



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Chancellor

825 North Capitol Street, NE, 9th Floor, Washington, D.C., 20002-1994
(202) 442-5885 – fax: (202) 442-5026

January 5, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Many of you have told me that you would like to see changes in the way student discipline is carried out in schools. This year we are addressing your concerns in two specific ways:

- 1) A revision to our student discipline policy—which is outlined in Title V in the DC Municipal Regulations (DCMR).
- 2) A new directive to schools and follow-up support to schools, so that they are consistently enforcing a clear and effective student discipline policy across the District.

We have examined the current discipline policy and are proposing specific revisions, and we hope to share our proposed revisions with you and hear your input through one of three community forums we will hold this month.

The Proposed Changes: General Overview of Goals

For children to be successful, we must offer them safe and effective learning environments. It should be clear to all students that we respect them and have high expectations for what they can accomplish. Our clear and high expectations must be reflected in our student discipline policy, and the policy must be enforced consistently.

The revisions we are proposing emphasize three important things:

- Progressive student discipline: disciplinary actions must be just and appropriate to students' infractions.
- Keeping students in school: disciplinary actions must minimize disruption to instruction
- Instructional-based discipline: disciplinary actions must be used not simply to punish, but to instruct through consequences that allow students to learn and prevent future occurrences.

How Parents and Guardians Can Participate: Community Forums

We invite you to attend one of the three community forums we will hold this month. At each forum we will explain the changes we would like to make, talk about why we would like to make them, and hear your thoughts about the proposed changes or the need for any additional changes.

Thursday, January 8th, 2009
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Tuesday, January 13, 2009
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Wednesday, January 28, 2009
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm



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Hart Middle School
601 Mississippi Ave, SE

Columbia Heights EC
3101 16th St NW

Sousa Middle School
3650 Ely Pl SE

Copies of the proposed revisions are available at your school or on the internet at
http://www.k12.dc.us/chancellor/schedule_forums.htm.

If you need interpretation services or accommodations for a disability during any one of the forums, please contact Jennifer Nguyen at jennifer.nguyen@dc.gov or (202) 442-5191.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michelle Rhee".

Michelle Rhee
Chancellor