

SAFE AND HEALTHY SCHOOLS

A goal of the Edmond Public Schools is to maintain emotionally and physically safe and healthy environments for students, employees and visitors of the district. Specific Board policies address the various issues involved in creating and sustaining safe and healthy environments. The focus of this policy is upon 1) Healthy and Fit School Advisory and Safe School Committees (referred to as the Safe/Healthy School Committee) and, 2) Communications with faculty with regard to students with a history of violence.

I. Safe/Healthy School Committee.

In accordance with state law, the Edmond Public Schools Board of Education has established that each school site shall select a single committee to perform the functions of both the Healthy and Fit School Advisory Committee and the Safe School Committee.

The Committee will be composed of at least six members, which will include an equal number of teachers, parents of the children affected, and students and may also include administrators, health care professionals, and business community representatives.

The Committee will be selected not later than October 1 of each school year and meet at least one time per semester.

The Committee will study and make written recommendations to the school principal with regard to:

A. Health Issues

1. Health education
2. Physical education and physical activity
3. Nutrition and health services

B. Safety Issues

1. Unsafe conditions, possible strategies for students to avoid harm at school, student victimization, crime prevention, school violence, and other issues that prohibit the maintenance of a safe school;
2. Student harassment, intimidation, and bullying at school;
3. Professional development needs of faculty and staff to implement methods to decrease student harassment, intimidation, and bullying; and

4. Methods to encourage the involvement of the community and students, the development of individual relationships between students and school staff, and use of problem-solving teams that include counselors and/or school psychologists.

C. Committee Recommendations

The principal is to review Committee recommendations. If the principal determines that a recommendation should not be followed or that it goes beyond the scope of a building-level decision, the recommendation is to be presented to and discussed with the principal's supervisor.

Each school is to forward a copy of its Committee report to the superintendent/designee. The Superintendent's Administrative Team will examine site level Committee reports as a source of input for the review and revision of district plans and procedures and/or recommendations for policy or other specific Board action.

II. Notification of Teachers regarding Students with a History of Violence

In order to promote safety in the classroom and maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning, to the extent not prohibited by law, when a student with a history or pattern of documented violent behavior which is known by the administration is placed in a classroom, the teachers that have direct contact with that student shall be notified by the administration. When possible, notification shall be made prior to the first day the student attends the class.

For purposes of this policy, "violent behavior" is defined as documented activity by a student which was directed at students, adults, or themselves and which involved either: 1) dangerous weapons, 2) sexual misconduct, 3) assaults, or 4) threats. The violent behavior must have resulted in adjudication of the student as a minor, conviction of the student of a crime, long-term suspensions, or multiple short-term suspensions.

Only counselors, administrators, and teachers with direct contact with such students will have access to this information. Such information shall be maintained in the strictest confidentiality by all such teachers, counselors and administration and shall only be divulged as required by law.