

Safe Schools

The Charter Board recognizes that effective learning and teaching take place in a safe, secure and welcoming environment and that safe schools contribute to improved attendance, increased student achievement and community support. To that end, the Charter Board directs the administrator, following regular review of relevant data and consultation with the school district accountability committee and school accountability committees, parents, administrators, students and when appropriate, school psychologists and members of the community including victims advocacy organizations and local law enforcement, to develop and maintain a safe school plan that includes:

1. Procedures that address the supervision and security of school buildings and grounds.
2. Procedures that address the safety and supervision of students during school hours and school-sponsored activities.
3. Procedures that address persons visiting the school building and attending school-sponsored activities.
4. Training programs for staff and students in crisis prevention and management.
5. Training programs for staff and students in emergency response procedures that include practice drills.
6. Training programs for staff and students in how to recognize and respond to behavior or other information that may indicate impending violence or other safety problems.
7. Training and support for students that aims to relieve the fear, embarrassment, and peer pressure associated with reporting behavior that may indicate impending violence or other safety problems.
8. Procedures for safe, confidential reporting of security and safety concerns at the school.
9. Procedures for regular assessments by school security/safety professionals and law enforcement officers to evaluate the security needs of the school building and to provide recommendations for improvements if necessary.
10. Procedures for regular assessments by school climate professionals to determine whether students feel safe and to provide recommendations for improvements in school climate at the school building.
11. Procedures to provide for regular communications between school administration, district officials, law enforcement officers, fire department officials, county officials, and local medical personnel to discuss crisis prevention and management strategies, including involvement by these parties in the development and revision of crisis prevention and management plans.

12. Training programs for staff and students in safety precautions and procedures related to fire prevention, natural disaster response, accident prevention, public health, traffic, bicycle and pedestrian safety, environmental hazards, civil defense, classroom and occupational safety, and special hazards associated with athletics and other extracurricular activities.
13. Procedures for the reporting of criminal activity to law enforcement.

The administrator shall be responsible for the supervision and implementation of the safe school program at the school. The administrator shall submit annually, in the manner and by the date specified by the State Board of Education, a written report to the Charter Board concerning the learning environment in the school during that school year. The report shall contain, at a minimum, the information required by law.

The annual safety report from every school in the district shall be compiled and submitted to the state department of education in a format specified by the State Board of Education. The report shall be made available to the public.

LEGAL REFS: C.R.S. 9-1-101 through 9-1-106 (Construction requirements, fire escapes, etc.)
C.R.S. 22-3-101 through 22-3-104 (eye protective devices)
C.R.S. 22-32-109.1 (1)(b.5)(definition of ‘community partners’ that the Charter Board may wish to consult with in developing and implementing its safe school plan)
C.R.S. 22-32-109.1 (2) (safe school plan)
C.R.S. 22-32-109.1 (2)(b) (detailing information required in annual principal reports on the learning environment)
C.R.S. 22-32-110 (1)(k) (board authority to adopt policies related to employee safety and official conduct)
C.R.S. 22-32-124 (2),(3) (building inspection)
C.R.S. 24-10-106.5 (duty of care)

CROSS REFS: ECA/ECAB, Security/Access to Buildings
GBGAA*, Staff training in Crisis Prevention and Management
KDE, Crisis Management (Safety, Readiness and Incident Management Planning)
KI, Visitors to School

First Reading Date: 11-18-20

Adoption Date: 1-20-21

Lake George Charter School

NOTE 1: Many specific policies are required as part of the district's safe school plan (see CASB's list of legally required policies). In developing the district's safe school plan, state law requires the district to consult with "the school district accountability committee and school accountability committees, parents, teachers, administrators, students, student councils where available, and, where appropriate, the community at large." C.R.S. 22-32-109-1 (2). Local boards may also consult with victims advocacy organizations, school psychologists, local law enforcement agencies, and "community partners" in adopting and implementing its safe school plan. State law defines "community partners" as collectively, local fire departments, state and local law enforcement agencies, local 911 agencies, interoperable communications providers, the Safe2Tell Program, local emergency medical service personnel, local mental health organizations, local public health agencies, local emergency management personnel, local or regional homeland security personnel, and school resource officers. C.R.S. 22-32-109.1 (1)(b.5).

NOTE 2: State law also requires a general safe schools policy and this policy (ADD) serves that purpose. The only specific legal requirement is that the policy requires the annual inspection of schools to remove hazards, vandalism, and other barriers to safety and supervision. C.R.S.22-32-109.1 (5). That requirement is reflected in paragraphs one and nine of this policy. The remaining provisions of this policy are suggested best practices for the superintendent and board to consider when creating a general safe schools policy. This policy also serves as an outline for the legally-required safe school plan.

NOTE 3: State law "encourages" school districts to provide a comprehensive, age-appropriate curriculum that teaches safety in working and interacting on the Internet, as part of the board's safe school plan. C.R.S. 22-32-109-1 (2)(c). Districts are encouraged to incorporate the Internet safety topics into the teaching of the regular classroom curricula, rather than isolating the topics as a separate class. If the district develops a comprehensive curriculum or other approach to teach safety in use of the Internet, then appropriate language could be added to this policy.