

SAFETY REPORT TO BOARD OF EDUCATION

12/11/2016

The school district is committed to providing and maintaining a safe and healthful work environment. Policy No. 3240 Safety (enclosure) provides guidance for the programs established at Arlington Public Schools. This report captures elements that have been established to create and promote the desired working environment.

1. Safety Committee – State law mandates the existence of a Safety Committee. In 1993 the Nebraska Legislature enacted a statute which requires each employer to have a “safety committee” whose purpose is to reduce workers compensation costs for all employers through enhanced safety and health in the workplace. The current committee has assumed responsibilities that extend past this limited description. Serving on the safety committee are: Co-Chair/Recording Secretary –Shirley Holck, School Nurse; Co-Chair - Lynn Johnson, Superintendent; Cheryl Pittman, Assistant Director of Transportation; Lawrence Reed, Director of Buildings and Grounds; Julie French, Director of Food Service; Erin Schaapveld, Jacque Morgan, Steve Johnson and Cindy Martens, Elementary Representatives; Jennifer Preissler, James Shada and Luke Brenn, Secondary Representatives. The Safety Committee meets 4-5 times a year and/or when necessary. Standing agenda items include:

1. Review of Quarterly Reports (workman comp claims and property claims)
2. Review of any accident reports (students and staff)
3. Discussion of required drills
4. Discussion of immediate safety concerns
5. Discussion of inspections

A variety of safety issues have been identified, discussed and addressed as a result of these committee meetings. Various committee members are tasked with completing building inspections and those are discussed at committee meetings. Minutes from these meetings are available to all staff through Google docs.

2. Loss Control Program - The district is insured by ALICAP (All Lines Interlocal Cooperative Aggregate Pool.) Each district that is served by ALICAP is provided a loss control consultant who reviews the district practices and protocols on an annual basis. Our current experience modifier for workers compensation is .91. This is consistent with the state average. The following chart represents our experience modifier for a 10 year period:

2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
0.84	0.83	1.01	1.07	1.21	0.91	0.95	0.96	0.95	0.92	0.91

Arlington Public Schools has used SafeSchools online training courses since 2012 which is provided as a service to ALICAP members. Shirley Holck assigns and manages the training modules. The chairs of the safety committee determine the trainings and the safety committee as a whole reviews the training plan. All employees, including substitutes, participate in training programs. In addition to SafeSchools training, identified staff are required to complete online Suicide Prevention training. Coaches completed training on

heat acclimatization and heat illness prevention. Program supervisors and building principals are tasked with ensuring that staff members complete the assigned trainings.

3. Emergency Procedures – Each room on both campuses have an Emergency Quick Reference guidebook in an easy to find location. This guidebook contains information pertinent to most emergency situations that may arise. At the beginning of each school year, the basic information contained within the guidebook is reviewed by supervisors of the various buildings and/or departments with their staff. Staff reviews the information with students. Arlington Public Schools utilizes Standard Response Protocol (SRP).

- a. Fire Drills (Evacuate): As required by law we have fire drills (both announced and unannounced) at least 10 times per year.
- b. Lockout and Lockdown - Are practiced once each semester.
- c. Severe Weather Procedures (Shelter): Are practiced once in the fall and again in the spring.
- d. Bus Evacuation: All students participate in a bus evacuation drill at least once a year. Route students participate once each semester. Students who serve as Bus Evacuation Assistants receive an annual training session. Karen Toebben provided that training this year. That training included specifics of how to release emergency hatches, find and deploy fire extinguishers, how to turn off the bus and brake the bus, and basic first aid information.
- e. Medical Emergencies – Head coaches at all levels are trained in CPR, AED, and basic first aid by school nurse or designee. All coaches must also complete concussion training which is done online and provided by the National Federation of State High School Association. The district has identified a *Staff Emergency Response Team* who may be call to respond to medical emergencies.

5. Nebraska Department of Education School Safety and Security Standards - NDE has adopted new School Safety and Security Standards and related guidance. The new standards are broken down into four distinct areas: Prevention, preparedness, response, recovery. Each of the four standard areas are broken into indicators. There are a total of fifty distinct implementation indicators. All districts were asked to complete a self-assessment and to report to the State School Security Director. That task has been completed for this school year. We are in the process of scheduling an onsite visit with NDE. The new law requires each district appoint a ‘safety committee’ to conduct the self-assessment and to craft an All-Hazards Plan. The scope of the current safety committee already includes some of these elements. The committee has discussed further extending their scope to embrace the new charge identified by NDE.