

REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF BOARD POLICY

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE: Under Board policy 02.432, SBDM Councils are permitted to request waivers of board policy from the board as long as certain criteria are met. In this instance, Tates Creek Elementary (TCE), Tates Creek Middle (TCMS) and Dixie Elementary are requesting waivers of Board Grading Policy (08.221). The rationale for the waiver request is to allow these schools to move forward with their standards-based grading pilot, focusing more precisely on grade reporting around student performance to standards.

In these cases, the SBDM Councils have taken action to request this waiver and waiver requirements stipulated in 02.432 have been met as follows:

- The waiver request is legal;
- District goals will be advanced by the waiver as standards-based grading is being promoted as a best-practices approach to grade reporting;
- Student outcomes will be promoted as standards-based grading is designed to show individual student progress toward mastery of the learning goals;
- District uniformity is not required in this matter as these schools have been participating as pilot sites; and
- This project does serve the larger interests of the district as we learn how to better assess student learning and report on student progress.

What will be different? Standards-based grading and reporting at TCE, TCMS and Dixie Elementary represent a move away from the awarding of traditional letter grades in favor of a qualitative (narrative), descriptive, and on-going reporting of progress toward mastery of standards. At TCE, they will continue to report in grades 4 and 5 in much the same way as we report progress for students in kindergarten through 3rd grade. At TCMS, the student report card will communicate Progress, Achievement, and Approaches to Learning scores. At Dixie, they will begin implementing standards-based report cards in grades K-3 and performance-based portfolios in their special area classes (utilizing a digital portfolio).

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POLICY REFERENCE: 08.221 Grading Policy

RECOMMENDATION: A motion is in order to:

“Approve the request for a waiver of Board Grading Policy 08.221 for the 2013-2014 school year for Tates Creek Elementary, Tates Creek Middle and Dixie Elementary Schools allowing them to implement standards-based grading and reporting processes.”