

Superintendent's Diversity Advisory Committee (S-DAC)
February 24, 2017

Input from Instructional Team to Proposed Language of Restorative Justice

The instructional leadership team, comprised of school-based leader and district-level leaders, provided thoughtful input to the document.

The following paragraphs are being considered to the following Board Policies: 3207 (HIB); 3210 (Nondiscrimination) and 3241 (Student Discipline)

Restorative Justice Process in lieu of discipline

Upon mutual agreement of the parties, the restorative justice process provides a safe and confidential opportunity for students to learn empathy through accountability and the act of apology.

As an alternative for discipline following an investigation, a school principal or designee may request that a trained staff member in dispute resolution or counselor (e.g., Mercer Island Youth and Family Services staff) facilitate a meeting in the form of a restorative justice conference with an alleged initiator of the action and the impacted individual along with their parents as agreed to and as appropriate. Such a conference will be held in strict confidence.

As a learning institution, we believe that a restorative justice conference permits students to acknowledge their mistakes, grow emotionally from such experiences and move on without the stigmatizing labels that often follow such behaviors.

Upon mutual agreement the intent of the conference is to allow the student who caused harm to learn the following: how his/her behavior affected others; apologize; and consider alternative methods to repair the unresolved student-to-student relationship. Such methods may include levels or tiers of interventions and include community service as recommended by the impacted individual and/or parents.

In addition to the restorative justice conference as an alternative for the imposition of student discipline, there may be some situations that will also require discipline (e.g., in and/or out-of school suspension). These situations are case specific and determined by the principal or designee.