

Alaska School Safety & Well-Being Summit 2019



Trauma Informed & Culturally Responsive School District Policies

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Disclaimer

The views, opinions, and content expressed in this presentation do not necessarily reflect the views, opinions, or policies of the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED), or the State of Alaska

Session Learning Objectives

- Policy Overview
- Trauma-informed & Cultural Responsive policies
- Your Role in Policies



How is Policy Created?



- **Federal & State educational legislation** vetted through a legal firm annually.
- New policies created and forwarded to districts
- **Districts identify a need** and develop policies.
- Policies are passed in “two readings” with opportunities for public comment

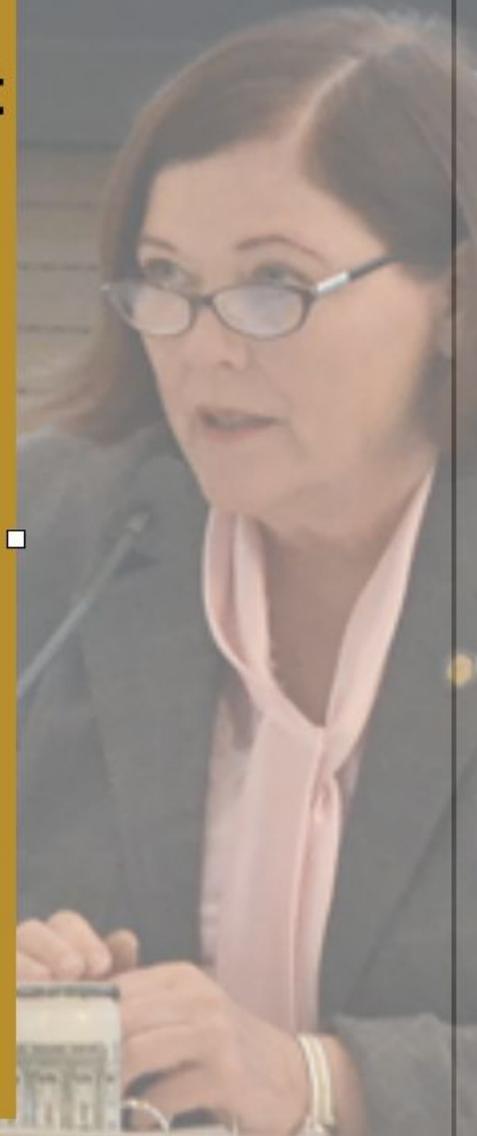
Policy Created Out of Legislation

Example

Alaska Safe Children's Act HB 286 – Bree's Law

Enacted by 30th Alaska
Legislature in 2018 –
amended AS 14.30.356(a)
to require training – esp. in
regard to dating violence.

BP 5141.41 Sexual Abuse,
Sexual Assault & Dating
Violence created





AASB's Model Policy

Article 0 – PHILOSOPHY-GOALS-OBJECTIVES-COMPREHENSIVE PLANS (0000)

Article 1 – COMMUNITY RELATIONS (1000)

Article 2 – ADMINISTRATION (2000)

Article 3 – BUSINESS & NON-INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS (3000)

Article 4 – PERSONNEL (4000)

Article 5 – STUDENTS (5000)

Article 6 – INSTRUCTION (6000)

Article 7 – NEW CONSTRUCTION (7000)

Article 8 – ADVISORY SCHOOL BOARDS (8000)

Article 9 – BYLAWS OF THE SCHOOL BOARD (9000)

How is Policy Used?



- Provides **framework** for day-to-day operation of the district.
- “Tells how” to administer policy
Administrative Regulations (AR’s)
- Exhibits (E’s) created for any forms necessary to implement policy
- Available to the public on-line



“There is nothing inevitable about student outcomes. It is a result of the policies and practices we put into place. We hold a great responsibility.”

-Alaska School Board Member

Policy Review

Cultural Safety in Education Project

~ **40** policies identified for review

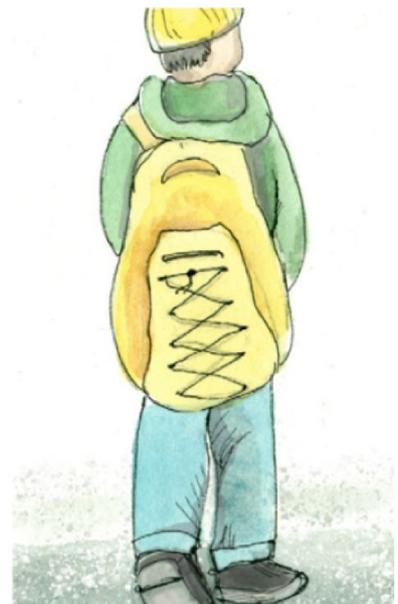
~ **26** notable recommendations

Available to districts (AASB policy online)



