

SAFE SCHOOLS

Descriptor: ADD Issued: Draft 8/2010

Rescinds: ADD Issued: 03/27/2007

BOARD POLICY

General

1. It is the intent of the Board to provide an educational environment that is safe and orderly to the extent that students have the opportunity to learn and teachers can teach. The District will not tolerate violence or injury to staff or students, nor will any type of weapon be tolerated at any school event or activity or on the property of the District.
2. All District policies relating to safety and security of staff and students will be administered fairly and firmly enforced.
3. Any type of unlawful activity shall will be reported immediately to the proper law enforcement agency, and the school staff shall will cooperate with any subsequent criminal prosecution.
4. Administrators and site supervisors are primarily responsible for initiating and maintaining the necessary precautions for health and safety of the staff and students under their direction and for rules, regulations, and laws governing health and safety.
5. The ~~Tupelo Public School~~ District shall establish a process for assuring any student who has the right to transfer from a school under pursuant to the Unsafe School Choice Option of the No Child Left Behind Act (see attached exhibit) is allowed to transfer ~~from a school under this policy is allowed to transfer~~ to a school in the ~~Tupelo Public School~~ District which is not persistently dangerous. The process ~~must~~ shall be included in the District's Safe School Plan.
6. The Board authorizes the superintendent to develop procedures consistent with this policy.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

1. All accidents occurring on the District property that involve students, employees or visitors should be reported within twenty-four hours to the Office of Human Resources. Accidents involving District equipment, facilities or material should shall be investigated to determine if corrective action is necessary.

2. Any condition in a physical facility, equipment or other materials deemed to be hazardous ~~should~~ shall be reported immediately by the building or site administrator to the maintenance supervisor. Hazardous or unhealthy conditions will receive highest priority by the maintenance department for immediate correction.

3. The classroom teacher is responsible for providing safety instructions for all students in the use and proper handling of equipment and materials that might be utilized as a part of the instructional program. Such safety procedures should occur prior to authorizing any student to use potentially hazardous equipment or materials.

4. The District shall create a Safe Schools Plan and conduct periodic training to all staff relative to the various components of such Plan. The plan shall be regularly reviewed and updated.

5. The District shall report each student transfer effected pursuant to the Unsafe School Choice Option of NCLB ~~this policy~~ to the State Board of Education in the Mississippi Student Information System.

EXHIBITS

ADD 1.0810 *Certification of Compliance with Unsafe School Choice Option requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act*

REFERENCES

MCA §37-11-29; Public Law 107-110, No Child Left Behind Act of 2001

FORMS

None

Exhibit ADD 1.0810

Certification of Compliance with Unsafe School Choice Option Requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act:

In response to the mandate of the No Child Left Behind Act that directs public school districts receiving funds through this act to provide a Certification of Compliance with Unsafe School Choice Option requirements, the following policy statements are provided.

While the intent of the District is to consistently provide safe and orderly schools conducive to student learning and success, it is recognized that a school or schools may be identified by the Mississippi Department of Education ("MDE") as a "persistently dangerous school" based on the following definitions, conditions, and parameters:

A "persistently dangerous school" is a public school other than a charter school in which the conditions during the past two years continually exposed students to injury from violent criminal offenses. This can be further defined as follows:

- an elementary, middle or secondary public school in which a total of 20 or more violent criminal offenses were committed per 1000 students (2.0 or more per 100 students) in two consecutive school years; or
- an elementary, middle or secondary public alternative school in which a total of 75 or more violent criminal offenses were committed per 1000 (7.5 or more per 100 students) in two consecutive school years.

For purposes of the Certification of Compliance with Unsafe School Choice Option Requirements, "violent criminal offenses" are identified and reported in the Mississippi Student Information System as follows: simple or aggravated assault, homicide, kidnapping, rape, robbery, sexual battery, mayhem, poisoning, extortion, stalking, and seizure and forfeiture of firearms.

The District acknowledges that whenever the MDE has information that a school meets one or more of the criteria described in the preceding paragraphs, the MDE shall provide the District the opportunity to report on conditions in the school. After consideration of that report and in consultation with a representative sample of local educational agencies, the MDE shall determine whether the school is a persistently dangerous school. Once a school has been designated a persistently dangerous school, it will retain that designation for at least one school year.

In addition, students assigned to a school which the MDE has determined to be persistently dangerous shall be allowed to attend another school in the District which is not designated a persistently dangerous school, provided there is such a school in the District that offers instruction at the student's grade level.

Furthermore, any student who is the victim of a violent criminal offense committed against him or her while he or she was in or on the grounds of the public school that he or she attends shall be allowed to choose to attend another school in the District which is not designated a persistently dangerous school, provided there is such a school in the District that offers instruction at the student's grade level. In order to complete such a transfer, the parents/guardians of the student must request that transfer within 30 days of the violent criminal offense.