

SAFETY PROGRAM

The Weston School Committee is committed to creating and maintaining a safe environment for learning, teaching, and all other facets of the Weston Public Schools enterprise. The Committee recognizes that safety and security are everyone's proper concern and that when home, school, and community cooperate by instruction and example, frequency and/or severity of accidents is reduced.

Accidents are undesirable, unplanned occurrences that may result in tragic consequences – bodily harm, loss of school time, property damage, legal action, and even fatality. The administration and staff are directed to take every reasonable precaution to protect the safety of all students, employees, visitors and others present on school property or at school-sponsored events, including through the development of appropriate regulations and measures in conformance with state and local statutes and regulations and with recommended accident prevention and liability avoidance practices.

In keeping with a philosophy of promoting the growth and well being of each member in its community, and with the awareness that no community is immune from the experience of tragedy, the Committee directs the Administration to create and periodically update district-wide and school-specific guidelines and plans for response to and management of crisis situations, including fire or other destructive events, civil emergencies, and natural disasters.

The Superintendent is urged to organize and maintain a school safety council or to utilize existing committees and councils to advise him/her and the Committee on matters of safety: to recommend emergency response guidelines and practices; to offer resources and advice before, during and following school crises; to suggest the organization and execution of crisis drills and exercises; to provide expertise and training to staff; and to periodically evaluate the schools' emergency preparedness.

The consciousness of and practice of safety shall also be considered a facet of the instructional plan of the Weston Public Schools by supporting educational programs in traffic, bicycle, and pedestrian safety, fire prevention, emergency procedures, sanitation, public health, occupational safety, etc., appropriately geared to students at different grade levels.

Each principal shall be responsible for the supervision of safety and safety education programs for his/her school, and the Superintendent or his/her designee shall have overall responsibility for the safety program of the system. General areas of emphasis shall include, but not be limited to: training of staff and volunteers; accident record-keeping; plant inspection; driver and vehicle safety programs; fire prevention; school site oversight; appropriate signage; and emergency procedures and traffic safety practices applicable to students, employees, and the community.

Adopted November 21, 2011