



MERCER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT



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September 15, 2025

Dear Parents and Families,

The safety and well-being of children in our schools is our top priority. As you may be aware, there was a confirmed incident of an individual entering a locker room and distributing a liquid named Methylene Blue to several football players on September 5, 2025.

In light of these recent events and in an effort to remain transparent, the following actions have been taken by the District as of the date of this letter.

1. All parents of students who may have been exposed to this incident have been notified.
2. The individual involved in the incident has been banned from all District property, including public extracurricular events.
3. Local law enforcement has been notified of the incident.
4. Child line has been notified of the incident.
5. A review of procedure regarding building and locker room access and supervision has been done and recommendations have been implemented.
6. A copy of policy 340 – Responsibility for Student Welfare is being sent to all school personnel, including coaches and advisors.

We will continue to enhance and review our site security in an on-going manner. Additionally, we will continue to work with local law enforcement and emergency services to ensure the best practices are implemented for the safety of our children.

Sincerely,

Ronald R. Rowe, Jr., Ed.D.
Superintendent
Mercer Area School District



Book	Policy Manual
Section	300 Employees
Title	Responsibility for Student Welfare
Code	340
Status	Active
Legal	1. 24 P.S. 510 2. Pol. 705 3. Pol. 805
Adopted	February 27, 2023

Authority

The Board adopts this policy **to** ensure **appropriate oversight of and responsibility for** student welfare **by administrative, professional and classified employees.**[\[1\]](#)

District employees are responsible for the safety of students in their charge within **school** buildings and on **district** property.

Each employee **is responsible** for supervision, control and protection of students, commensurate with assigned duties and **directives**.

Each **employee is responsible to** ensure that **students are supervised by a teacher or other staff member at all times while engaged in district activities.**

An employee should not voluntarily assume responsibility for duties **the employee** cannot reasonably perform. Voluntary assumption carries the same responsibilities as assigned duties.

Teachers **and designated staff shall** provide proper instruction in **and enforcement of** safety **rules and procedures included in the Board-approved health and safety plan and** assigned curriculum.[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)

Each **employee** has the responsibility to report immediately to the **building principal or designated staff** an accident, safety hazard, **unsafe or dangerous condition, or to immediately address observed violations of district safety rules.**[\[2\]](#)

Employees may not send students on any personal errands.

Employees may not transport students in a personal vehicle, except when specifically **authorized by the building principal or designee.**

Employees shall not require a student to perform services that may be detrimental to the student's health.

Delegation of Responsibility

Building principals shall monitor employees' adherence to this policy to ensure the maintenance of standards that protect student welfare.

Building principals shall annually develop and implement a plan of supervision for the following:

- 1. Student arrivals and departures, including buses.**
- 2. Halls, restrooms and playgrounds.**
- 3. Cafeteria.**
- 4. Before and after school.**
- 5. Field trips.**
- 6. School activities.**