

LYON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Staff Travel Report
to
School Board of Trustees*

Your recent request to travel has been approved. Within two weeks of the date of the conference, the following report is due in the office of the Deputy Superintendent.

Please Download & TYPE the following information.

Staff Member:	<u>Stanley Ohler</u>	School:	<u>Transportation</u>
Conference:	<u>Handle with Care Instructor</u>	Staff Assignment	<u>Alt. Driver Trainer</u>
Do not use acronyms			
Location of Conference:	<u>Phoenix, AZ</u>	Dates Attended:	<u>4/27/2025 - 5/1/2025</u>

General Overview: Do not use acronyms

I completed a comprehensive three-day training program to become a certified Handle with Care Instructor. This training focused on verbal de-escalation and physical intervention techniques to safely manage students in crisis without causing harm. Key areas included:

- Understanding and applying the Handle with Care philosophy centered on safety, dignity, and therapeutic rapport.
- Mastery of verbal and non-verbal intervention strategies to defuse potentially violent situations.
- Safe physical intervention methods to prevent harm when verbal strategies are insufficient.
- Instructional techniques to effectively train other staff members in the Handle with Care program.

How will this impact student learning in a positive way?

This training equips me to train other staff members in appropriate and safe interactions with special needs students. By embedding this philosophy throughout a school site, staff are better prepared to recognize and respond effectively to student crises, creating a safer and more supportive learning environment for all students with fewer disruptions.

The training provided in-depth instruction on the escalation–de-escalation cycle, including how to assess where a student is within that cycle and intervene appropriately. A strong emphasis was placed on verbal strategies, particularly how to de-escalate students through calm, therapeutic dialogue before physical intervention becomes necessary.

A core component of the training was the tension–tension reduction cycle, which helps staff identify and respond to both internal and external signs of distress. Additionally, the training covered safe, approved physical intervention techniques for situations where verbal strategies are not sufficient.

As a certified Handle with Care Instructor, I am now qualified to train school staff in these essential skills, ensuring a consistent and proactive approach to student behavior management across the site.

How will I implement what I learned and how will I share this information with my colleagues?

As a newly certified Handle with Care Instructor, I will share my training and knowledge with fellow employees across the district. My primary goal is to equip staff with the tools to verbally de-escalate student behavior using patience, empathy, and effective communication strategies. When verbal interventions are not successful, I will prepare staff to respond in a way that prioritizes the safety of the student, themselves, and others.

This training can be delivered as a formal certification program for staff, following the Handle with Care curriculum. I will provide ongoing support, guidance, and de-escalation materials to staff members, helping build consistency in our approach to student behavior management. While I will assist in training on verbal de-escalation techniques, all physical intervention training will be coordinated and conducted under the direction of the Special Services Department for staff identified as needing this level of support.

Through this role, I aim to foster a safer, more supportive school environment by ensuring staff are confident and prepared to respond to student behavior in a calm, respectful, and therapeutic manner.

Other Comments:

This was an outstanding and highly valuable training experience. I enjoyed learning new verbal and physical intervention techniques and look forward to sharing this knowledge with as many staff members in the district as possible.

I found the training to be both informative and practical. I strongly believe that all staff who work directly with students should complete the verbal component of the Handle with Care program. It equips educators with the skills to recognize early signs of escalation within the tension-tension reduction cycle and respond with appropriate de-escalation techniques before a situation becomes physically unsafe.

Handle with Care is an excellent and effective resource that supports a safer, more supportive learning environment. It benefits not only the staff but also the students by promoting consistency, safety, and respectful intervention practices across all school sites.



Site Principal/Supervisor Approval

6/16/2025

Date



Deputy Superintendent Approval

6/13/25

Date