

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Title: Schools At-Risk of Being Labeled Persistently Dangerous

Type of Executive Summary:

- Consent
- Action
- Action on First Reading
- Discussion
- Information

Policy Implications:

- Constitution _____
- General Statute # _____
- SBE Policy # HRS-A-006
- SBE Policy Amendment
- SBE Policy (New)
- APA # _____
- APA Amendment
- APA (New)
- Other No Child Left Behind

Presenter(s): Dr. Rebecca Garland (Chief Academic Officer, Academic Services and Instructional Support) and Mrs. Charlotte Hughes (Director, Program Monitoring and Support Division)

Description:

According to State Board of Education policy, a “persistently dangerous school” is a public elementary, middle or secondary school or a charter school in which a total of five or more violent criminal offenses were committed per 1000 students (0.5 or more per 100 students) during each of the two most recent school years and in which the conditions that contributed to the commission of those offenses are likely to continue into another school year. Two schools, Longview School in Wake County Public Schools and Metro School in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Schools, were reported to have .5 or more violent criminal offenses per 100 students during each of the two most recent school years. These data reflect incidents during the 2007-08 and the 2008-09 school years.

Resources:

Department of Public Instruction, Local Education Agencies (LEA)

Input Process:

Discipline data from LEAs, year-end data verification process

Stakeholders:

Students, teachers, staff, parents, community, and law enforcement agencies

Timeline For Action:

This item is presented for Action on First Reading at the September 2009 SBE meeting.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the State Board place these two schools on probationary status and that the Program Monitoring and Exceptional Children Divisions monitor during the 2009-10 school year.

Audiovisual equipment requested for the presentation:

- Data Projector/Video (Videotape/DVD and/or Computer Data, Internet, Presentations-PowerPoint preferred)
Specify: _____
 - Audio Requirements (computer or other, except for PA system which is provided)
Specify: _____
 - Document Camera (for transparencies or paper documents – white paper preferred)
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Motion By: _____ Seconded By: _____
Vote: Yes _____ No _____ Abstain _____
Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Postponed _____ Revised _____

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NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Policy Manual

Policy Identification

Priority: Healthy Students in Safe, Orderly & Caring Schools

Category: Safe Schools Program Guidelines

Policy ID Number: SS-A-006

Policy Title: Policy defining persistently dangerous schools

Current Policy Date: 06/06/2002

Other Historical Information:

Statutory Reference: 20 USCS 7912 (2002)

Administrative Procedures Act (APA) Reference Number and Category:

(This policy addresses Certification of Compliance with Unsafe School Choice Option Requirements as required in the *Consolidated Plan for No Child Left Behind*.)

1. The following definitions apply to this policy.
 - a. Violent criminal offenses are the following crimes as reported in the "*Report on School Crime and Violence*":
 - Homicide
 - Assault Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury
 - Assault Involving Use of a Weapon
 - Rape
 - Sexual Offense
 - Sexual Assault
 - Kidnapping
 - Robbery with a Dangerous Weapon
 - Robbery
 - Taking Indecent Liberties with a Minor
 - b. A persistently dangerous school is a public elementary, middle or secondary school or a charter school in which a total of five or more violent criminal offenses were committed per 1000 students (0.5 or more per 100 students) during each of the two most recent school years and in which the conditions that contributed to the commission of those offenses are likely to continue into another school year.
2. Along with the annual Report on School Crime and Violence, the Superintendent for each LEA shall write and inform the State Board of Education of:
 - a. All the public schools within that LEA that have reported a total of five or more violent criminal offenses were committed per 1000 students (0.5 or more per 100 students) during the most recent school year; and
 - b. All the public schools within that LEA that have reported a total of five or more violent criminal offenses were committed per 1000 students (0.5 or more per 100 students) during each of the two most recent school years.

3. No later than June 30 of any year, the chairman of the board of directors of the nonprofit corporation that holds the charter for a charter school shall notify the State Board of Education:
 - a. Whether five or more violent criminal offenses were committed per 1000 students (0.5 or more per 100 students) in a charter school during the most recent school year; and
 - b. Whether five or more violent criminal offenses were committed per 1000 students (0.5 or more per 100 students) in a charter school during each of the two most recent school years.
4. Whenever the State Board of Education has information that five or more violent criminal offenses were committed per 1000 students (0.5 or more per 100 students) in a public elementary, middle or secondary school or a charter school during each of the two most recent school years, the State Board of Education shall provide the local board of education or the nonprofit corporation that holds the charter for the school the opportunity to report on conditions in the school and any plans it may have to eliminate the conditions that contributed to the commission of the violent criminal offenses.
5. After consideration of that report and consultation with a representative sample of local educational agencies or charter schools, the State Board of Education shall determine whether the school is a persistently dangerous school, whether the school should be placed on probation, or whether no additional interventions are necessary to protect students from violent crimes.
6. During the probationary year, the school shall implement additional strategies to protect students from violent criminal offenses and incorporate them into the Safe Schools Plan.
7. If at any time during the probationary year, the State Board of Education determines that conditions that contributed to the commission of the violent criminal offenses in the school have not been eliminated, then the State Board of Education may determine that the school is a persistently dangerous school.
8. Once the State Board has determined that a school is a persistently dangerous school, the school shall retain that designation for at least one full school year.
9. Students assigned to a school which the State Board of Education has determined to be persistently dangerous shall be allowed to attend another school in the LEA which is not designated a persistently dangerous school, provided there is such a school in the LEA which offers instruction at the student's grade level.
10. Any student who is the victim of a violent criminal offense committed against him or her while he or she was in or on the grounds of a public elementary, middle or secondary school or charter school that he or she attends shall be allowed to attend another school in the LEA, provided there is such a school in the LEA which offers instruction at the student's grade level and provided the student's choice shall not be limited to persistently dangerous schools.
11. Local school systems shall establish a process for assuring any student who has the right to transfer from a school under this policy is allowed to transfer to a school in the LEA which is not persistently dangerous. The process must be included in the system's Safe School Plan.
12. The LEA shall report each student transfer effected pursuant to this policy to the State Board of Education in its "Report on School Crime and Violence."
13. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to grant any student the right to attend a charter school, grant any student a preference in admission to a charter school or limit a student's right to transfer from a charter school.

Schools at Risk of Being Labeled Persistently Dangerous

On-Site Visit Process

- Schedule visit with the principal and assistant principal.
- Observe student transitions as they enter and exit the school.
- Observe students during class and lunch transitions.
- Interview the principal, assistant principal, staff and students.
- Observe classroom instruction and bathroom breaks.
- Use *School and Classroom Visitation* and *Persistently Dangerous Site Visitation Documentation Forms* for documenting findings.
- Review-
 - Disciplinary data for current and past school year
 - School profile
 - Safe Schools Crisis Management Plan and the School Improvement Plan
 - Staff and student/parent handbooks
 - Violence and intervention strategies and programs
 - School Behavior Expectation Matrix
 - Staff Development Plan
 - Faculty Meeting Minutes
- Offer written and verbal feedback to the principal on what was observed and make recommendations for improving the portfolio.

Technical Assistance for Identified Watch List Schools

The Program Monitoring and Support Division will provide technical assistance to the identified watch list schools as follows:

- A representative from each school and central office will be requested to attend a training facilitated by the Program Monitoring Section that will focus on the reportable offense definitions, infraction coding and a review of policies and procedures associated with the reportable offenses.
- Each identified school will have two monitoring visits, one in the fall and one in the spring of the current school year. A DPI consultant will provide assistance in the area of training and identification of reportable infractions.
- Each school's disciplinary data will be reviewed at the end of each semester, as opposed to the end of the year (June 30).
- Each school will be expected to use its mid-year disciplinary data in order to develop proactive strategies.
- Divisions of Program Monitoring and Support and District and School Transformation will work collaboratively to ensure that both divisions are aware of the schools listed on the watch list.

**Longview School
Wake County Schools
School Profile**

Background Information

- Longview School serves Wake County students in grades 6 through 12 who have been identified as in need of Special Education services and whose academic and behavioral needs require intensive and intrusive intervention. Students are placed at Longview as the result of an IEP team decision.
- The campus is located in east Raleigh near St. Augustine College and about a mile from Wake Medical Center.

- **2008-2009 Persistently Dangerous Discipline Data**
1 Sexual Assault (SA)
Final ADM 102
- **2007-2008 Persistently Dangerous Discipline Data**
1 Assault Resulting in Serious Injury (AR)
1 Assault Involving the Use of a Weapon (AW)
Final ADM 105

Findings

- Staff meetings include safety procedures; staff and students feel safe.
- Small classes (5-6 students) with a teacher and a TA.
- All staff supervise hallways during class changes.
- Staff supervises loading/unloading areas and cafeteria.
- Students are escorted individually to bathroom.
- Security cameras are in place.
- Crisis Team member deployed to defuse volatile behavioral situations.
- All staff trained in Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI).
- Every classroom has a Critical Incident Response Kit (CIRK).
- School Resource Officer (SRO) is shared with Phillips School, but spends most time at Longview.

Summary

Longview has safety procedures in place to support efforts to ensure a safe environment for staff and students. The school focuses on supervision of students to minimize disruptive behavior. The Crisis Team is used to deflect potential volatile situations.

**Metro School
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
School Profile**

Background Information

- Metro School serves Charlotte-Mecklenburg students in grades K-12 who are significantly cognitively disabled and who have been determined by their Individual Education Program (IEP) team to need the restrictiveness of a public separate school placement. Many students have severe medical and physical needs and have other multiple disabilities such as visual impairments, hearing impairments, and autism in addition to their cognitive challenges.
- The campus is located in downtown Charlotte adjacent to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools central office and within walking distance of commuter train stations, Charlotte Convention Center, and Central Piedmont Community College.
- **2008-2009 Persistently Dangerous Discipline Data**
1 Assault Resulting in Serious Injury (AR)
1 Assault Involving the Use of a Weapon (AW)
Final ADM 229
- **2007-2008 Persistently Dangerous Discipline Data**
1 Assault Resulting in Serious Injury (AR)
1 Taking Indecent Liberties with a Minor (IM)
Final ADM 195

Findings

- Behavior expectations are known among all staff.
- Every classroom has its own bathroom and is 100% supervised.
- Students are supervised from point to point.
- Staff meetings are used to debrief safety procedures.
- Every staff is trained in CPI.
- Each classroom has a CIRK kit.
- Students and staff feel safe.
- Cameras are utilized in the building.
- Teachers are versed in safety procedures.
- The school is well maintained for an apparent safe and orderly environment.
- Students and staff love their school.

Summary

Metro School is an inviting school with a wealth of amenities to support student learning. The administration at Metro adheres to safety procedures and ensures that the staff and students are safe at the school. Metro provided the necessary documentation to support that all efforts to ensure a safe environment for all students and staff are monitored daily.