

**UNSAFE SCHOOL CHOICE OPTION**

Sheridan County School District No. 2 does hereby adopt, in accordance with the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Policy adopted by the Wyoming Department of Education and in order to be in compliance with Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Section 8532, the following policy relating to unsafe school choice option:

**Definition of a Persistently Dangerous School (PDS):**

A school will be considered a persistently dangerous school if the following condition exists:

In any two consecutive years, the school has experienced felony-related expulsions for drugs, alcohol, weapons, or violent criminal offense (as defined below) that exceed an expulsion rate per year of two percent (2%) of the student body or four (4) students, whichever is higher, as figured from the most currently available year's enrollment.

**Definition of Violent Criminal Offense:**

For the purpose of the above definition a "violent criminal offense" shall mean homicide, rape, robbery, and/or aggravated assault (as defined by the Wyoming Violent Index Offenses).

Once the School District receives notice from the Wyoming Department of Education that one of its schools has been identified as a PDS, the District will:

1. Within (10) days of such notification, notify the parents of each student attending the school the state has identified it as a PDS.
2. Within ten (10) days of such notification offer all students the opportunity to voluntarily transfer to a "safe" public school within the district. If there is not a "safe" public school within the district, the district will explore other options, such as an agreement with a neighboring school district to accept transfer students.
3. For those students who accept the offer, complete the transfer within ten (10) days, or as near to ten (10) days as practicality allows.

4. Within (30) days of such notification develop a corrective action plan, including a timeline for implementation.

#### **In the Case of Voluntary Transfers**

- 1) The district will share with the student and/or parents upon request, available performance data from the various schools that are possible options for transfer and/or enrollment,
- 2) Guidelines for transfer will include:
  - a) Any in-district school of appropriate grade level that is within a practical distance.
  - b) A nearby out-of-district school at a practical distance if the receiving school agrees to take the student and pay the transportation costs. The potential out-of-district receiving school is not obligated to do either.
- 3) Transfers may be temporary or permanent, but must be in effect as long as the original school is identified as persistently dangerous. If the transfer is temporary, the parents shall be notified of the duration of the transfer and shall be allowed to request renewal of the transfer by making a written request to the superintendent or his/her designee.
- 4) This policy as it applies to a PDS allows the student the administrative option of attending a safer school. It neither compels a student to transfer to another school nor compels a receiving school out-of-district to pay for transportation costs. The transfer option is not applicable when no practical options are available.

#### **Corrective Action Plan**

The correction action plan must be submitted to WDE for approval. The WDE will provide technical assistance and monitor the district's actions throughout the system.

Note: All official expulsions relating to drugs, alcohol, weapons or violent criminal offenses which are used to determine whether a school is a PDS shall be reported to the Health & Safety Unit Director in the Wyoming Department of Education or such other person as required by WDE.

**Students Who Have Been Victims of a Violent Criminal Offense**

The district will provide safe school options, when possible, to a student who has been a victim of a violent criminal offense from another student at that same school, while in or on the grounds of the public school that the student attends:

1.The district will, within ten (10) days, offer an opportunity to voluntarily transfer to a safe public school within the district if one is available.

2.When another school is not available within the district, the district will review other appropriate options, such as an agreement with a neighboring district to accept the student.

**The District will Collect and Maintain Documentation:**

1. With victim information such as (incident date, incident number, and identity of perpetrator, if known) and maintain the data for a minimum of five (5) years for auditing and validation monitoring purposes.
  - a. To show that the parents of the victim of a violent criminal offense were offered the Unsafe School Choice Transfer Option.
  - b. Documentation reflecting when a transfer was requested and completed.

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