

# Policy on Health and Safety

## **PURPOSE:**

Education Code 32286 includes requirements for each school under its authority to adopt a comprehensive school safety plan. The Board of BRIDGES Charter School (“BRIDGES”) recognizes that students and staff have the right to a safe and secure campus where they are free from physical and psychological harm.

## **SCOPE:**

This policy shall serve as the BRIDGES policy and procedures for Health and Safety. It shall direct strategies, plans and actions related to the Health and Safety of all BRIDGES affiliates.

## **GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT:**

The Board is fully committed to maximizing school safety and to creating a positive learning environment that includes strategies for violence prevention and high expectations for student conduct, responsible behavior, and respect for others. As such, the Board will establish and the Director will execute a comprehensive school safety plan.

## **POLICY DETAILS:**

1. Comprehensive Safety Plan
  - 1.1 The BRIDGES Director shall develop a comprehensive school safety plan (“Safety Plan”). The Safety Plan shall take into account the school's staffing, available resources, and building design, as well as other factors unique to the site.
  - 1.2 The Safety Plan shall take into account the school's staffing, available resources, and building design, as well as other factors unique to the site.
  - 1.3 The Safety Plan shall be reviewed and updated by September 1 of each year unless an alternative deadline is agreed to in advance by the Board.
  - 1.4 The Director shall forward the Safety Plan to the Board for approval.
  - 1.5 The Board shall review the Safety Plan in order to ensure compliance with State Law and Board policies.
  - 1.6 The Board shall approve the plan at a regularly scheduled meeting.

1.7 The director or designee shall ensure that an updated file of all safety-related plans and materials is readily available for inspection by the public.

## 2. Environmental Safety

1.2 The Board recognizes its obligation to provide a safe and healthy environment at school facilities for students, staff, and community members. The Director or designee shall coordinate with CVUSD administration to regularly assess school facilities to identify environmental health risks. He/she shall establish a comprehensive plan to prevent and/or mitigate environmental hazards based on a consideration of the proven effectiveness of various options, anticipated short-term and long-term costs and/or savings to the district, and the potential impact on staff attendance, student attendance, and student achievement.

2.2 Strategies addressed in the plan shall include, but not necessarily be limited to , the following;

2.1.1. Ensuring good indoor air quality by maintaining adequate ventilation; using effective maintenance operations to reduce dust, mold, mildew, and other indoor air contaminants; and considering air quality in the site selection, design, and furnishing of new or remodeled facilities

2.1.2. Limiting outdoor activities when necessary due to poor outdoor air quality, including excessive smog, smoke, or ozone, or when ultraviolet radiation levels indicate a high risk of harm

2.1.3. Reducing exposure to diesel exhaust and other air contaminants by limiting unnecessary idling of school buses and other commercial motor vehicles

2.1.4. Minimizing exposure to lead in paint, soil, and drinking water

2.1.5. Inspecting facilities for naturally occurring asbestos and asbestos- containing building materials that pose a health hazard due to damage or deterioration and safely removing, encapsulating, enclosing, or repairing such materials

2.1.6. Ensuring the proper storage, use, and disposal of potentially hazardous substances

2.1.7. Ensuring the use of effective least toxic pest management practices

2.3 In developing strategies to promote healthy school environments, the Executive Director or designee may consult and collaborate with local environmental protection agencies, health agencies, and other community organizations.

2.4 The Director or designee shall provide maintenance and facilities staff, bus drivers, teachers, and other staff as appropriate with professional development regarding their responsibilities in implementing strategies to improve and maintain environmental safety at the school.

2.5 The Director or designee shall notify the Board, staff, parents/guardians, students, and/or governmental agencies, as appropriate, if an environmental hazard is discovered at the school site. The notification shall provide information about actions to remedy the hazard and may recommend health screening of staff and students.

### 3. Hazardous Substances

3.1 The Board recognizes that potentially hazardous substances are used in the daily operations of our schools. The Director or designee shall ensure these substances are inventoried, used, stored and regularly disposed of in a safe and legal manner.

3.2 Insofar as possible, the Director or designee shall minimize the quantities of hazardous substances stored on school property and shall substitute less dangerous materials for hazardous substances.

#### 3.3 Hazard Communication Program

3.3.1 The Director or designee shall develop, implement and monitor a written hazard communication program in accordance with state law. As part of this program, he/she shall ensure that employees are fully informed about the properties and potential hazards of substances to which they may be exposed and that material safety data sheets are readily accessible to them.

3.3.2 Teachers shall instruct students about the importance of proper handling, storage, disposal and protection when using any potentially hazardous substance.

