

Descriptor Term:
SCHOOL SAFETY

Descriptor Code:
1.5100/4.3000/7.2700

Legal References: G.S. 14-208.18, 115C-36, -47, 115C-105.475, -307, -391, -391.1, -524

Cross References:

Safe schools are critical to creating a learning environment in which all students can be successful. Staff and students share in the responsibility in taking reasonable precautions and safety measures to create and maintain safe schools. The following safety measures must be implemented at each school.

A. Supervision of Students

Students must be reasonably supervised while in the care and custody of the school system. This supervision must occur throughout school hours, including during class, between classes, on the playground, during recess or lunch periods, during authorized school field trips, and on school buses. Reasonable precautions should be taken to assure the safety of students on school grounds and on buses, before, during and after school.

B. Supervision of Visitors

School administrators shall strictly enforce all board policies relating to volunteers and visitors in the schools.

C. Care of School Buildings and Grounds

On a regular basis and as required by law, the principal is required to inspect school buildings, playgrounds, equipment and buses for health, fire and safety hazards. The principal must notify the superintendent immediately of repairs needed in order to meet safety standards.

Any staff member who observes any potential hazards must immediately notify the principal.

Proper signs indicating potential danger must be posted.

The superintendent must provide to local law enforcement and emergency management agencies copies of floor plans of all school buildings and site plans showing campus boundaries and access points.

D. ESTABLISHING PROCESSES TO ADDRESS POTENTIAL SAFETY CONCERNS

1. Safe School Plans

Pursuant to G.S. 115C-105.47, each school shall have a safe school plan that establishes procedures for addressing school safety. The safe schools plan shall be integrated into the school improvement plan.

The safe school plan must include a component designed to train appropriate school

personnel in the management of disruptive or dangerous student behavior. The plan also must include procedures to evaluate the effectiveness of this training in preventing or addressing disruptive or dangerous student behavior. Implementation of this training component will be subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this purpose.

2. School Rules and Training

The principal of each school will establish a written set of rules to help prevent accidents in buildings, on school grounds or on the playgrounds. Staff training shall include instruction on being alert and able to recognize and respond to behavior, information and related indicators which warn of impending problems. In addition, as a part of instruction, school personnel must teach and review with students' safety procedures and precautions for handling chemicals or potentially dangerous equipment and for responding to threats to school safety. Each school shall practice emergency drills on a regular basis as required by law.

3. Reporting Suspicious Behavior

Students should notify any staff member of any acts of violence, harassment or bullying or any other unusual or suspicious behavior that may endanger safety. Ongoing student education efforts will aim at minimizing any fear, peer pressure, embarrassment or other impediments to students reporting potential problems. Maintaining a safe school environment that is conducive to learning requires staff to be proactive in dealing with violence, harassment and bullying. Staff must report immediately to the principal any information reported by a student or their own observation of unusual or suspicious behavior or acts of violence, harassment or bullying. Every principal is required to investigate and act upon any reports of such behavior including, when appropriate, reporting criminal activities to law enforcement and the superintendent or designee.

4. Potential Threats of Registered Sex Offenders

The principal of each school shall register with the North Carolina Sex Offender and Public Protection Registry to receive e-mail notification when a registered sex offender moves within a one-mile radius of the school.

5. Student Behavior Standards

Students are expected to meet behavior standards set forth in board policies.