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## SCHOOL SAFETY

*Policy Code: 4200*

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Safe schools are critical to creating a learning environment where students can succeed. Staff and students share the responsibility for taking reasonable precautions and following established safety measures to create and maintain safe schools. The following safety measures shall 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 includes: during school hours, including while in class, between classes, on the playground, and during recess or lunch periods; during authorized school field trips; and on school buses. Reasonable precautions should be taken to protect the students on school grounds and on buses before, during and after school.

### **B. SUPERVISION OF VISITORS**

School administrators shall strictly enforce policies 5020, Visitors to the Schools, and 7422, Volunteers.

### **C. SAFETY OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

The superintendent and each building principal or designee shall comply with all duties set out for their respective positions in G.S. 115C-288(d) and G.S. 115C-525 to minimize fire hazards. The principal is required to inspect school buildings, playgrounds, equipment and buses for health, fire and safety hazards on a regular basis, as required by law, and to notify the superintendent immediately of unsanitary conditions or repairs needed to meet safety standards.

Any employee who observes any potential hazards must notify the principal or the employee's supervisor immediately. The principal must notify the superintendent immediately of repairs needed in order to meet safety standards.

All warning systems must meet building and equipment codes required by law and must be properly maintained. When necessary, proper signs indicating potential hazards or recommended safety precautions are to be posted.

### **D. ESTABLISHING PROCESSES TO ADDRESS POTENTIAL SAFETY CONCERNS AND EMERGENCIES**

#### **1. Safe Schools ~~Safety and Discipline Concerns~~ Plans**

Pursuant to G.S. 115C-105.47, ~~e~~ Each school **must include a** ~~shall have a safe school plan that establishes procedures for to~~ addressing school safety **and discipline concerns in the school improvement plan.** ~~The safe schools plan should be incorporated into the school improvement plan (see also~~ policy 3430, School Improvement Plan).

~~The safe school plan shall include a component to train appropriate school personnel in the management of disruptive or dangerous student behavior. The plan also shall include procedures to evaluate the effectiveness of this training in preventing or addressing disruptive or dangerous student behavior.~~

2. School Rules

The principal or designee shall develop rules to help prevent accidents in school buildings, on school buses and on school grounds.

3. Training for Staff and Students

Staff training must include detailed instruction on how to respond to a variety of emergency situations. In addition, staff should be able to recognize and respond to behavior, information and related indicators that warn of impending problems. School personnel must teach and review with students (1) safety procedures, including fire safety procedures; (2) precautions for handling chemicals or potentially dangerous equipment; and (3) appropriate responses to threats to school safety.

4. Safety Equipment

School employees shall provide students with safety equipment as required by law and shall enforce school rules pertaining to wearing safety equipment. School employees shall wear and use appropriate safety equipment as required for the safe performance of their specific job assignments.

5. Planning for Emergencies and Conducting Fire Drills and Other Emergency Drills

The superintendent shall develop system-wide plans and procedures to address emergency situations. As appropriate, the superintendent shall consult with local law enforcement agencies and emergency responders to plan for and conduct emergency drills. The superintendent must provide local law enforcement and emergency management agencies with copies of floor plans of all school buildings and site plans showing campus boundaries and access points.

Principals, with the assistance of both law enforcement and emergency responders as appropriate, shall conduct fire drills as required by law and shall conduct other emergency drills in accordance with school system emergency plans and procedures.

6. Reporting Suspicious Behavior

Students should notify any staff member of any acts of violence or any unusual or suspicious behavior that may endanger safety. Ongoing student education efforts shall 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 student's information 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, the State Board and the superintendent or designee (see policies in 1700 category and 4335, Criminal Behavior).

7. 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.

8. Student Behavior Standards

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

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**Legal References:** G.S. 14-208.18; 115C-36, -47, -81.4, ~~-105.47~~, -166, -288, -307, -391.1, -521, -524, -525; State Board of Education Policies HRS-A-000, TCS-P-005

**Cross References:** Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying Policies (1700 series), School Improvement Plan (policy 3430), Registered Student Sex Offenders (policy 4260), Student Behavior Policies (4300 series), Visitors to the Schools (policy 5020), Registered Sex Offenders – Non-Students (policy 5022), Public Records (policy 5070)

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