

## **2.005 School Safety**

Safety is critical to creating a learning environment in which students can succeed. Staff and students share the responsibility for taking reasonable precautions and following established safety measures to create and maintain safe schools.

### **Health and Safety Standards**

In accordance with GS 115C-218.75, Ascend Leadership Academy will meet the same health and safety requirements the local administrative unit. ALA will provide parents and guardians with information about meningococcal meningitis and influenza and their vaccines at the beginning of every school year. This information shall include the causes, symptoms, and how meningococcal meningitis and influenza are spread and the places where parents and guardians may obtain additional information and vaccinations for their children. ALA will provide parents and guardians with information about cervical cancer, cervical dysplasia, human papillomavirus, and the vaccines available to prevent these diseases. This information shall be provided at the beginning of the school year to parents of children entering grades five through 12.

ALA will also provide students in grades seven through 12 with information annually on the preventable risks for preterm birth in subsequent pregnancies, including induced abortion, smoking, alcohol consumption, the use of illicit drugs, and inadequate prenatal care. ALA will provide students in grades nine through 12 with information annually on the manner in which a parent may lawfully abandon a newborn baby with a responsible person, in accordance with G.S. 7B-500.

Ascend Leadership Academy will comply with the guidelines for individual diabetes care plans adopted by the State Board of Education under G.S. 115C-12(31) and ensure that plans are appropriately implemented for students with diabetes.

ALA will comply with G.S. 115C-375.2A. The board of directors of Ascend Leadership Academy shall provide the school with a supply of emergency epinephrine auto-injectors necessary to carry out the provisions of G.S. 115C-375.2A. This includes training school personnel to provide emergency aid, developing an emergency action plan, and locking up at minimum two epinephrine auto-injectors on the school property.

### **Supervision of Students**

Students must be reasonably supervised while in the care and custody of the school system. This supervision must occur throughout school hours, including during class, between classes, on the playground, and during recess or lunch periods; during authorized school field trips; and on school buses. Reasonable precautions should be taken to protect the safety of students on school grounds and on buses before, during and after school.

### **Care of School Buildings and Grounds**

The Managing Director of Ascend Leadership Academy shall inspect the school buildings and grounds on a regular basis for health, fire and safety hazards. The Managing Director must notify the Board chair immediately of repairs needed in order to meet safety standards.

Any staff member who observes any potential hazard must immediately notify the Managing Director. Proper signs indicating potential danger must be posted wherever appropriate.

The chief administrator must provide copies of floor plans of all school buildings and site plans showing campus boundaries and access points to local law enforcement and emergency management agencies.

### **Procedures to address Safety concerns and Emergencies**

School Safety Plan: The Managing Director shall direct the development of a School Safety plan which shall be reviewed and updated (and/or revised) annually by the school staff. The Plan shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, provisions for the following:

- management of disruptive and/or dangerous student behavior, and on-site training for key personnel;
- procedures for the safe conduct of students to and from the building(s), fields, playgrounds, parking lots, pick-up and drop-off areas, and on and off the school property;
- fire and emergency weather procedures and provisions for student drills to ensure familiarity with procedures that might well keep them safe in the event of such emergencies;
- campus lockdown and evacuation procedures and drills;
- procedures to ensure student safety when leaving school before the end of the day and when arriving at school after the day begins;
- procedures for student handling of potentially dangerous equipment and materials;
- procedures for the handling and management of sudden medical emergencies affecting both students and staff members, as well as on-campus visitors;
- procedures for ongoing staff training in CPR, use of portable defibrillators and other standard emergency equipment, and other such specialized knowledge and skill as the Principal, the PAC, the staff, and/or the Board shall deem necessary and advisable;
- the use of approved and authorized volunteers as security patrol personnel at key times and during special events, and training for same;
- safe workplace guidelines and expectations for the staff; and
- management of visitors' access to students, facilities, and staff while on-campus as well as procedures to document their presence and activities during visits.

School Rules and Training: The Managing Director shall establish a written set of rules to help prevent accidents in buildings, on school grounds, or on the playgrounds. Staff training shall include instruction in being alert and able to recognize and respond to behavior, information, and

related indicators which warn of impending problems. In addition, as a part of instruction, school personnel shall teach and review with students the school's safety procedures and precautions for handling chemicals or potentially dangerous equipment and for responding to threats to school safety.

Ascend Leadership Academy shall practice emergency drills on a regular basis.

Reporting Harassment/Bullying/Suspicious Behavior: Students should notify any staff member of any acts of violence, harassment, bullying or any other unusual or suspicious behavior that may endanger anyone's safety. Ongoing student education efforts will aim at minimizing any fear, peer pressure, embarrassment, or other impediments to students reporting potential problems.

Maintaining a safe school environment that is conducive to learning also requires the school's staff to be proactive in dealing with violence, harassment, and bullying. Staff members must report immediately to the Principal any information reported by a student or their own observation of unusual or suspicious behavior or acts of violence, harassment or bullying. The Managing Director is required to investigate and act upon any reports of such behavior including, when appropriate, reporting criminal activities to law enforcement and the Board chair.