

5. Safety and Security.

The school leader, in consultation with the Operating Board, will establish a School Safety Committee to serve as a clearing house for the discussion of issues, policies and practices related to the safety of students, parents and staff. Committee representation will include, but may not be limited to, the school leadership team, teachers, the school nurse, the custodian and a parent.

Building Access

In the interest of safety for students, staff, and visitors, “controlled access” to the school facility will be maintained at all times. A security system will provide visual live feeds of all building entrance locations, as well as other key spaces inside and outside the building. All outside doors will remain locked from the outside, except during student arrival and dismissal times. Visitor access will be restricted to the main entrance – all guests must present proper identification and comply with all ‘guest pass’ procedures before being allowed to pass beyond the main entrance. All students and staff will be required to wear photo ID badges while on school premises. Guest sign-in procedures will be established.

Healthcare

Assuring a safe and healthy environment for students and staff will be of the highest importance. SMS will hire a registered nurse who will be responsible for operating under the requirements issued by the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE). SMS will implement a comprehensive set of health, safety, and risk management policies and practices, which will be communicated to parents, students and staff as part of enrollment procedures and various orientation programs. The school will maintain diligence in communications to parents, staff and students about urgent health issues, and will make every effort to employ best practices in managing the health and safety of students, staff and guests. The school leader will assemble a safety committee composed of stakeholders that meet quarterly and conduct a yearly audit. The school leader will maintain responsibility for oversight and management of health and safety policies and practices.

Phone/Texting Notification System

SMS will use an automated school notification system or similar to improve communications between the school and home and to provide important safety notifications to parents and guardians. This system for communication will provide notifications about school closings, delays, early dismissals, emergency notifications, attendance calls, bus route notifications, lockdown communications, activity reminders, lunch balance reminders, and parent polls and surveys.

Background Checks

As part of the pre-employment process, all employees and CMO-related staff will be required to complete a criminal background check (CBC). In addition, the Child Abuse Registry (CAR) will be checked through Department of Services for Children, Youth and Families (DSCYF). The school leader, with support from the Operating Board, will maintain due diligence in following the

regulations for CBC's and CAR's for volunteers. Results will be maintained in a secure file, separate from personnel files; and, available for authorized inspection. The School leader, with support from the Operating Board, will be directly responsible for ensuring that criminal background and child abuse registry checks are initiated, completed and appropriately documented prior to an individual staff member's employment or board member's appointment.

Comprehensive School Safety Plan (CSSP)

In accordance with the Omnibus School Safety Act, the School Safety Committee will work with the Department of Safety and Homeland Security (DSHS) to develop and maintain a comprehensive site-specific safety and emergency preparedness plan in compliance with the national Incident Management System (NIMS). Following the approval of the school's charter, the School leadership team will reach out to DSHS to begin the Plan's development.