



School Policy

School District Sun Protection Policy (proposed)

Introduction

The Governing Board of the _____ School District, along with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Live SunSmart Foundation and other organizations, recognizes that the sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation can cause skin cancer. To help prevent the development of sunburn and of skin cancer, students will receive instruction, encouragement, and environmental support to avoid over-exposure to the sun when they are outdoors. Accordingly, the Board recommends that schools implement a sun safety policies, programs and/or procedures that address the following elements:

Hats and Protective Clothing

Students will be encouraged to wear articles of sun-protective clothing, including hats, when outdoors. Schools may specify the type(s) of clothing and hats that are, or are not, permissible on campus. The principal or designee shall assess athletic team uniforms to determine if and how they might be modified to better protect students from over-exposure to UV rays.

Sunscreen

Students will be allowed to carry and use sunscreen (Broad spectrum SPF 15 or more).

Lip Balm

Students will be encouraged to carry and use sun-protective lip balm (SPF 15 or more).

Sunglasses

When students are outdoors they will be encouraged to wear sunglasses which protect the eyes from UV rays. Schools may specify the type(s) of sunglasses that are, or are not, permissible on campus.

Shade

The principal or designee of each school will survey the school campus to identify existing shaded areas, and non-shaded areas where the addition of shade would be practical and desirable. Staff will optimize shade options, and students and staff will be encouraged to utilize the shaded or indoor areas for congregation and recreation as appropriate. Priority will be given to including ample shade in new construction plans and adding shade when remodeling school facilities.

Scheduling

As scheduling permits, outdoor activities should occur before 11:30 a.m. or after 2:00 p.m. However, scheduling constraints should not reduce the total time students engage in physical education or activity.

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Education

Teachers will be required to provide sun safety education at each grade level, Kindergarten through grade 12, including information about the harmful effects of UV rays and recommended practices for preventing sunburn and skin damage. The program may utilize, but will not be restricted to, district-provided curriculum.

Student Communication

Schools will be required to inform students, faculty and staff during the daily announcements about the daily UV Index and the need for sun protection. The communication will also include, but will not be limited to, in-school posters and available educational materials.

Parent-Guardian Communication

Schools will be required to inform parents and guardians about the importance of, and strategies for, preventing sunburn and skin cancer. The communication will include, but will not be limited to, details of the school policy or procedures relating to hats, sun-protective clothing, sunscreen usage, uniforms, and sunglasses. Schools should use all available means of communication including, but not limited to, district website and email to urge families to reinforce sun safe behavior outside the school and to support the school's sun safety programs.

Staff

Schools will be required to educate their teachers and staff about the impact of UV and skin cancer prevention, including sun protection and early detection methods, and teachers and staff will be required to model sun safe behavior for students.

Health Services

School nurses, health educators, athletic trainers and school health resource specialists will be required to promote, reinforce, and support sun protection and skin cancer prevention efforts for students and their families and staff.

Implementation and Evaluation

Schools will be required to annually evaluate and revise their sun safety programs, policies and procedures. Schools will be required to implement sun safety programs all year.