

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: [REDACTED]
To: David Dekle <ddekke@daviddeklelaw.com>; Flynt, Steven <steven.flynt@ccboe.net>
Cc: David Alalof <dalalof@achsinsurance.com>; Baker, Kristi <kbaker430@aol.com>; Meyer, LeeAnn <leeann.meyer@ccboe.net>; Judy Teasley <jiteasley@ccboe.net>
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2022, 10:10:42 AM EST
Subject: Re: Need Clarification on CCSD Policies

Dr. Flynt and Chairman Dekle,

Thank you for referring me to Procedure IHAB – Report Cards.

Based on what I read in IHAB and your response, this is my understanding of the procedure. Please correct me if I am wrong.

Chairman Dekle - I appreciate you sharing information based on your conversation with our previous superintendent, Dr. Sandra Carraway. I agree that the overarching goal should be to help students succeed. I am worried, however, that routine reassessment can be counterproductive. If students can rely on retaking exams if they do poorly on test, it would take away incentive to always do their best.

I also remember my conversation with Dr. Carraway about a child of a friend who was failing in her grade. The parents asked school to please let her child repeat the grade due to her failing. Dr. Carraway told me and the parents that the CCSD does not allow failing students to repeat the grade. If over-arching goal is to ensure each student succeed, why would CCSD allow the child to advance when she was clearly failing?

Dr. Flynt - The procedure does not indicate school provides parents an option to opt-out their children from retesting at the beginning of school year.

When a student's grade is below 60, reassessment is a requirement, but it is not clear to me if any student who is not happy with his grade has the option to retest. Based on my conversations indicate that any student can ask to retest. I am assuming that is the case. The IHAB lists five different reassessment methods, but I have been told by parents and students that retest questions are the same as original tests. IHAB also states, "Full credit should be given for reassessments." This seems grossly unfair to students who work hard to keep up with schoolwork and maintain good grades without reassessment. I know that other school systems allow reduced credit for reassessment.

Has the school addressed the issue of a teacher arbitrarily changing a student's grade without reassessment? This is a critical issue because a parent spoke about this to a school board member. I would hope the school board followed up with school administrators and the teacher to ensure they understand the arbitrary changing of grade does not help struggling students or acceptable conduct by a teacher.

Transgender Issues

Since you did not refer me to transgender policy, I assume you do not have a written policy. This is a profoundly significant issue, and it needs a clearly defined policy to protect teachers, transgender students, and general student body.

I have been told by a school board member and by you in this email that transgender students use private restrooms or restrooms corresponding to their biological gender. The Augusta Press reported on August 2021, of an incident of an accusation about transgender (biological boy) was in girls' bathroom. Considering this article, I am surprised that the SD has not published a clear policy on the subject.

Although the SD has not had to deal with transgender student wanting to participate in sports that is different from their biological gender, this should be addressed in a clear and concise manner in policy before it becomes an issue, to properly respond should the situation arise.

As for notifying parents when students share sensitive information such as transgender issues, your response contradicts what a school board member told me. I was told that certain issues that students bring up with school counselors are not shared with parents due to regulation prohibiting it. What regulation is that, and what are the issues that SD is not able to share with parents? We as parents and taxpayers should be able to see in writing what the policy is rather than getting different answers depending on who we talk to.

These are tough issues that the SD must deal with, and I understand somethings are under your control and others are not. For safety of our students, CCSD leadership to manage this with utmost professionalism and fairness.

That said, I am disturbed by your comment in the last paragraph. The reason I reached out to school board in the first place was to clarify my understanding of CCSD policies on these sensitive subjects. For that I am accused of ignoring facts and distributing false information. I find it to be borderline libelous and unprofessional. Please provide an example where I ignored facts and distributed false information to the community.

On Thursday, December 16, 2021, 03:36:56 PM EST, Flynt, Steven <steven.flynt@ccboe.net> wrote:

You may find the full retesting information in Procedure IHAB on the school district website. Any other questions should be directed to your child's teacher and/or the school's administrator.

Regarding transgender issues we always work with each individual child and their parents who have any specific needs. Students are allowed to play sports, use restrooms, (all schools have individual/private restrooms to use when needed) or other such facilities based on their biological sex.

