

## 807 HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to assist the school district in promoting health and safety, reducing injuries, and complying with federal, state, and local health and safety laws and regulations.

### II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. The policy of the school district is to implement a health and safety program that includes plans and procedures to protect employees, students, volunteers, and members of the general public who enter school district buildings and grounds. The objective of the health and safety program will be to provide a safe and healthy learning environment; to increase safety awareness; to help prevent accidents, illnesses, and injuries; to reduce liability; to assign duties and responsibilities to school district staff to implement and maintain the health and safety program; to establish written procedures for the identification and management of hazards or potential hazards; to train school district staff on safe work practices; and to comply with all health and safety, environmental, and occupational health laws, rules, and regulations.
- B. All school district employees have a responsibility for maintaining a safe and healthy environment within the school district and are expected to be involved in the health and safety program to the extent practicable. For the purpose of implementing this policy, the school district ~~may~~ **shall** form a health and safety advisory committee, **referred to as the Occupational Safety Committee**, to be ~~appointed by the superintendent~~ **chaired by the Health, Safety, and Environmental Coordinator**. The ~~health and safety advisory committee~~ **Occupational Safety Committee** will be composed of employees and other individuals with specific knowledge of related issues, **and will include members from each site and union**. The ~~advisory committee~~ **Occupational Safety Committee** will provide recommendations to the administration regarding plans and procedures to implement this policy and to establish procedures for identifying, analyzing, and controlling hazards, minimizing risks, and training school district staff on safe work practices. The committee will also recommend procedures for investigating accidents and enforcement of workplace safety rules. Each recommendation shall include estimates of annual costs of implementing and maintaining that proposed recommendation. ~~The superintendent may request that t~~
- The Occupational Safety Committee established under Minn. Stat. § 182.676 shall carry out all or part of the duties of the advisory committee or the advisory committee may consider recommendations from a separate safety committee established under Minn. Stat § 182.676.**

### III. EMPLOYEE PROCEDURES

- A. Based upon recommendations from the ~~health and safety advisory committee~~ **Occupational Safety Committee** and subject to the budget adopted by the school board to implement or maintain these recommendations, the administration will adopt and implement written plans and procedures for identification and management of hazards or potential hazards existing within the school district in accordance with federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations. Written plans and procedures will be maintained, updated, and reviewed by the ~~school board~~ **Health, Safety, and Environmental Coordinator** on an annual basis and shall be ~~an addendum to this policy~~ **made available on the district website**. The administration shall identify in writing a contact person to oversee compliance with each specific plan or procedure.
- B. To the extent that federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations do not exist for

identification and management of hazards or potential hazards, the ~~health and safety advisory committee~~ **Occupational Safety Committee** shall evaluate other available resources and generally accepted best practice recommendations. Best practices are techniques or actions which, through experience or research, have consistently proven to lead to specific positive outcomes.

- C. The school district shall monitor and make good faith efforts to comply with any new or amended laws, rules, or regulations to control potential hazards.

#### **IV. STUDENT PROCEDURES**

- A. All students shall wear eye protective devices when participating in, observing, or performing any function in connection with any courses or activities taking place in eye protection areas. Eye protection areas shall include, but not be limited to, industrial arts shops, science laboratories, and other school laboratories.

The School District shall purchase and make available for all students eye protective devices meeting ANSI standards Z87.1-1968/2020.

Each program or course requiring the eye protective devices shall have such notation on all literature distributed to prospective students. Each teacher instructing in eye protection areas shall instruct, demonstrate, and constantly supervise the use, care, and storage of the eye protective devices. Each student enrolled in an eye protective course shall obtain the required eye protective device from the teacher; the device shall be returned at the end of the course.

Any student failing to comply with this requirement may be temporarily suspended from participation in said course, and the registration of a student for such a course may be canceled for willful, flagrant, or repeated failure to observe requirements.

All students involved in the operation of rotating equipment or such equipment where rapid discharge of material is common shall wear face protection in addition to eye protection. Other areas with peculiar hazards, such as welding, shall require the use of proper protective equipment from light as well as chips.

Students shall not be allowed in an eye protection area without approved eye protective devices.