Contributions from Updates

- **Philosophies** that frame trauma informed and culturally responsive school district approaches and actions.
- **Brain development and brain science** to better understand students' needs that are experiencing trauma.
- **Restorative discipline policies** that emphasize accountability, repairing relationships and maximizing instructional time for every student.
- **Proactive and positive approaches** to discipline, equity, staff training, and attendance.
- **Partnership and relationships** with students, families, and communities, to create a supportive and sensitive environment for all learners.
- **Classroom management strategies** that keep students in school and in the classroom.
- Ensuring **safety** and best outcomes for all students



CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE EDUCATION

BP 6141.3

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Note: The following optional policy may be revised or deleted as needed. A.S. 14.20.020 requires multicultural training for issuance of teaching certificates. A.S. 14.20.035 gives preference in hiring persons with training or experience in cultures represented in the student population.

The School Board recognizes that America has always been a multicultural society composed of diverse peoples who came here from all parts of the globe and are indigenous to these lands. Many regions of Alaska are still predominately composed of Alaska's indigenous peoples. Public schools are the most common shared experience for most Americans and Alaskans, and it is most appropriate that schools accurately reflect and respond to the needs and the contributions of all ethnic groups, which comprise the student body and staff

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The School Board recognizes that a culturally responsive education that is effectively implemented through culturally proficient instruction can provide the maximum opportunity students to attain academic and social success. Culturally responsive teaching practices can assist educators in bridging differences in language, heritage, ethnicity, socio-economic status, trauma history and ability.

School staff and students must learn to respect and work cooperatively with persons of all backgrounds. Culturally proficient and responsive instruction will promote student recognition of the value of individual differences as well as the human dignity and worth common to all people.

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The Superintendent or designee shall develop guidance on how to best serve the needs of the student population. The cultural needs of student are an important consideration in policies on curriculum and materials, onboarding and orientation, school climate, language instruction, and access to cultural content.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)

(cf. 6141.2 - Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs)

(cf. 6174 - Bilingual-Bicultural Education)

Select a Policy to Look At

BP 1311 Participation in Community Life

BP 5030 School Discipline and Safety

**BP 5124 Communication with
Parents/Guardians**

BP 5131 Student Conduct

BP 5040 Student Nutrition & Physical Activity

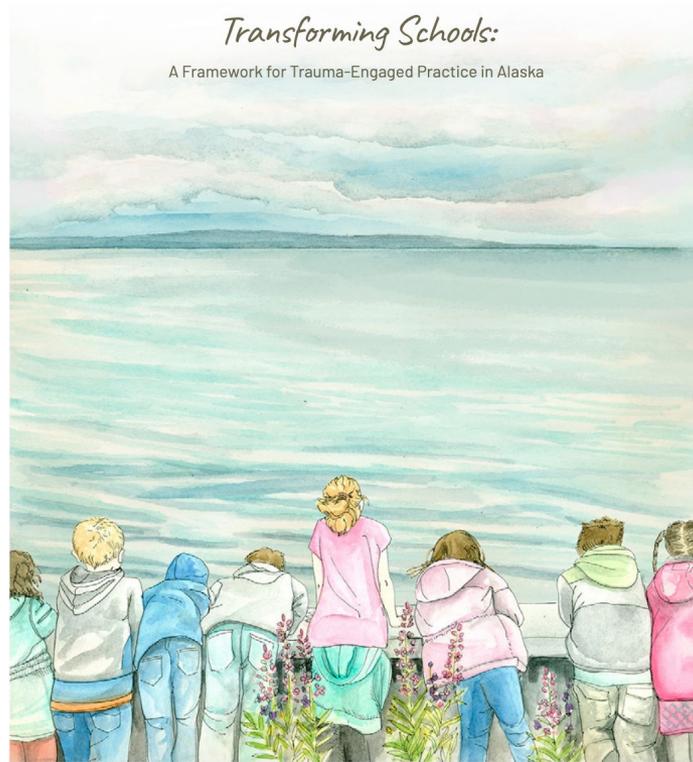


Looking at Policies

1. What is this policy trying to accomplish?
2. How does this policy support students exposed to trauma?
3. What could be done differently to ensure a trauma engaged approach?
4. What are your next steps to review, adopt or adapt policies?

Transforming Schools: A Framework for Trauma-Engaged Practice in Alaska

Transforming Schools: A Framework for Trauma-Engaged Practice in Alaska



<https://aasb.org/transformingschool>

What would you like to do
next?



Questions?



Resources

- **Friday's School Safety Summit session:**
Transforming Schools by Unpacking Trauma-Engaged Practice: An Implementation Toolkit
- **Your school district's policies**
- **AASB District Policy Recommendations:**
<https://aasb.org/services/policy/>
- **State Level Trauma Informed School Policies (National)**
<https://acestoohigh.com/2014/04/30/state-federal-lawmakers-take-action/>
- **Article- AASB Commentary:**
<https://aasb.org/broadening-aasb-policy-updates/>



Request Session Materials

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