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Ministry of Education and Culture of Republic of Srpska

Attn / Minister, Mr. Anton Kasipović

Subject - School discipline

The problem of school discipline, attitude towards teaching and teachers, events in school yard, cooperation with parents and similar, is very often, the result of undefined rules that must be clearly set in educational system.

The rules of school discipline must be known, rules must be defined together by students, parents and teachers, school conduct rules must apply to everyone and for every unacceptable behavior the sequence of actions and sanctions to be imposed must be known.

Parents have the primary duty and responsibility to care for healthy growing up of their children, however, school must take their share of responsibility not only for education, but also for upbringing of children. Teachers have great responsibility, they not only support children in learning, but also their growing up. But teachers cannot achieve that without the active role of parents.

At the beginning of school year, parents should be informed about rights, obligations and responsibilities - as governed by applicable legal regulations, including mandatory cooperation with school and the consequences of failure of that obligation, the criteria of evaluation, manner of work of school and pedagogic measures, the authority of psychologists in school or in other services that are support to parents for issues they face in upbringing of their children.

A very different situations, for which the Institution has received reports, speak that this issue must be given due consideration in order to prevent situations where we deal with the consequences where, for example, a parent fails to respond to the call of school, when a parent drives his child by a car to the very door of the school and at it injures another child, when a student or teacher is using a mobile phone in class which causes different reactions, coming to school under the influence of alcohol, duties of an on - call student and teacher, duties of on – call person, marking the end of school year, especially the final grade and numerous other situations that require agreed rules of all in educational process - students, parents and teachers and respecting them.

It is regulated by the Law that organization, manner of work and house rules at school are more specifically regulated by statute, regulations and other general acts of school that are passed with the participation of students, parents and teachers and in accordance with applicable regulations<sup>1</sup>.

However, in practice very different situations are present, from the fact that house rules are not adopted, or are adopted and apply only to students or that students do not have information on whether such rules are adopted.

Adoption and respect of house rules contribute to better student's safety, better overall and work discipline, better success, undisturbed work of school, a better working atmosphere in which everyone will respect the rules that were agreed upon together.

Code of Conduct defined together with parents and students not only contributes to the fact that the same are familiar with the rules, but that they actively participated in their adoption. Code of Conduct defined together with students not only contributes to the realization of their right to participation, but that way we teach them responsibility and independence, in particular to take responsibility for the consequences of their decisions and their choices.

If the discipline in general is "set of rules and regulations which ensure the functioning of an institution, organization, group or individuals in accordance with the set goals and tasks", than it is indisputable that for educational system as a whole and each school individually and for each individual in educational system is extremely important as an assumption for independent work, the work of class and school as a whole.

- Starting from the goals of education stipulated by the Law<sup>2</sup>,
- Starting from the fact that the Young Advisors of the Ombudsman for Children have emphasized, as a priority request, to the Institution the need for more quality regulation of all

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<sup>1</sup> Law on Secondary Education, "Official Gazette of Republic of Srpska", number 74/08, Article 7.

<sup>2</sup> Law on Primary Education, "Official Gazette of Republic of Srpska" No. 74/08, Article 7. and Law on Secondary Education, Article 4.

issues and problems of school discipline which must be clearly and jointly defined and respected by all participants in educational process,

– In accordance with the authority specified by the Law on Ombudsman for Children, the Ombudsman for Children

suggests,

to the Ministry of Education and Culture, in accordance with their authority to undertake necessary measures and activities

– that all schools in Republic of Srpska, at the latest until 11.01.2011. bring a normative act which will regulate the rules of school discipline in an educational institution,

– that all schools adopt rules in cooperation with students and parents,

– that school discipline rules apply to students, teachers and parents, but also to all other persons during their stay in school,

– that school discipline rules are posted in a prominent place in school - classroom, hall, teacher's stuff room, school entrance,

– to ensure a manner for control and monitoring of its application.

I expect that, in accordance with Article 9. of the Law on Ombudsman for Children, the Institution is informed on the measures taken.

Sincerely,

Ombudsman for Children of Republic of Srpska  
Nada Grahovac LLM