BP-5030 (a)

# SCHOOL DISCIPLINE AND SAFETY

The Wrangell Public School Board believes that all students have the right to a public education in a positive environment that fosters the maximum opportunity for learning. An effective school discipline and safety program is necessary to ensure a learning environment free of disruptions. The Board shall adopt, and the Superintendent shall implement and maintain, an effective school discipline and safety program. The discipline and safety program should reflect community standards of school behavior and safety that are developed with the collaboration of students, parents, guardians, teachers, school administrators, and advisory committees as appropriate.

Note: Each school district must have in place a school disciplinary and safety program. AS 14.33.110-140. The purpose of the program is to implement community standards of school behavior that are developed with the collaboration of students, parents, guardians, teachers, school administrators, and advisory school boards in each community; and to protect and support teachers who enforce standards of student behavior and safety in the classroom. Effective October 2014, the program must be made available to student, parents, legal guardians, and the public, and must include written policies and procedures consistent with the standards for use of restraint and seclusion, outlined in AS 14.33.125. The "*Every Student Succeeds Act"* requires states to implement a system of school safety assessment. Under ESSA, districts are required to offer a school choice option in two instances: (1) when a student attends a "persistently dangerous school," or (2) when a student has been the victim of a violent criminal offence. Alaska's implementation of these federal mandates is found at 4 AAC 06 in newly added Article 2, Safe Schools.

Providing young people with knowledge and skills to settle disputes peacefully is a critical component of an effective disciplinary and safety program. Students who possess skills in negotiation, mediation and consensus decision-making are able to explore peaceful solutions to conflict and to resolve these conflicts in a nonviolent manner. The Site Administrator shall implement and maintain a conflict resolution strategy for students. The strategy should identify and teach effective approaches for students to follow in reporting and resolving conflicts.

Not less than once every three years, the District's discipline and safety program shall be reviewed and if appropriate, revised. The review process shall make available the opportunity for collaborative input by students, parents, guardians, staff and advisory committees. Policies reflecting standards of student behavior, including those identifying prohibited student conduct and penalties, should be reviewed to determine consistency with community standards, including the basic requirements for respect and honesty.

The Board desires to give all administrators, teachers and other employees the authority they need to implement and enforce the discipline and safety program. Personnel should adhere to lines of communication so that appropriate decision-making may take place at various levels in accordance with Board policy and administrative regulations. In fulfilling duties and responsibilities in student discipline and safety, all employees shall comply with Board policies, administrative regulations and local, state and federal laws.

## SCHOOL DISCIPLINE AND SAFETY (continued)

The commission of or participation in criminal activities as defined under the laws of the State of Alaska in school buildings, on school property, or at school-sponsored events may lead to disciplinary action by school personnel independent of criminal charges.

Employees will not be formally disciplined for enforcement of student discipline and safety rules as long as enforcement is reasonable, lawful and in compliance with Board Policies and administrative regulations.

*Cf: BP-2110, Supervisory Assignments*

*Legal References:*
*AS 14.33.110-140 School Safety and Discipline*

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