### 4. Disruptions

4.1 In order to help maintain an educational environment that provides for student safety, the Board is committed to keeping the schools free from disruptions and to keeping unauthorized persons from entering school grounds. The Director or designee shall provide for the prompt removal of any individual from school grounds who disrupts or threatens to disrupt normal school operations, threatens the health and safety of students or staff, or threatens to cause property damage in accordance with law or Board policy. (This policy is intended to cover the disruption of school activities by non-students. For language regarding disturbances by students see the Student Discipline Policy. Employees who cause a disruption may be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Personnel Policy.)

4.2 The Director or designee shall establish a plan describing actions to be taken, including staff responsibilities, when an individual is causing a disruption. In developing such a plan, the Director or designee shall consult with law enforcement to create guidelines for law enforcement support and intervention in the event of a disruption.

4.3 School staff shall be trained to recognize when an individual has committed acts that constitute a disruption in violation of Board policy. Staff who believes that a disruption may occur shall immediately contact the Director.

4.4 Gun Free School Zone - Possession of unauthorized firearms, weapons, or other dangerous instruments is prohibited within 1,000 feet of school grounds without the written permission of school authorities. (Penal Code 626.9, 626.10)

4.5 The Director or designee may direct a person to leave school grounds when there is a reasonable basis for concluding that the person is committing, or has entered campus with the purpose of committing, an act that is likely to interfere with the peaceful conduct, discipline, good order, or administration of school activities or with the intent to inflict damage on any person or property. He/she may also ask a person to leave who uses loud and/or offensive language which could provoke a violent reaction or a person who has otherwise established a continued pattern of unauthorized entry on school grounds. This shall not apply if that person is a student, school employee, or other person required by his employment to be on school grounds. (Penal Code 415.5, 626.7, 626.8)

4.6 The Director or designee may also direct a specified drug offender to leave school grounds, unless that person is a student at the school, a parent/guardian of a child attending the school, or he/she has prior written permission for entry from the Director or designee. (Penal Code 626.85)

4.7 When directing any person to leave school premises, the Director or designee shall inform the person that he/she will be guilty of a crime if he/she:

4.7.1 Remains after being directed to leave (Penal Code 626.8)

4.7.2 Returns to the campus without following the school's posted registration requirements (Penal Code 626.7)

4.7.3 Returns within seven days after being directed to leave (Penal Code 626.8, 626.85)

4.8 The Director or designee may direct a person who is required to register as a sex offender to immediately leave school grounds, unless he/she is on school grounds for lawful business and with the Director's permission. If such a person does not leave school grounds, the Director or designee shall inform the person that he/she may be guilty of a crime. The Director or designee shall notify law enforcement as appropriate.

4.9 Appeal Procedure

4.9.1 Any person who is asked to leave a school building or grounds may appeal to the Director or designee. This appeal shall be made no later than the second school day after the person has departed from the school building or grounds.

4.9.2 After reviewing the matter with the person making the appeal, the Director or designee shall render his/her decision within 24 hours after the appeal is made, and this decision shall be binding.

4.9.3 The decision of the Director or designee may be appealed to the Board. Such an appeal shall be made no later than the second school day after the Director or designee has rendered his/her decision. The Board shall consider and decide the appeal at its next scheduled regular or adjourned regular public meeting. The Board's decision shall be final.

## 5. Sex Offender Notification

5.1 In order to protect students while they are traveling to and from school, or attending school or a school-related activity, the Board believes it is important that BRIDGES respond appropriately when a law enforcement agency notifies BRIDGES about registered sex offenders who may reside or work within district boundaries.

5.2 The Director or designee shall establish an ongoing relationship with law enforcement officials to coordinate the receipt and dissemination of such information. To the extent authorized by law, the Director or designee also shall establish procedures for notifying appropriate staff as necessary.

5.3 To protect BRIDGES and its employees from liability, employees shall disseminate sex offender information in good faith, and only in the manner and to the extent authorized by the law enforcement agency.

5.4 The Director or designee may annually notify parents/guardians of the availability of information about registered sex offenders on the Department of Justice's Internet website.

### **NON-COMPLIANCE TO POLICY:**

Lack of adherence to this policy by BRIDGES personnel may result in the employee being subject to disciplinary action in accordance with Board disciplinary policy and administrative regulations.

### **GOVERNANCE:**

The Director and BRIDGES Board will be responsible for monitoring adherence to the policy.

### **REVIEW CYCLE:**

The BRIDGES Board will be responsible for reviewing the policy every two years or more frequently as required.

BOARD APPROVED ON October 20, 2011