

CHAPTER 3.00 - SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

SAFE AND SECURE SCHOOLS

3.40

I. Introduction

The Washington County School District School Board has an obligation to provide a safe, secure and orderly learning environment in all schools and at all sponsored activities for students, school personnel and other persons.

II. Orderly Environment

An orderly environment can only be achieved by developing procedures to control students, personnel and other persons on school property and attending School Board or school sponsored events or activities. All procedures shall reflect the following policy provisions.

- (1) No person other than a student and employee of a school site shall be on a school campus during school hours unless they are in compliance with with Policy 9.60, Visitors.
- (2) A student who is suspended or expelled is not in good standing and is not permitted on the school campus, school grounds, or at a school sponsored activity.
- (3) This policy shall apply not only during school hours, but at any time students in good standing, teachers, employees and other such persons are on the school campus or school grounds, and shall also apply for all school activities which are held after school hours.
- (4) Any person on a school campus or school grounds not in accordance with this policy is hereby declared to be a trespasser and shall be asked to leave immediately by any staff member. Each principal shall keep a log of such incidents which shall provide the name of the person asked to leave and other pertinent information. If said person shall again be seen upon the school campus or school grounds, any staff member shall immediately notify the principal or appropriate local law enforcement officials without further warning.
- (5) Individuals who enter School Board property, activity or School Board Meeting without a legitimate reason and create a disturbance or refuse to leave the property or activity when asked by the Board Chairperson,

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Superintendent/designee, principal or person in charge are subject to criminal penalty as provided in Florida Statutes. The person in charge shall contact appropriate law enforcement officials in cases of disruptive activity or refusal to leave the school property or activity and take the appropriate actions to have the offender punished as prescribed by law. The Superintendent shall be notified immediately of any such action at schools or school activities.

- (6) No person, except law enforcement and security officers, may have in his/her possession any weapon, illegal substance, or dangerous substance while on school property or at school-sponsored events.

- III. The following emergency response agency(ies) will notify the District in the event of an emergency:

Emergency Response Agency

Fortify Florida
Washington Co. Sheriff's Dept.
Washington Co. EOC
Washington Co. EMS, Fire & Rescue

- IV. Safety, Security and – Emergency Plans

- a. The Superintendent shall develop a School Safety and Security Plan with input from representatives of the local law enforcement agencies, the local Fire Marshall(s), representative(s) from emergency medical services; building administrators, representative(s) from the local emergency management agency, School Resource Officer(s) and/or representative(s) of the Washington County Health Department.
- b. As required by state law, the Superintendent shall require the use of the Safe School Assessment Survey based on the School Safety and Security Best Practices Indicators created by FL DOE Safe School Assessment Tool (FSSAT) to conduct a self-assessment of the District's current safety and security practices.
- c. Upon completion of these self-assessments, the Superintendent shall convene a safety and security review meeting for the purpose of (a) reviewing the current School Safety and Security Plan and the results of

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the self-assessment; (b) identifying necessary modifications to the plan; (c) identifying additional necessary training for staff and students; and (d) discussing any other related matters deemed necessary by the meeting participants.

- d. The Superintendent shall present the findings of the safety and security review meeting to the Board for review and approval appropriate school safety, emergency management and preparedness plans. The Superintendent shall make any necessary recommendations to the Board that identify strategies and activities that the Board should incorporate into the School Safety and Security Plan and/or implement in order to improve school safety and security. The School Safety and Security Plan is, however, confidential and is not subject to review or release as a public record.
- e. The Superintendent shall report the self-assessment results and any action taken by the Board to review the School Safety and Security Plan to the Commissioner of Education within thirty (30) days after the Board meeting.
- f. Emergency management and preparedness plans shall include notification procedures for weapon use, active shooter and hostage situations, hazardous materials and toxic chemical spills, weather emergencies, and exposure resulting from a manmade emergency.
- g. Emergency management and preparedness procedures for active shooter situations shall engage the participation of the district school safety specialist, threat assessment team members, faculty, staff and students for each school and be conducted by the law enforcement agency or agencies designated as first responders to the school's campus.
- h. Each school shall develop and maintain an up-to-date plan based upon the uniform guidelines and including the provisions of Florida law, State Board of Education rules, and other applicable regulations.
- i. Copies of school plans shall be provided county and city law enforcement agencies, fire departments, and emergency preparedness officials.

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V. Threat Assessment

- A. The primary purpose of a threat assessment is to minimize the risk of targeted violence at school. The Board's threat assessment process is designed to be consistent with the process set forth in the joint U.S. Secret Service and U.S. Department of Education publication. Threat Assessment in Schools: A Guide to Managing Threatening Situations and to creating Safe School Climates for identifying, assessing, and managing students who may pose a threat. The goal of the threat assessment process is to take appropriate preventative or corrective measures to maintain a safe school environment, protect and support potential victims, and provide assistance, as appropriate, to the student being assessed. The threat assessment process is centered upon an analysis of the facts and evidence of behavior in a given situation. The appraisal of risk in a threat assessment focuses on actions, communications, and specific circumstances that might suggest that an individual intends to cause physical harm and is engaged in planning or preparing for that event.
- B. The Board authorizes the Superintendent to create building-level, trained threat assessment teams. Each team shall be headed by the principal and shall include a person with expertise in counseling (school/psychological), instructional personnel, and law enforcement (school resource officer) and provide guidance to students, faculty, and staff regarding recognition of threatening or aberrant behavior that may represent a threat to the community, school, or self.

 - 1. The threat assessment team will be responsible for the assessment of individuals whose behavior may pose a threat to the safety of school staff and/or students and coordinating resources and interventions for the individual.
 - 2. Upon a preliminary determination that a student poses a threat of violence or physical harm to him/herself or others, the threat assessment team may obtain criminal history record information. The team must immediately report its determination to the Superintendent who must immediately attempt to notify the student's parent or legal guardian. The team will coordinate resources and interventions to engage behavioral and or mental

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health crisis resources when mental health or substance abuse crisis is suspected.

3. The threat assessment team must plan for the implementation and monitoring of appropriate interventions to manage and mitigate the student's risk for engaging in violence and increasing the likelihood of positive outcomes.

VI. Safety – Procedures

- A. School alarms shall be monitored on a weekly basis and malfunctions shall be reported for immediate repair.
- B. A safety program shall be established consistent with the provisions of Policy 8.11.
- C. Emergency evacuation drills (fire, hurricane, tornado, active shooter/hostage situation, other natural disaster, and school bus) shall be held in compliance with state requirements and formulated in consultation with the appropriate public safety agencies. Each principal, site administrator or transportation official is responsible for
 1. Developing and posting emergency evacuation routes and procedures;
 2. Assigning and training all staff members in specified responsibilities to ensure prompt, safe and orderly evacuation;
 3. Identifying and reporting hazardous areas requiring corrective measures; and
 4. Preparing and submitting a written report of each emergency evacuation drill to the District office.

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- D. In the event of an emergency, the Superintendent is authorized to dismiss early or close any or all schools. Except that the principal may dismiss the school when the Superintendent or designee cannot be contacted and an extreme emergency exists endangering the health, safety, or welfare of students. Any such actions shall be reported immediately to the Superintendent or designee along with a statement describing the reasons for the action. Such report shall be submitted to the School Board at the next regular meeting unless a special meeting is held relating to the emergency.

VII. Safety – Violence Prevention

- A. The Superintendent shall develop a violence prevention plan for use by each school.
- B. Training in identification of potentially violent behaviors and the procedures to be implemented shall be provided to personnel of the schools.

VIII. Security

- A. The Superintendent shall establish and implement a Domestic Security Plan consistent with the requirements of the National Incident Management System (NIMS).
- B. The Superintendent shall develop and implement guidelines and procedures for reviewing each school's security provisions.
- C. Designate an administrator as the school safety specialist for the District.
- D. A review of each school's security provisions shall be conducted annually by the principal with a written report submitted to the Superintendent or designee for submission to the Board for review.
- E. Each school's emergency plan shall include security provisions including emergency lockdown procedures.

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- F. Establishing policies and procedures for the prevention of violence on school grounds; including assessment of and intervention with individuals whose behavior poses a threat to the safety of the school community.
 - G. Adhering to background screening procedures for all staff, volunteers and mentors.
 - H. Security trailers may be located on school property.
- IX. Active Assailant Incidents
- A. Every employee of the School District is responsible for a level of safety in maintaining control and issuing guidance during an active assailant incident in order to limit serious injury and loss of life.
 - B. The school principal, site administrator, and/ or the school's principal's/ site administrator's designee shall:
 - 1. Collaborate with the School District's Safety Specialist to schedule and conduct emergency drills that comply with federal and state laws and School Board Policies;
 - 2. Complete all drills per School District procedures; and
 - 3. Complete and file all required reports on emergency drills in an accurate and timely manner.
 - C. All employees shall complete required trainings related to the School District's safety, security and mental health procedures in order to comply with federal and state laws and School Board Policies.

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D. Lockdowns

1. All employees shall take appropriate action(s), including, but not limited to, initiating a "Lockdown" at any work site on School Board Property if the employee sees, hears, or smells anything that might immediately affect the safety or well-being of students or employees.
2. The employee may initiate a Lockdown using the School District's school phone, two-way radio or other communication device.
3. If an employee initiates a Lockdown, which the appropriate authorities determine is not an actual threat, then there shall not be any progressive discipline or adverse employment action as long as the lockdown was called in a good faith effort to protect students and staff.

E. All employees shall comply with all School Board safety and security policies and to complete School District procedures, trainings and drills for workplace safety, supervision and care of students, prevention and preparedness for accidents, emergencies and threats or acts of violence.

F. All employees, volunteers, and students shall report immediately any expressed threat(s) or behavior(s) that may represent a threat to the community, School District workplace, school and/ or individual directly to a School District/ site administrator or local law enforcement officer.

Employees, volunteers and students shall communicate threats using means which include, but are not limited to, cell phone applications such as Fortify Florida.

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School District/ site administrators and local law enforcement officers shall follow School District and local law enforcement procedures respectively to report the alleged threat and then take appropriate follow up actions.

- G. Making or relaying a false threat or threatening behavior may result in both legal and disciplinary consequences for employees or students.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

1001.41, 1001.42, F.S.

LAW(S) IMPLEMENTED:

1001.43, 1001.51, 1006.062, 1006.07,
1006.145, 1006.1493, 1006.21, 1013.13, F.S.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RULE(S):

6A-1.0403, 6A-3.0171

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ADOPTED:

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