

## **Seymour High School 2024-25 Safe School Climate Plan**

The Safe School Climate Committee includes the principal, assistant principal, director of security, school psychologist, school counselors, school social workers, a student representative, a parent of a student, and teacher representatives. The committee meets annually to discuss school-wide initiatives aimed at promoting and sustaining a positive school climate.

At the beginning of each school year, the administration addresses parents electronically and all staff members in person to review policies related to school climate. The school periodically revisits climate expectations, emphasizing that mean behavior, harassment, and bullying are unacceptable. Parents are surveyed biennially about school climate, and feedback from these surveys informs the development and modification of our Safe School Climate Plan, as well as the Parent Feedback Goal in our school improvement plan.

We prioritize the social-emotional wellness of our students as a fundamental component of their overall development. Our School Counseling Department is comprised of four dedicated counselors—including a coordinator and a counselor specializing in student transitions and English Learners, and psychologists and social workers who work collaboratively with both faculty and students to create a supportive environment for those facing emotional challenges.

To further enhance our approach, we also implement social-emotional learning groups that focus on equipping students with essential skills to navigate their feelings and relationships effectively. In addition, we conduct home visits to engage with families directly, ensuring that we understand and address the unique needs of each student.

Moreover, our team includes 1.6 social workers and a school psychologist, all of whom are readily available to support students in crisis. Together, we strive to foster resilience, emotional well-being, and a sense of belonging within our school community.

Students encountering academic challenges benefit from a nurturing environment tailored to support their success. In recent years, we have developed and implemented a proactive instructional support model that emphasizes early intervention through tutoring. This approach swiftly addresses academic struggles, enhancing student achievement and fostering a sense of belonging.

Additionally, we offer an Alternative Education Program for those who need a different learning pathway. To further support struggling students, we hold At-Risk Meetings to provide targeted interventions and resources. Our Freshmen Seminar introduces new students to essential skills and strategies for academic success, while our leveled courses ensure that each student receives instruction suited to their abilities. Together, these initiatives create a comprehensive support system that empowers all students to thrive.

Seymour High School is committed to enhancing the school culture and climate by reducing mean-spirited behavior and promoting student achievement. We celebrate positive academic and behavioral contributions through a variety of events, including Parent Visitation Nights, vibrant School Murals, World Kindness Day celebrations, community safety initiatives, clubs, sports, and our ninth-grade transition program, Link Crew. Additionally, we host an Honor Roll Breakfast to recognize outstanding

students and an Awards and Scholarship Night to honor academic and extracurricular excellence. Together, these initiatives foster a supportive and inclusive environment for all students.

To enhance the climate for staff, we promote active participation in professional development, organize special celebration days, and recognize teacher accomplishments. We also provide dedicated time for Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) every fourth day to encourage collaboration and camaraderie among departments.

A positive school culture is vital for fostering a healthy learning environment. The Safe School Climate Committee believes that all community members should have the opportunity to forge meaningful connections. Faculty are encouraged to celebrate special occasions, while students are given various avenues to enhance their ties to both the school and the broader community. The student council plays a key role in organizing spirit weeks and activities to promote school spirit. Additionally, student representatives attend Board of Education meetings to voice ideas and concerns to board members.

In support of a restorative school culture, we emphasize the importance of repairing relationships and building a sense of belonging among students. This approach encourages open dialogue and promotes accountability, allowing students to reflect on their actions and learn from their experiences. Together, these initiatives create a supportive and inclusive environment where every student can thrive.

Seymour High School outlines behavioral and academic expectations in the Student-Parent Handbook, which can be accessed on our school webpage and is distributed electronically at the start of each school year. It is essential for students to read the handbook, especially the code of conduct, and to sign it to confirm their understanding of its contents. The handbook encompasses vital policies, including the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy #5131.911.

At the beginning of each school year, students will review and discuss significant sections of the handbook during extended homeroom sessions, providing an opportunity for them to ask questions and engage in meaningful discussions with both peers and teachers.

Additionally, students and parents are encouraged to utilize Google Classroom for class assignments and communication and to stay informed through the PowerSchool Parent Portal, where academic progress and attendance can be monitored.

To ensure student safety during unstructured times, both certified and non-certified staff supervise students throughout the school. Upon arrival, the School Resource Officer (SRO), Security Guard, teachers, and paraprofessionals are strategically positioned in entrances, stairwells, and hallways during the morning. During lunch, the SRO, teachers, and paraprofessionals are present to monitor the serving area, cafeteria, and restrooms. At dismissal, the SRO, security guard, and faculty oversee the bus exits and parking areas to maintain a secure environment.