Counselors communicate with parents anytime the child is under age regarding all personal issues unless there is an abuse concern and are then required to report immediately to Department of Family and Child Services.

As with other information being distributed and disseminated by you and others to members of the community, I am very disappointed that facts are not being accurately reported and in some cases are completely false. As I have offered with you and others, I will make time to meet personally or have a conversation to help convey accurately the facts about your school district. Thank you.



Dr. Steven W. Flynt

Superintendent

Phone: (706)-541-2723 x5202

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From: David Dekle <ddek1e@daviddek1elaw.com>

Sent: Thursday, December 16, 2021 10:24 AM

To: [REDACTED]; Teasley, Judy <jteasley@ccboe.net>

Cc: David Alalof <d1alalof@achsinsurance.com>; Baker, Kristi <kbaker430@aol.com>; Meyer, LeeAnn <leeann.meyer@ccboe.net>; Flynt, Steven <steven.flynt@ccboe.net>

Subject: RE: Need Clarification on CCSD Policies

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[REDACTED]

Thank you for reaching out. I am sorry that my busy work schedule limits my ability to respond immediately. To answer your questions properly, I must defer to Dr. Flynt and his staff.

I will share my recollection of discussions I had with Dr. Carraway years ago about the practice of permitting retesting. She discussed the over-arching goal of helping students succeed by insuring they learned the material so vitally important to be learned before going to the next lesson or next grade. I know there are pros and cons, but with my five children I have trusted the teachers and the administration to guide this practice. I know they were thankful on those occasions when they were given a second opportunity to show their mastery of the material.

Regarding your questions about our transgender students, again I must defer to our administration to fully explain how we handle these matters to comply with federal law, etc. I am not aware of any transgender student seeking to play a sport with members of the opposite biological sex.

I hope you and Mike have a wonderful and Merry Christmas.

David Dekle

David P. Dekle, P. C.

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 14, 2021 2:47 PM
To: Judy Teasley <jteasley@ccboe.net>; David Dekle <ddekle@daviddeklelaw.com>
Cc: David Alalof <dalalof@achsinsurance.com>; Kristi Baker <kbaker430@aol.com>; leann.meyer@ccboe.net
Subject: Need Clarification on CCSD Policies

There are a couple of issues that I have been wrestling with because I do not have clear understanding how CCSD policy works in these areas.

1. Retesting Policy: Where and when did this policy originate?

-Does school allow parents to opt-out of retesting their kids at beginning of each school year?

-Is retesting option open to any student who is dissatisfied with his/her grade or is there specific grade that triggers retesting?

-What does retest look like? Are the questions same as the original test or new set of questions?

-Is there specific period when students are allowed to retest?

-Does grade from re-testing have the same weight as the original exam? For example, is the final grade an average of both grades, or take the best of two (or more) grade. Is policy consistent across school district or each school or teacher decides for the school or classroom?

-What is the discipline process if a teacher arbitrarily changes the grade without retesting because of the parent's refusal to allow her child from retaking the test? This situation was brought up at one of the public meetings with a school board member.

2. Transgender Issues

-Is there written policy and/or procedure on dealing with transgender issues?

-What is the policy of bathroom accommodation for transgender students?

-Does SD accommodate transgender students preferred pronouns? If so, please provide the list.

-Has SD had to deal with accommodating transgender students' participation in sports that are contradictory to their biological sex?

-What is the current policy in notifying parents when a student identifies self as a transgender to a teacher or counselor?

I was given conflicting information in the past. I was initially told that SD is prohibited from notifying parents if a student talks to school counselor or teacher about being a transgender but later was told that is not the case. However, while I was collecting signatures for the petition, I spoke with a parent who said that a fifth grader who identified self as a transgender was talking to school counselor for six months before the parent found out about it.

3. I want to be sure that I have facts straight before I talk to the public. If you do not have written policy, what is the current practice and expected procedure when notified by a student on this complicated issue?

4. I hate to ask these questions, but I am finding more information that is unsettling. I would appreciate your candid and thorough response.

Thank you for your time.