

FACILITIES

Policy 703 **(previously Policy 903)**

Safety Program (Buildings and Grounds)

The Board recognizes its responsibility to strive for the highest standards of safety in all facets of district facilities operations and supports the systematic identification and rectification of any deficiencies in buildings, grounds, equipment or operational procedures which jeopardize these standards.

The sites, properties, and equipment of district schools shall be maintained in safe and clean conditions. The Facilities Services Branch, under the general authority of the Superintendent of Schools, shall be responsible for the maintenance, cleanliness and safety of district buildings and grounds.

The Board also accepts its responsibility, towards its employees and its students, to provide so far as is possible a safe and healthy place in which to work and study. The Board directs the staff to take any reasonable steps to meet this responsibility, paying particular attention to:

1. The proper care and maintenance of the schools and other district facilities, properties and equipment;
2. Safe arrangements for the use, handling, storage, and transport of potentially dangerous articles and substances;
3. The provision of information, instruction, supervision, and training in safety habits and procedures, so that students and employees learn to recognize hazards and will contribute to their own safety and the safety of others;
4. The provision and maintenance of safe access to (and quick emergency exit from) places where people work and study;
5. The provision of safe and healthy work and study environment; and
6. The provision of emergency and first-aid facilities and training.

Without detracting from the primary responsibilities of teachers and administrators to ensure safe conditions in the schools, competent technical advice on health and safety matters will be sought outside of the District when this is necessary to assist those responsible.

No safety policy is likely to be successful unless it actively involves all occupants and users of district facilities. In this regard, the Board reminds employees of their duty to take care in their own work for the safety of themselves and their co-workers, and for the safety of students and the public. All district employees and students are expected to cooperate fully with the Board and the school administration in carrying out this safety policy in letter and in spirit.