

POLICY ALERT

March, 2012

Forethought Consulting, Inc.

POLICY UPDATE: 2012

PROPOSED LEGISLATION REQUIRING SCHOOL BOARDS TO PUBLISH POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AND RELATED INFORMATION ON WEBSITE

Last year, there were two bills in the Legislature that would have required every School Board to publish certain information on its website. The information included all policies of the Board, and various other items, most of which were related to student disciplinary issues.

For 2012, another bill, House Bill No. 11, has been introduced which would require every School Board to publish certain information. Some of the specific information to be published includes:

1. All formal policies and procedures
2. School Board minutes
3. Directory of schools and contact information
4. Disciplinary action processes and procedures applicable to students
5. School Calendar

By the beginning of the 2013-14 school year, additional information is to be published on the website, including such items as:

1. Student Code of Conduct
2. Policies regarding all controlled and other prohibited substances or contraband
3. Dress code for each school
4. Grade change process
5. Harassment or bullying prohibition and prevention procedures
6. Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities
7. All state laws dealing with suspension and expulsion of students

Special Alert

8. A disciplinary action time line from *notice* to *appeal*
9. Explanation of due process rights for both *informal* and *formal* hearings, including
 - a. full explanation of the disciplinary process,
 - b. a complete list of the student's procedural due process rights,
 - c. the hearing agenda, and
 - d. the appeal process

For those School Boards which already subscribe to Forethought Consulting, Inc.'s **CAPS**, *Computer Assisted Policy Service*, a good portion of the above informational items are **already** included. Should the bill pass the Legislature and become law, these items can easily be included in a separate section in **CAPS**, making them readily accessible by users. Forethought Consulting, Inc. anticipates working with each **CAPS** subscriber to obtain and include selected information which may be required by the new legislation.

For those School Boards that do not currently subscribe to **CAPS**, we would be glad to discuss various options available for publishing on the Board's website in one easy-to-use format some of the necessary statutory components should the Legislature approve this proposed House Bill.



Want to find your school board's policies, search your board minutes online, faster and easier? Want to see and print statute provisions and other reference information with the click of a mouse? Join the other 39 School Boards in Louisiana that use **CAPS** to maintain their *Policy Manuals* on their websites!

"Already twice today I've used the search feature to find needed information. I love it even more, now!"

-Webster Parish

"THANKS!! Couldn't do this job without you!!!"

-HR Director

"Thanks for all of your assistance (you are of great value to our Board)"

-School Board Member; Chairman, Policy Committee

Try **CAPS** at www.forethoughtconsulting.com