

**Instruction Sheet – AASB POLICY REFERENCE MANUAL UPDATE SERVICE**

**2015-2016 UPDATE INSTRUCTION SHEET**

**SECOND READING FEBRUARY 14, 2017**

**FIRST READING December 13, 2016**

NOTE: This packet includes only those policy manual pages that have been revised, deleted or newly established. Full text pages are included and are to be substituted as indicated below.

For ease of School Boards, AASB has identified those portions of the Update that require formal Board action in order to implement the policy changes. This is indicated by a “Yes” or “No.” A “No” is used if changes have been made only to an AR or an Exhibit, or if policy changes are limited to explanatory notes, legal reference or cross-reference updates, or minor grammatical or stylistic changes that have not changed the policy meaning.

**IMPORTANT NOTE FOR THE 2015-16 UPDATE:** Several policies included in this update are based on changes to federal and state law that are not effective until the 2017-2018 school year. These policies are identified below with the notation “Delayed Implementation Note.” Accordingly, districts need not adopt these policy revisions until a later date, if delayed adoption is desired. If the policy is adopted prior to the effective date of the law, districts will need to be in compliance with the policy requirements.

Replace/Add	Formal Adoption Required	Description
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**ARTICLE 1, Series 1000 – Community Relations**

BP 1331	Yes	<p align="center"><b>MEMORIAL POLICY <span style="float: right;">**NEW POLICY**</span></b></p> <p><b>This new optional policy may be adopted at a district’s discretion. The purpose of the policy is to provide guidance on permanent and temporary memorials to deceased students/staff. Districts may choose to adopt the policy, which limits student/staff memorials to avoid inconsistent treatment of individual students/staff, disruption to memorials when school buildings or grounds are renovated, concerns about space availability and maintenance of memorials, and concerns about how a memorial may impact students at risk of suicide. The policy provides alternative language giving districts the option of 1) prohibiting all school memorials, or 2) allowing some temporary school memorials with guidance on the content, type and duration. If district choose to adopt this policy, formal adoption is required.</b></p>

**MEMORIAL POLICY**

BP 1331

Note: The following optional policy may be revised or deleted to reflect district philosophy and needs. School districts may wish to adopt this policy limiting student/staff memorials to avoid inconsistent treatment between particular deceased students or staff, disruption to memorials when school building or grounds are renovated, space availability and maintenance of memorials, and concerns about how a memorial may impact students at risk of suicide.

The School Board recognizes that the loss of a member of the school community has a great impact on students, staff, and families. Furthermore, the School Board recognizes that decisions made about memorials immediately after traumatic events may not take into full consideration the potential impacts for students, staff, and community members. The purpose of this policy is to assist staff, students and families impacted by a death by providing guidelines for decision-making regarding memorials and memorializing activities. “Memorials” mean objects or activities meant to remember an event or deceased person(s).

The focus of a school is to support students in their learning. This may necessarily include support for students and staff who are grieving a loss of a member of the school community. Memorials, though, can be an ongoing reminder of a traumatic event and can be impossible for students to avoid when located on school property.

Note: Following are optional provisions providing alternative language for school districts as to permanent and temporary memorials. Option 1 prohibits all permanent and temporary memorials. This option provides a clear directive for families of students/staff and avoids many of the potential problems with school memorials outlined in the note above, but may be considered harsh by families of the deceased. Option 2 provides that districts may allow temporary memorials to deceased students/staff, but provides guidance on the content, type and duration. While Option 2 provides districts more flexibility, it does not avoid all concerns identified in the note above. If Option 2 is adopted, it should be applied in an even-handed manner.

Therefore, school buildings and grounds shall not be used for permanent or temporary memorials. Additionally, the district does not authorize public memorial activities during the school day or during school-sponsored activities. The district recommends that gifts and recognitions in memory of an individual be in the form of student scholarships, or donations in the name of the deceased.

*(cf. 1330 – Use of School Facilities)*

This policy will guide decisions moving forward from the date of first adoption and will not impact previous memorials. The guidelines regarding memorials will be kept in each building and in the office of the superintendent. Persons who have questions, comments or concerns should contact the Superintendent or designee.

*Added 3/2016*