



To: DFSD Administration, Faculty, and Staff
From: Ken Slentz, Superintendent
Date: September, 2024
Re: District policy and procedure

Based on a number of questions and discussions during the past year regarding district policy and our adherence to it, I wanted to provide some background for your awareness, consideration, and additional discussion.

Importantly, policies must be viewed as more than simple rules that are imposed. They are tools that empower us to provide the best possible education for our students. Specifically, whether here or in any other district or any large organization for that matter, policies provide the proverbial rules of the road as many are required by state and federal law, others are recommended by our policy service or attorneys based on court rulings and state administrative acts, and some are the result of board and/or administrative recommendations. Taken together, our policies provide a structured framework that ensures consistency, fairness, predictability, and safety for all members of our school community.

[Our policies](#) cover a wide range of areas from student conduct to staff responsibilities and are designed not only to maintain a safe, secure, and welcoming environment for teaching and learning, but also to support our overarching mission to provide a high-quality education in a safe and nurturing environment. Here are a few key reasons why our policies are essential:

1. *Consistency and Fairness:* Policies ensure that all students and staff are held to the same standards, promoting equity and justice within our school. This consistency helps in building trust and respect among the school community.
2. *Safety and Well-being:* Policies related to health, safety, and emergency procedures are in place to protect everyone in our school. By following these policies, we ensure that our school remains a safe space for teaching and learning.
3. *Legal and Ethical Compliance:* Adhering to established policies helps us comply with state and federal regulations. This compliance is critical to avoid legal issues and to operate ethically within the guidelines provided by educational authorities.
4. *Academic Excellence:* Policies related to curriculum, assessment, instruction, and academic integrity are designed to uphold the highest standards of education. By following these policies, we ensure that our students receive a robust and fair education.
5. *Professionalism and Accountability:* Staff policies guide our professional conduct and responsibilities. They help us maintain a high standard of professionalism and hold us accountable for our actions, which is vital for fostering a positive and productive work environment.

As we move forward, I urge each one of you to familiarize yourselves with the school policies pertinent to your roles and responsibilities.

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