

LPS VARIANCE POLICY AMENDMENT PROPOSAL



April 8, 2020
LAE Board Meeting
Denise Snyder, Assistant Superintendent

What is a Variance?

- A variance is a request that seeks permission to attend a school other than the one to which a student should be enrolled under the LPS assignment policy.
 - *The LPS school assignment policy is centered on neighborhood schools, generally assigning students to the schools closest to their homes.*
 - *While our district schools deliver instructional services to meet the diverse needs of students in their neighborhoods, there are instances when students may benefit from attending a school other than their neighborhood one. The policy provides an orderly and thoughtful process for variances to the assignment policy.*

Requested Change to Rule Five of the “Rules for Enrollment on a Variance”

5. The granting of a variance is privilege. As such, it can be revoked and students re-assigned to their neighborhood school at the end of any given marking period if:
 - *A student’s attendance in classes falls below 97% due to absence, tardiness, or dismissal*
 - *A student is suspended for any disciplinary action*

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 - A student’s attendance in **school falls below Massachusetts’ definition of Chronic Absenteeism of at least 10% of days enrolled (e.g., 18 days absent if enrolled for 180)** ~~classes falls below 97% due to absence, tardiness, or dismissal*~~
 - A student **receives out of school suspension for a total of five or more cumulative days.** ~~is suspended for any disciplinary action.~~

Variance Timeline

Seeking approval of the amendment so that changes are reflected in the upcoming variance application round:

- Currently enrolled families are invited to apply for a school assignment variance between May 1 and the last day of school, June 22
 - *Letters have been mailed home*
 - *Decisions are communicated by July 1.*
- New to LPS families and those who relocate to a new school catchment area may apply for a school variance on a rolling basis.

Questions?

