

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Board of Education recognizes that the safety of students, employees and the public is paramount in all school operations. It is the policy of the Board to provide a safe and secure environment for all students, staff and visitors who lawfully enter District property or travel for District purposes. This policy is intended to:

1. Help prevent accidents, illnesses and injuries;
2. Increase safety awareness and establish safety responsibilities for members of the school community;
3. Comply with environmental, occupational health, and safety laws and regulations; and
4. Reduce liability.

General Requirements for All District Facilities

Employees, students, and the public shall take responsibility for assisting with creating a safe working and learning environment. All shall comply with safety laws, ordinances, and regulations while on District property or engaging in District business or activities.

Employees are responsible for promptly reporting any unsafe conditions to the administration so that they may be corrected. All others are encouraged to report any conditions that they believe to be unsafe to a staff member or administration.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent and their designees to work collaboratively with various District departments to develop a program to remediate and proactively address actual and potential safety concerns.

The program shall incorporate District-wide accident prevention, fire prevention, property protection, boiler safety and employee safety. At a minimum, this program will include:

1. Procedures for ensuring completion of mandated State and Federal safety training;
2. Procedures for reporting observed safety concerns or hazards;
3. Methods for tracking incidents and accidents, including workers' compensation claims, that might occur;
4. Procedures and timelines for inspecting buildings and grounds;
5. Procedures and timelines for inspecting District vehicles;
6. Methods for assessing and implementing insurer recommendations;
7. Process for distributing and communicating safety information to employees; and
8. Recommendations for loss control procedures.

The Superintendent and their designees shall review the safety program annually and shall report findings to the Board.

Comprehensive Public School Safety Program

In accordance with state law and regulation, the Board will review the District's Comprehensive Public School Safety Program for compliance with state legal requirements. The Comprehensive Public School Safety Program must include at least the following components:

1. A Building Condition Survey to be conducted a minimum of every five years for each occupied school building;

2. Annual visual inspection of all occupied school buildings, as required by law; or
3. A monitoring system for tracking the safety and condition of all occupied school buildings.

The Superintendent will establish regulations regarding the Comprehensive Public School Safety Program for the District, including:

1. Establishing a District-wide Health and Safety Committee composed of representatives from the Administration, staff, bargaining units, and parents. The regulation shall describe the role and functions performed by the Health and Safety Committee, including:
 - a. Consulting in developing the annual safety rating of District facilities; and
 - b. Assisting in establishing procedures for investigating and resolving complaints related to the health and safety of District facilities;
2. Creating a five-year capital facilities plan, which is to be updated annually and based on the safety rating of each District facility;
3. Conducting annual building inspections as required by state law and performing Building Condition Surveys at least once every five years for each building in the District;
4. Using the safety rating system established in the Building Condition Survey to identify and monitor the safety and condition of District facilities annually in accordance with state law and regulation; and
5. Creating a process for investigating and resolving complaints related to health and safety. At a minimum, this process will include:
 - a. Providing a written response to all written complaints;
 - b. Describing the investigations, inspections or tests conducted to verify the complaint or provide an explanation of the reason that further investigation, inspection or testing is not necessary;
 - c. Providing the results of any investigations, inspections or tests related to the complaint; and
 - d. Describing the actions taken to resolve problems.

The Board of Education will take the following actions to monitor the condition of District facilities to ensure that they are safe and in a good state of repair:

1. Review annual building inspection reports and Building Condition Surveys, which will be subject to Board approval;
2. Take immediate action to remedy serious conditions affecting health and safety in school buildings, and report these actions to the New York State Education Commissioner;
3. Review the District's annual updates to the five-year capital facilities plan, which will be subject to Board approval; and
4. Examine the findings of the Superintendent's annual review of the District's safety program.

Cross-ref: Facilities Development Goals (7000)
Lead-Safe Schools Policy (7010)
Community Use of Schools (7050)

Ref: NYS Education Law §409-d (Comprehensive Public School Building Safety Program)
NYS Education Law §409-e (Uniform Code of Public School Buildings Inspection,
Safety Rating, and Monitoring)
8 NYCRR Part 155 (Educational Facilities)
9 NYCRR Parts 600-1250 (Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code)

Notes: Prior policy, Policy Manual, School Safety (August 20, 1998); Revised; Amended
December 16, 2010 pursuant to Resolution No. 2010-11: 433; Amended October 27,
2016 pursuant to Resolution No. 2016-17: 298; Amended May 23, 2019 pursuant to
Resolution No. 2018-19: 918; Amended March 23, 2023 pursuant to Resolution No.
2022-23: 555

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