

Board Policy JHCDB

SAFE EXPOSURE TO THE SUN

PURPOSE

The Board of Trustees ("Board") adopts this policy to express the intent and belief that safe exposure to the sun is vital in keeping students safe and healthy. Through this policy the Mineral County School District ("District") seeks to provide sun safety and skin cancer prevention and awareness. Students, staff, and volunteers are encouraged to use sunscreen and protective clothing to protect against dangerous overexposure to the sun, harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays, and the development of skin cancer.

RATIONALE

Nevada Senate Bill 159, which became law July 1, 2019, requires public and private schools to implement a sun safety policy and to allow students to possess and self-administer sunscreen in school settings. SB 159 specifies that sunscreen must not be considered an over-the-counter medication.

DEFINITIONS

1. "Sunscreen" refers to a topical product applied to the skin and approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration to prevent damage caused from overexposure to the sun.
2. Ultraviolet radiation, or "UV ray", from sunlight is a major risk factor for most skin cancers. Even though UV rays make up only a very small portion of the sun's rays, they are the main cause of the sun's damaging effects on the skin.
3. "PABA free" means that the product does not contain para-amino benzoic acid. PABA free sunscreens are hypoallergenic. PABA has been known to cause problems with some individuals with certain allergies.

POLICY

1. Use of Sunscreen
 - a. Students shall be allowed to carry and apply sunscreen without a physician's note or prescription, and shall not be considered an over-the-counter medication. Unless they are siblings, students may not share sunscreen.
 - b. Neither staff nor volunteers shall be required to provide or apply sunscreen to students. However, staff may assist a student who is unable to physically apply sunscreen when requested by the student and authorized by the student's parent/guardian and the principal or designated administrator in writing.

2. Protective Clothing

- a. Any student, staff, or volunteer participating in or supervising an outdoor school activity or at an outdoor district/school-sponsored activity shall be permitted and encouraged to:
 - i. Wear clothing designed to protect against exposure to the sun, including, but not limited to, hats which cover the ears and back of the neck.
 - 1. Such clothing shall comply with the District's dress code.

3. Other Protective Measures

- a. Students, staff, and volunteers when engaged in outside activities are also encouraged to:
 - i. Limit exposure to the sun, or seek shade, during mid-day, especially from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., when excessive UV rays are present;
 - ii. Use a PABA free sunscreen and lip balm product, such as SPF 30+, thirty (30) minutes before engaging in outside activities and reapply at least every two (2) hours as necessary for the particular outdoor activity/event; and
 - iii. Wear sunglasses, which block the majority of UV rays and reduce the potential for cataract formation.

4. The Superintendent is delegated the authority to adopt administrative regulations and procedures necessary to implement the provisions of this policy. That may include, but is not limited to:

- a. Granting exceptions to the student dress code regulations when safe exposure to the sun necessitates such exceptions; and
- b. Implementation of sun safety and skin cancer prevention and awareness lessons and activities in schools.