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*Rescinds Policy Number:**Issued:*

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Safe schools are critical to creating a learning environment in which students can succeed. Staff and students share in the responsibility to take reasonable precautions and safety measures to create and maintain safe schools. The following safety measures must 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 supervision must occur throughout school hours, including during 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 assure the safety of students on school grounds and on buses before, during and after school.

Students who are subject to Policy 4260, Student Sex Offenders, and are receiving educational services on school property must be under the supervision of school personnel at all times.

B. SUPERVISION OF VISITORS

School administrators shall strictly enforce Policy 5015, School Volunteers, and Policy 5020, Visitors to the Schools.

C. CARE OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

The principal is required to inspect school buildings, playgrounds, and equipment for health, fire and safety hazards on a regular basis and as required by law. The principal must notify the superintendent immediately of repairs needed in order to meet safety standards.

Any staff member who observes any potential hazards must immediately notify the principal.

Proper signs indicating potential danger must be posted.

The superintendent must provide to local law enforcement and emergency management agencies copies of floor plans of all school buildings and site plans showing campus boundaries and access points.

D. ESTABLISHING PROCESSES TO ADDRESS POTENTIAL SAFETY CONCERNS

1. Safe Schools Plans

Pursuant to G.S. 115C-105.47, each school must have a safe school plan that establishes procedures for addressing school safety. The safe schools plan should be integrated into the school improvement plan.

The safe school plan must include a component designed to train appropriate school personnel in the management of disruptive or dangerous student behavior. The plan also must include procedures to evaluate the effectiveness of this training in preventing or addressing disruptive or dangerous student behavior. Implementation of this training component will be subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this purpose.

2. School Rules and Training

Rules are to be made in each school to help prevent accidents in buildings, on school grounds or on playgrounds. Staff training is to include instruction on being alert and able to recognize and respond to behavior, information and related indicators that warn of impending problems. In addition, as a part of instruction, school personnel must teach and review with students safety procedures and precautions for handling chemicals or potentially dangerous equipment and for responding to threats to school safety. Each school shall practice emergency drills on a regular basis and as required by law.

3. 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 will aim at minimizing any fear, peer pressure, embarrassment or other impediments to students' reporting potential problems. Staff members must report immediately to the principal any student's information or their own observations of unusual or suspicious behavior or acts of violence. Every principal is required to investigate and act upon any reports of such behavior, including, when appropriate, reporting criminal activities to law enforcement.

4. 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.

5. Student Behavior Standards

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

Legal References: N.C.G.S. 14-208.18; 115C-36, -47, -105.47, -288, -307, -391, -391.1, -524

Cross References: Student Sex Offenders (Policy 4260), Student Behavior Policies (4300 series), School Volunteers (Policy 5015), Visitors to Schools (Policy 5020), Registered Sex Offenders (Policy 5022), Weapons and Explosives Prohibited (Policy 7275), Staff Responsibilities (Policy 7300)

Adopted: