



To: DFSD Administration, Faculty, and Staff
From: Ken Slentz, Superintendent
Date: September 2026
Re: District policy and procedure

Policies should be viewed as more than just rules that are imposed. They are tools that enable us to provide the best possible education for our students. Whether in our district, in another district, or in any large organization, policies serve as the “rules of the road.” Many are required by state or federal law; others are recommended by our policy service or legal counsel based on court rulings and administrative decisions; and some originate from board or administrative recommendations. Taken together, our policies form a structured framework that ensures safety, consistency, fairness, and predictability across our school community.

District policies address a wide range of areas from student conduct to staff responsibilities, and are designed both to maintain a safe, secure, and welcoming environment for teaching and learning and support our mission of providing a high-quality education in a nurturing setting. A few key reasons why policies are essential include:

1. *Safety and Well-being*: Policies related to health, safety, and emergency procedures protect everyone in our schools, ensuring we maintain a safe space for teaching and learning.
2. *Consistency and Fairness*: Policies ensure that all students and employees are held to the same standards, promoting equity and justice. This consistency helps build trust and respect throughout our community.
3. *Legal and Ethical Compliance*: Adhering to policies helps us comply with state and federal regulations, preventing legal issues and ensuring we operate ethically within established guidelines.
4. *Academic Excellence*: Policies governing curriculum, assessment, instruction, and academic integrity uphold high standards of education, ensuring students receive a rigorous and equitable learning experience.
5. *Professionalism and Accountability*: Employee policies guide professional conduct and responsibilities, maintaining high standards of professionalism and accountability that strengthen our teaching and learning environment.

As we move forward, I encourage each of you to become familiar with the school policies most relevant to your role and responsibilities.

If you have any questions or need clarification, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any member of the administrative team.