticipated situations. IN COMPLIANCE

The district has a long and successful record of training, preparing for and responding appropriately in emergency situations. This is a credit to our staff and students taking emergency preparations seriously and working together to practice and test our readiness. This year alone our schools have completed multiple lock-down drills, an earthquake drill as well as a shelter in place drill. In addition to this, the high school worked with the La Center Police Department to practice an active shooter drill. One never knows if we are fully prepared for real emergencies until they occur, but I am confident that our students and staff have

worked diligently to practice common situations that would be adjusted as needed if the situation was an actual emergency.

2. *The superintendent shall not fail to develop an age-appropriate student attendance plan and regularly monitor attendance patterns in order to maintain high student attendance rates.* IN COMPLIANCE

Our staff has worked hard again this year to both monitor and address any attendance issues with students. When a student is absent, personal phone calls go home for students in grades K-5 the morning of their absence. In grades 6-12, administrators use our automated School Messenger to call home to parents and inform them of an absence. This way parents are kept informed of absences. Further more, when absences become severe (10 or more absences) or chronic (18 or more), additional steps are taken to encourage better attendance. Again as last year, students with chronic absences are given specific plans to help encourage better attendance through the use of a required documentation from a qualified medical person stating reasons for absences. We have also increased our efforts to seek legal actions through the courts (BECCA Law) to seek support for those students with chronic absenteeism. Also this year, because we have some families with children in several of our schools who have severe absences two or more administrators have begun to work together to create a more unified signal of support and encouragement. This new plan has produced better results. Finally, through our FCRC program we have started to see better results of teaching better habits of attendance, which has yielded better school attendance patterns.

3. *The superintendent shall not fail to adopt an age-appropriate, written student conduct and discipline code that complies with state and federal laws.* IN COMPLIANCE

Our principals have worked very diligently over the years to keep their student handbooks current and on target with changing needs. For example, as technology continues to evolve, so too must our school rules. Also this year the elementary school worked very hard to design a more cohesive and effective student discipline and behavior plan that continues to yield good results. With this program as well as the consistent efforts by the middle school and high school administrators and staff to teach students the rules, we continue to see very low discipline incidences across the district.

4. *The superintendent shall not fail to ensure that the code is enforced.* IN COMPLIANCE

I think our record of code enforcement over the years has been excellent. Our staff and administrators work closely with students and parents (as well as law enforcement when needed) to focus students who make poor choices on ways to get back on track. In short, I believe we work hard at operating from the perspective that discipline is something you do for someone, not something you do to someone. I am confident that we do a good job of staying on top of enforcing the student conduct code and therefore I am in compliance with this expectation.