

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Prince George's County Public Schools
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

**ESTABLISHMENT OF SUSPENSEION
REDUCTION TASK FORCE**

First Reader: December 1, 2008

Second Reader: January 22, 2009

It was moved by Mrs. Iliff and seconded by Ms. Fletcher that;

WHEREAS, the Prince George's County Board of Education is committed to ensuring that all students receive a high quality education. Preventing students from attending classes for disciplinary reasons reduces our ability to achieve our mission of advancing the achievement of our diverse student body; and

WHEREAS, Prince George's County Public School Students has experienced a spike in student suspensions, with 11% of students being excluded from school in the last school year; and

WHEREAS, the research does not show a clear link between the use of suspension and the improvement of school safety or school climate; and

WHEREAS, there is ample evidence that suspension from school has a negative impact on student achievement and makes future disciplinary problems more likely; and

WHEREAS, suspension from school is disproportionately applied to male students and students of color; and

NOW BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Prince George's County Board of Education directs the Superintendent to establish a Suspension Reduction Task Force; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that Task Force shall:

- Review the Code of Student Conduct, and disciplinary policies and procedures currently in place.
- Review the usage of different forms of discipline, patterns and disparities within Prince George's County Public Schools.
- Review the research on the subject, including the findings of the Zero Tolerance Task Force.
- Meet no fewer than twice per month from February – May, 2009 and submit final recommendations to the Board in June, 2009.

The Task Force shall make recommendations to the Board and Superintendent on the following:

- Best practices and creative options for **corrective action and restorative justice** rather than punitive discipline.
- Revisions to Code of Student Conduct and other disciplinary policies and procedures to enable more effective interventions that avoid taking students out of class during the school day, within the law of the State of Maryland.

The Task Force shall include up to 12 members, representing the following:

- Board Member
- Student Board Member
- Representative of Price George's Regional Association of Student Governments (PGRASG)
- Two students who have been suspended 3 or more times
- Counselor/PPW
- Parent of student who has been suspended
- Teacher
- Lawyer
- Community member
- Administration representative(s)

Submitted by: Mrs. Iliff and Ms. Fletcher
Agenda Date: December 1, 2008
First Reader: December 1, 2008
Second Reader: January 22, 2009
Deferred:
Discussion Item:
Emergency:
Amendment:
Tabled: