

## **SCHOOL SAFETY AND HEALTH ISSUES**

### **Safe School/Healthy and Fit Kids Advisory Committee**

Safety of its students is a primary concern of the Amber-Pocasset Board of Education. The board is aware of the growing concerns about safety that exist throughout the education system and the school community as a whole. Therefore, in compliance with state law, the board of education herein authorizes each school site to establish a Safe School Committee on or before October 1st of each year.

Each committee is to be composed of at least six members, with an equal number of teachers, parents, and students.

The committee shall be involved in the monitoring, implementation, and evaluation of 70 O.S. § 5-147 which limits access to foods of minimal nutritional value.

The committees shall study and make recommendations to the school principal regarding unsafe conditions, strategies for avoiding harm, victimization, crime prevention, school violence, and other issues, which prohibit maintenance of a safe school.

Additionally the committee shall study and make recommendations regarding student harassment, intimidation and bullying at school. This study and its recommendations shall include:

- Professional development needs of faculty and staff to implement methods to decrease student harassment, intimidation and bullying at school
- Methods to encourage the involvement of the community and students, the development of individual relationships between students and school staff, and the use of problem-solving teams that include counselors and/or school psychologists
- Review traditional and accepted harassment, intimidation and bullying prevention programs utilized by other states, state agencies, school districts and/or the State Department of Education.

If a school district implements a commercial bullying prevention program, it shall use a program listed by the State Department of Education.

This Committee shall also comprise the Healthy and Fit School Advisory Committee. Said Committee shall study and make recommendations to the school principal regarding:

- Health education;
- Physical education and physical activity; and
- Nutrition and health services.

### **Safety Coordinator**

In compliance with state law, the board will also designate a safety coordinator for the district. The safety coordinator is given the responsibility to meet with a committee made up of the principal of each of the school sites and the safety committee chairman for each school site in order to review the suggestions made. The safety coordinator will then be responsible for reporting the findings and making recommendations to the superintendent and the board.

**SCHOOL SAFETY AND HEALTH ISSUES (Cont.)****Safety Signs**

In further compliance with state law, the administrator of each school site shall post a sign in the school building which reads as follows: "Felony charges may be filed against any person committing an aggravated assault or battery upon any school employee."

**Reporting Assaults**

Employees who are victims of assault and/or battery while performing school duties shall notify the superintendent, the building administrator or a member of the Safe School Committee of the incident within 30 days of the incident. The building administrator or committee member shall report such incidents to the superintendent. The superintendent shall determine the action to be taken as a result of the incident. The said victim of the assault and/or battery shall be informed of the action taken. If the employee is not satisfied with the action, he or she may ask to be heard by the board of education.

The superintendent shall notify the State Department of Education of all such incidents of the previous year on July 1 of each year. The report shall include a description of the battery or assault and the final disposition of each incident.

Nothing in this policy shall be meant to prevent the school employee himself or herself from filing criminal charges.

**Safety Assurance**

Amber-Pocasset Public Schools shall comply with the applicable state and federal regulations governing the safety of district employees and the protection of the environment. The administration will develop such specific regulations and procedures. Each site will work with the district coordinator to ensure compliance as may be necessary for the safety and environmental hazards present in those facilities. The superintendent will establish procedures in an effort to offer reasonable protection for the safety of students, employees, visitors, and others present on school property or at school-sponsored events.

Educational programs shall address the practice of safety in pedestrian safety, driver education, fire prevention, emergency procedures, disaster preparedness, etc., appropriately geared to students in different grade levels. Emphasis on school safety shall include, but is not limited to, in-service training, accident record-keeping, plant inspection, driver and vehicle safety programs, fire prevention, and emergency procedures in traffic problems.

**Dissemination of Policy**

A copy of this policy will be delivered to each school employee at the beginning of each year.

**REFERENCES:** 70 O.S. 24-100.5 (Section 487.a, School Laws of Oklahoma)  
70 O.S. 24-100a (Section 488.1, Schools Laws of Oklahoma)  
SB 1071, 1996 Legislative Session  
HB 1765, 2001 Legislative Session  
SB 992, 2002 Legislative Session  
SB 1627, 2004 Legislative Session