

SAFETY POLICY

In accordance with the provisions of G.L. c. 71, section 37H, the school committee hereby adopts a safety policy on behalf of the students and staff of the Westfield Public Schools.

It is the goal and responsibility of the Westfield Public Schools to insure that all school programs and facilities are maintained at a consistent level designed to protect the health, safety and welfare of the students, employees and the public. In order to accomplish that objective, the school committee hereby adopts the following standards:

1. To implement procedures which provide for a safe physical environment for students, staff and the public on school grounds and at all school sponsored events.
2. To provide for ongoing safety and violence prevention education of students.
3. To implement procedures should an emergency arise.
4. To promote students and staff involvement in resolving conflict through mediation and dispute resolution.
5. To provide a program of bus safety.
6. To provide assistance to students and staff in crisis situations.
7. To continue a professional partnership with law enforcement officials.
8. To utilize legal authority available to control situations which represent a safety threat or risk.
9. To establish a discipline code, suspension and expulsion policy which supports these efforts.
10. To establish an ongoing safety committee.
11. To establish necessary policies to carry out and support this statutory mandate.
12. To offer training of students and staff to achieve these goals.

The responsibility of implementation of a safety program will rest with many individuals, including principals, teachers, custodial/maintenance employees and other staff, as directed by the superintendent of schools.

Adopted: September 8, 1998

Revised: April 1, 2013

Legal References: M.G.L. 71, § 37H