



**Responsible Office:** Office of Strategies

**BOARD POLICY 5640**  
**SAFE EXPOSURE TO THE SUN**

**PURPOSE**

The Board of Trustees (Board) adopts this Board Policy to express the intent and belief that safe exposure to the sun is vital in keeping students safe and healthy. Through this Board Policy and related documents and activities, the Washoe County School District (District) seeks to provide sun safety and skin cancer prevention and awareness. Students, employees, and volunteers are encouraged to use sunscreen and protective clothing to protect against dangerous overexposure to the sun, harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays, and the development of skin cancer.

**DEFINITIONS**

1. "PABA free" means that the product does not contain para-amino benzoic acid. PABA free sunscreens are hypoallergenic. PABA has been known to cause problems with some individuals with certain allergies.
2. "Sunscreen" refers to a topical product applied to the skin and approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration to prevent damage caused from overexposure to the sun.
3. Ultraviolet radiation, or "UV ray", from sunlight is a major risk factor for most skin cancers. Even though UV rays make up only a very small portion of the sun's rays, they are the main cause of the sun's damaging effects on the skin.

**POLICY**

1. Use of Sunscreen
  - a. Students shall be allowed to carry and apply sunscreen without a physician's note or prescription and shall not be considered an over-the-counter medication. Unless they are siblings, students may not share sunscreen; and
  - b. Neither employees nor volunteers shall be required to provide or apply sunscreen to students. However, employees may assist a student who is unable to physically apply sunscreen when requested by the student and authorized by the student's parent/guardian and the principal or designated administrator in writing.

## 2. Protective Clothing

- a. Any student, employee, or volunteer participating in or supervising an outdoor school activity or at an outdoor district/school-sponsored activity shall be permitted and encouraged to:
  - i. Wear clothing designed to protect against exposure to the sun, including, but not limited to, hats which cover the ears and back of the neck.
    - 1) Such clothing shall comply with the District's student dress code; and
    - 2) Schools that have mandatory student uniforms shall allow for flexibility in the student uniform when students are outside.

## 3. Other Protective Measures

- a. Students, employees, and volunteers when engaged in outside activities are also encouraged to:
  - i. Limit exposure to the sun, or seek shade, during mid-day, especially from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., when excessive UV rays are present;
  - ii. Use a PABA free sunscreen product thirty (30) minutes before engaging in outside activities; and
  - iii. Wear sunglasses which block the majority of UV rays and reduce the potential for cataract formation.

## 4. The Board hereby directs the Superintendent to adopt and Administrative Regulation to implement and maintain the purpose of this Board Policy. The Superintendent shall include in the Administrative Regulation the following provisions:

- a. Granting exceptions to the student dress code and student uniform regulations when safe exposure to the sun necessitates such exceptions; and
- b. Implementation of sun safety and skin cancer prevention and awareness lessons and activities in schools.

## **LEGAL REQUIREMENTS AND ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS**

1. This Board Policy reflects the goals of the District's Strategic Plan and aligns/complies with the governing documents of the District, to include:

- a. Board Policy 5105, Student Uniforms.
2. This Board Policy complies with Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) and Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) to include:
- a. Chapter 392, Pupils.

**REVISION HISTORY**

Date	Revision	Modification
10/15/2019	1.0	Adopted to comply with SB159 of the 2019 Nevada Legislative Session
03/23/2022	1.1	Updated format pursuant to Board Policy 9070