

POLICY

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Related Entries: Policy 709

Responsible Offices: BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

HEALTHY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

A. PURPOSE

To ensure AACPS provides and maintains safe and healthful work and learning environments in accordance with known, applicable standards, laws, regulations and guidelines. AACPS strives to eliminate or control foreseeable hazards, which may result in personal injuries or illnesses, damage to property, or the environment.

B. ISSUE

A safe and healthful environment contributes to a favorable learning environment for students, productivity increases for teachers and staff, and a sense of comfort, health, and well-being for all staff and students. A well-designed, maintained and operated facility can truly enhance performance and make education a more enjoyable and rewarding experience. These attributes combine to assist a school in its core mission of educating children.

Undesirable, unplanned accidents which can be prevented often result in bodily harm, loss of time, property damage, legal action and even death.

Schools are often the central denominator of a community. Schools are used as social meeting places, for recreation, religious services and as shelters during weather and civil emergencies. A structurally sound and secure building, that provides clean air, water and shelter must be well maintained.

C. POSITION

1. The Board is committed to environmental health and safety as one of our top priorities. This effort is supported and reinforced through good management practices in combination with active employee and student participation.
2. The Board supports the establishment of appropriate environmental and safety program standards and procedures, training of our personnel on their duties and responsibilities and monitoring the implementation and compliance objectives.
3. The Board directs the Superintendent to implement a comprehensive school safety plan regarding crisis intervention, emergency response and management.

4. The Board directs the Superintendent to implement proactive environmental and safety programs, control unnecessary cost expenditures, reduce risk exposures, respond to the concerns of our occupants, and provide environmentally safe facilities for all.

D. DESIRED OUTCOME

Schools and offices will be constructed and maintained to provide students, staff and the community at large, safe and environmentally healthy learning, working, recreational and, when necessary, emergency environments.

E. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

1. The Board recognizes the federal, State, and local safety and environmental laws, regulations, and codes to be appropriate and consistent with this policy and will comply with those requirements.
2. The Superintendent will direct staff to establish and implement safety and environmental health programs that will meet or exceed applicable federal, State and local laws, regulations, codes and other recognized professional guidelines.
3. The Superintendent will address adequate safety and health resource allocations to ensure deficiencies are corrected in a timely manner.
4. Employees of Anne Arundel County Public Schools shall conduct all operations as safely as possible and take every reasonable precaution for the safety of students, employees and visitors on school property.
5. The Superintendent will establish and practice a comprehensive school safety plan regarding crisis intervention, emergency response and management.

F. REVIEW AND REPORTING

Refer to Policy AE-Wellness.

*Policy History: Developed by Superintendent 02/08/06
 Reviewed by Board of Education 07/12/06
 Issued: 07/12/06*

Note Previous Policy History: adopted 05/20/91