

Business OperationsSafety

Douglas County West Community Schools is committed to providing and maintaining a safe and healthy work environment. The administration is to make the safety of employees an integral part of the management function. Each employee is to make safety an integral part of their duties by following established safety regulations and procedures, assisting in accident prevention activities by reporting any job-related injury to the administration immediately, reporting unsafe conditions immediately, and providing suggestions to eliminate accidents and injuries. Failure to follow safety rules may lead to disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Safety and health management is the ultimate responsibility of the Board. Functional authority for continued development and implementation of health and safety is hereby delegated to the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee.

The Superintendent is designated as and shall serve as the primary liaison between emergency personnel and the District in the event of an incident. The Superintendent shall designate individuals within each building to serve as a liaison between emergency personnel and the District in the event of an incident. The Superintendent shall inform emergency personnel of the persons designated as liaisons.

The Superintendent shall ensure that emergency drills are conducted at least as often as required by law, including fire drills conducted at least once a month with one additional drill being conducted during the first 30 days of school, tornado drills conducted at least once during the first two weeks of school and at least once during the month of March, and bus evacuation drills conducted at least two times during the school year involving all students and appropriate staff.

The Superintendent shall ensure that, in the event of an emergency, the District has methods of communication to reach all internal and external stakeholders and that the District has a plan for public communication to gather, verify, coordinate, and disseminate information during an incident.

The Superintendent shall ensure that multi-hazard training is provided for specified employees in required areas to comply with local, state, and federal regulations, as well as non-required areas to improve safety within the District.

Safety Committee

A Safety Committee is hereby created. The Superintendent shall coordinate and maintain the Safety Committee. The Safety Committee will be made up of community stakeholders willing to serve on the Committee. The Board hopes that the following members of the community are willing to serve on the Safety Committee: parents, law enforcement and local first responder professionals, teachers, administrators, mental health professionals, custodians, school nurses, local emergency managers, IT managers, and school transportation personnel.

The Safety Committee shall meet at least annually to review safety standards and protocols. The Safety Committee may designate subcommittees to report to the Safety Committee.

The Safety Committee shall:

- Prepare and communicate with local authorities (e.g., fire, police, rescue, emergency management personnel) at least annually. Such communications shall include collaborations with local authorities to identify and address safety and security issues.
- Consider, develop and implement guidelines for event and incident management. Such guidelines shall be reviewed and practiced by all employees, students and relevant stakeholders at least annually.
- Consider, develop and implement standard response and practice procedures for emergency situations, such as lock downs, lock outs, evacuations and shelter. Such procedures shall be reviewed and practiced by all employees, students and relevant stakeholders at least annually. Such procedures shall include a plan to identify and document crisis communication procedures with the following stakeholder groups: emergency responders, employees, students, parents/guardians, media, and others as needed. Such procedures shall also provide information to staff to empower staff to initiate protection actions, when appropriate.
- Take any reasonably necessary steps to ensure that the District is in compliance with all applicable fire and life safety codes.
- Take any reasonably necessary steps to ensure that the District has standardized and visible interior and exterior signage for emergency responders.
- Consider, develop and implement strategies and processes to assess observable, positive relationships between students and employees and students and other students.
- Consider, develop and implement strategies and processes to create a respectful, positive, and safe environment conducive to learning.
- Consider, develop and implement procedures to monitor school safety and security protocols for off-campus school sponsored events.
- Consider, develop and implement a student assistance process where problem solving can occur and intervention strategies are recommended and implemented.
- Consider, develop and implement a plan for behavioral threat assessments and conducting threat assessment protocols using trained staff.
- Consider, develop and implement safety and security procedures to monitor before and after-school activities, including other facility users.
- Identify mental health resources and use such resources when appropriate.
- Ensure that procedures are in place that require all District employees to participate annually in at least one hour of suicide prevention training.
- Ensure that all school buildings have designated multiple evacuation assembly locations for each building, and that staff and students within each building are aware of said locations.
- Review the District's bullying policy and student dating violence policy at least annually and recommend to the Board any proposed changes to the District's bullying policy and/or student dating violence policy.

- Consider, develop and implement a protocol for an annual inventory of all chemicals (e.g., classrooms, custodial, buildings, grounds), proper storage, and disposal of unused or outdated chemicals.
- Ensure that the District maintains immunization records for all students and uses the data for health and safety of students, when appropriate.
- Conduct a District-wide safety and security self-assessment for each building.
- Conduct a safety audit on an annual basis.
- Review at least annually the District's policies and protocols on active supervision throughout school buildings and campus, and recommend any changes in policies or protocols to the Board.
- Review at least annually the District's policies and protocols on security and visitors (including visitors in specialized areas, such as prekindergarten areas, playgrounds, science labs, and so forth) in school buildings, and compare the District's policies and protocols with guidance issued by the Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools Technical Assistance Center (REMS-TA), and recommend any changes in policies or protocols to the Board.
- Conduct a performance review of emergency drills and suggest any changes, when appropriate.
- For any safety and security procedures or protocols, review said procedures and protocols to ensure that such procedures and protocols accommodate individuals with special needs.
- Consider, develop and implement procedures supporting academic, physical, operational and psychological/emotional aspects of an incident, after an incident occurs. Such procedures shall ensure that students and employees are supported and given an opportunity to address psychological and emotional health needs after an incident. Such procedures shall also ensure that resource requests and management of the incident be conducted in a way that supports the psychological and emotional needs of students and staff after an incident. The Committee shall explore mutual aid agreements to address the academic, physical, operational, psychological, and emotional recovery areas, and make any recommendations to the Board.
- Adopt and maintain an effective written Injury Prevention Program for the District.

The Safety Committee shall maintain documentation of its compliance with this policy.

Legal Reference: Nebraska Department of Education Title 92 Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 10, Rule 10 Accreditation of Schools, 011.01b, c, d, e, f, g (Seclusion and Restraints, Bullying, Dating Violence); 79-2,137 (Bullying); 79-2,138 to 79-2,142 (Dating Violence); 79-2,146 (Suicide Awareness, 2015-2016); Criminal Code Sec. 28-318 (Sexual Harassment); Nebraska Department of Education Title 92 Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 11, Rule 11 Accreditation of Schools, 004.11g (Pre-K CPR and First Aid) Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 48-443 to 48-445

Cross-Referenced: Policy 6115 (Fire Drills)

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