

SCHOOL SAFETY AND HEALTH ISSUES

Safe School/Health and Fit Kids Advisory Committees

Safety of its students is a primary concern of the Chandler Public Schools Board of Education. The board is aware of the growing concerns about safety that exist throughout the education system and the school community as a whole. A Safe School Committee has been established to address this concern.

Each committee is to be composed of at least seven members, with an equal number of teachers, parents, and students, plus a school official who participates in the investigation of reports of harassment, intimidation, bullying and threatening behavior.

The committees shall study and make recommendations to the school principal regarding unsafe conditions, strategies for avoiding harm, victimization, crime prevention, school violence, and other issues, which prohibit maintenance of a safe school.

Additionally the committee shall study and make recommendations regarding student harassment, intimidation and bullying at school. This study and its recommendations shall include

- Professional development needs of faculty and staff to implement methods to decrease student harassment, intimidation and bullying at school
- Methods to encourage the involvement of the community and students, the development of individual relationships between students and school staff, and the use of problem-solving teams that include counselors and/or school psychologists
- Review traditional and accepted harassment, intimidation and bullying prevention programs utilized by other states, state agencies, school districts and/or the State Department of Education

If a school district implements a commercial bullying prevention program, it shall use a program listed by the State Department of Education.

At district discretion, the Committee shall also comprise the Healthy and Fit School Advisory Committee; Said Committee shall study and make recommendations to the school principal regarding:

- Health education
- Physical education and physical activity
- Nutrition and health services

Safety Coordinator

In compliance with state law, the board will also designate a safety coordinator for the district. The safety coordinator is given the responsibility to meet with a committee made up of the principal of each of the school sites and the safety committee chairman for each school site in order to review the suggestions made. The safety coordinator will then be responsible for reporting the findings and making recommendations to the superintendent and the board.

Safety Signs

In further compliance with state law, the administrator of each school site shall post a sign in the school building which reads as follows: "Felony charges may be filed against any person committing an aggravated assault or battery upon any school employee."

Reporting Assaults

Employees who are victims of assault and/or battery while performing school duties shall notify the superintendent, the building administrator or a member of the Safe School Committee of the incident within 30 days of the incident. The building administrator or committee member shall report such incidents to the superintendent. The superintendent shall determine the action to be taken as a result of the incident. The said victim of the assault and/or battery shall be informed of the action taken. If the employee is not satisfied with the action, he or she may ask to be heard by the board of education.

The superintendent shall notify the State Department of Education of all such incidents of the previous year on July 1 of each year. The report shall include a description of the battery or assault and the final disposition of each incident.

Nothing in this policy shall be meant to prevent the school employee himself or herself from filing criminal charges.

Safety Assurance

Chandler Public Schools shall comply with the applicable state and federal regulations governing the safety of district employees and the protection of the environment. The administration will develop such specific regulations and procedures. Each site will work with the district coordinator to ensure compliance as may be necessary for the safety and environmental hazards present in those facilities. The superintendent will establish procedures in an effort to offer reasonable protection for the safety of students, employees, visitors, and other present on school property or at school sponsored events. Educational programs shall address the practice of safety in pedestrian safety, driver education, fire prevention, emergency procedures, disaster preparedness, etc., appropriately geared to students in different grade levels. Emphasis on school safety shall include, but is not limited to, in-service training, accident record keeping, plant inspection, driver and vehicle safety programs, fire prevention, and emergency procedures in traffic problems.

Dissemination of Policy

A copy of this policy will be delivered to each school employee at the beginning of each year.

References: 70 O.S. 24-100.5 (Section 487.a, School Laws of Oklahoma)
70 O.S. 24-100a (Section 488.1, School Laws of Oklahoma)
SB 1071, 1996 Legislative Session
HB 1765, 2001 Legislative Session
SB 992, 2002 Legislative Session
SB 1627, 2004 Legislative Session
SB 1941, 2008 Legislative Session

Note# 1: The designation of a safety coordinator is also required in current worker's compensation law.

Note # 2: Safety signs and a policy for signs are required by HB 1765, 2001 Legislative Session.