



12

September 16, 2014

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

Approval of Revisions to Student Welfare Policy

Recommendation: That the School Committee approve the revisions to the Student Welfare Policy as detailed in the attached document.

This policy is being presented for a second reading.

Description: These revisions to the policy are being made to clarify obligations regarding supervision of students and the relationship of this policy to the Emergency Plans Policy with respect to conducting various types of safety drills.

Supporting Data: Student Welfare Policy

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey M. Young, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

**STUDENT WELFARE**

Supervision of Students

School personnel assigned supervision are expected to act as reasonably prudent adults in providing for the safety of the students in their charge.

In keeping with this expected prudence, no teacher or other staff member will leave his/her assigned group unsupervised. Additionally, no teacher or other staff member will leave his/her assigned group of students with anyone who has not been CORI-checked in accordance with the school district's Criminal Offender Record Information Policy. If a teacher or staff member who is supervising an assigned group of students needs to ~~except as an arrangement has been made to~~ take care of an emergency, he/she must make arrangements for the group of students to be supervised by another member of school staff, or by a CORI-checked chaperone if this need occurs during a field trip.

During school hours or while engaging in school-sponsored activities, students will be released only into the custody of parents/guardians or other persons authorized in writing by a parent/guardian. All releases of students from field trips must occur in accordance with the school district's Field Trip Policy and related administrative guidelines.

Reporting to Authorities - Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect

Any school official or employee shall report any suspected child abuse or neglect as required by M.G.L.c. 119, § 51A.

In accordance with the law, the school district shall establish the necessary regulations and procedures to comply with the intent of the Act law consistent with the school district's responsibility to the students, parents/guardians, school district personnel, and the community.

Student Safety

Instruction in courses in industrial arts, science, homemaking, art, physical education, health, and safety will include and emphasize accident prevention.

Safety instruction will precede the use of materials and equipment by students in applicable units of work, and instructors will teach and enforce all safety rules set up for the particular courses. These include the wearing of protective eye devices in appropriate activities.

Safety on the Playground and Playing Field

The school district shall provide safe play areas for students. Precautionary measures which the school district requires shall include:

- A periodic inspection of the school's playground and playing fields by the principal/head of upper school of the school and others as may be deemed appropriate;
- Instruction of students in the proper use of equipment;
- Supervision of both organized and unorganized activity;

Fire Drills

The school district shall cooperate with the Cambridge Fire Department in conducting fire drills.

Lock Down Drills

The school district shall in accordance with its Emergency Plans Policy conduct periodic lock down drills.

*Adopted: June 5, 2001*