#### **IV. PROGRAM AND PLANS**

- A. For the purpose of implementing this policy, the administration will, within the budgetary limitations adopted by the school board, implement a health and safety program that includes specific plan requirements in various areas as identified by the ~~health and safety advisory committee~~ **Occupational Safety Committee**. Areas that may be considered include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Asbestos
2. Fire and Life Safety
3. Employee Right to Know
4. Emergency Action Planning
5. Combustible and Hazardous Materials Storage
6. Indoor Air Quality
7. Mechanical Ventilation
8. Mold Cleanup and Abatement
9. Accident and Injury Reduction Program: Model AWAIR Program for Minnesota Schools
10. Infectious Waste/Bloodborne Pathogens
11. Community Right to Know

12. Compressed Gas Safety
13. Confined Space Standard
14. Electrical Safety
15. First Aid/CPR/AED/Naloxone
16. Food Safety Inspection
17. Forklift/Powered Industrial Truck Safety
18. Hazardous Waste Management
19. Hearing Conservation
20. Hoist/Lift/Elevator Safety
21. Integrated Pest Management
22. Laboratory Safety Standard/Chemical Hygiene Plan
23. Lead in Paint
24. Lead in Water and Well Water Management
25. Control of Hazardous Energy Sources (Lockout/Tagout)
26. Machine Guarding
27. Safety Committee
28. Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)
29. Playground Safety
30. Radon
31. Respiratory Protection
32. Underground and Above Ground Storage Tanks
33. Welding/Cutting/Brazing (Hot Work)
34. Fall Protection
35. National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for School Generators established by the United States E.P.A.
36. Bleacher Inspections
37. Heat and Cold Stress
38. Ladders
39. Mobile Elevated Work Platform/Aerial Lifts/Scaffolding
40. Powered Tools and Chainsaws
41. Silica
42. Working Alone
43. CTE Classroom Safety
44. Chemistry Classroom Safety
45. Art Classroom Safety
46. 35. Other areas determined to be appropriate by the health and safety advisory committee.

If a risk is not present in the school district, the preparation of a plan or procedure for that risk will not be necessary.

- B. The administration shall establish procedures to ensure, to the extent practicable, that all employees are properly trained and instructed in job procedures, crisis response duties, and emergency response actions where exposure or possible exposure to hazards and potential hazards may occur.
- C. The administration shall conduct or arrange safety inspections and drills. Any identified hazards, unsafe conditions, or unsafe practices will be documented and corrective action taken to the extent practicable to control that hazard, unsafe condition, or unsafe practice.
- D. Communication from employees regarding hazards, unsafe or potentially unsafe working conditions, and unsafe or potentially unsafe practices is encouraged in either written or oral form. No employee will be retaliated against for reporting hazards or unsafe or potentially unsafe working conditions or practices. All employees have the authority to stop work if they believe conditions may pose a danger to life or health.

- E. The administration shall conduct periodic workplace inspections to identify potential hazards and safety concerns.
- F. In the event of an accident or a near miss, the school district shall promptly cause an accident investigation to be conducted in order to determine the cause of the incident and to take action to prevent a similar incident. All accidents and near misses must be reported to an immediate supervisor as soon as possible.
- G. The district shall provide personal protective equipment to staff, including but not limited to eye protection (including prescription eye protection), gloves, respirators, and hearing protection, as deemed necessary in the written programs in section IV.A.

## **VI. BUDGET**

The superintendent shall be responsible to provide for periodic school board review and approval of the various plan requirements of the health and safety program, including current plan requirements and related written plans and procedures and recommendations for additional plan requirements proposed to be adopted. The superintendent, or such other school official as designated by the superintendent, **such as the Health, Safety, and Environmental Coordinator**, each year shall prepare preliminary revenue and expenditure budgets for the school district's health and safety program. The preliminary budgets shall be accompanied by such written commentary as may be necessary for them to be clearly understood by the members of the school board and the public. The school board shall review the projected revenues and expenditures for this program and make such adjustments within the expenditure budget to carry out the current program and to implement new recommendations within the revenues projected and appropriated for this purpose. No funds may be expended for the health and safety program in any school year prior to the adoption of the budget document authorizing that expenditure for that year, or prior to the adoption of an amendment to that budget document by the school board to authorize that expenditure for that year. The health and safety program shall be implemented, conducted, and administered within the fiscal restraints of the budget so adopted.

## **VII. ENFORCEMENT**

Enforcement of this policy is necessary for the goals of the school district's health and safety program to be achieved. Within applicable budget limitations, school district employees will be trained and receive periodic reviews of safety practices and procedures, focusing on areas that directly affect the employees' job duties. Employees shall participate in practice drills. Willful violations of safe work practices may result in disciplinary action in accordance with applicable school district policies.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 123B.56 (Health, Safety, and Environmental Management)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.57 (Capital Expenditure; Health and Safety)  
Minn. Stat. § 182.676 (Safety Committees)  
Minn. Rules Part 5208.0010 (Applicability)  
Minn. Rules Part 5208.0070 (Alternative Forms of Committee)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 407 (Employee Right to Know - Exposure to Hazardous Substances)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 701 (Establishment and Adoption of School District Budget)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 806 (Crisis Management Policy)  
**MSA 126.20**

First Reading: April 26, 2022  
Second Reading: May 17, 2022