

POLICY

SOMERSET COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Date Reviewed: August 21, 2018	
Subject: Sun Exposure	Date Approved: August 21, 2018 Date Revised: Date Effective: September 4, 2018

1. PURPOSE

Somerset County Public Schools (along with the Maryland Department of Health Services and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, among other organizations) recognizes that the sun’s ultraviolet (UV) radiation can cause skin cancer. To help prevent the development of skin cancer, students shall receive instruction, encouragement, and environmental support to avoid overexposure to the sun when they are outdoors. Accordingly, Somerset County Public Schools will develop and implement sun safety program to afford protection for our students and staff against the harmful effects of UV rays.

2. PROCEDURE

The following elements will be addressed within each school’s Sun Safety Program:

Hats and Protective Clothing

Students shall be allowed, year-round, to wear articles of sun-protective clothing, including hats, when outdoors, and shall be encouraged to do so between March 1 and October 31. Schools may specify the type(s) of clothing and hats that are, or are not, permissible on campus. The principal or designee may assess school uniforms, including physical education uniforms, to determine if and how they might be modified to better protect students from exposure to UV rays.

Sunscreen and Lip Balm

Sunscreen and Lip Balm will be applied by staff for the Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students. Older students will apply their own sunscreen. Spray-type sunscreen products will be used.

Sunglasses

When students are outdoors they shall be allowed, year-round, to wear sunglasses that protect the eyes from UV rays, and they shall be encouraged to do so between March 1 and October 31. Schools may specify the type(s) of sunglasses that are, or are not, permissible on campus.

School Environment

The principal or designee of each school site shall survey the school campus to identify existing shaded areas, and non-shaded areas where the addition of shade would be practical and desirable. Priority shall be given to including ample shade in new construction plans and adding shade when remodeling school facilities.

Shade Options

During the time span of March 1 to October 31, the principal or designee shall optimize shade options for students and personnel, and shall encourage the utilization of existing shaded or indoor areas for congregation and recreation. As resources permit, outdoor activities shall be preferentially scheduled to occur before 10:00 a.m. or after 4:00 p.m. However, scheduling constraints shall not reduce the total time students engage in physical education or activity.

Instruction

Teachers shall provide education at each grade level, Kindergarten through 12 that relates to skin cancer, including information about the harmful effects of UV rays and recommended practices for preventing skin cancer.

Parent/Guardian Communication

Schools shall inform parents and guardians about the importance of, and strategies for, preventing skin cancer, and shall alert them that the risk of developing skin cancer is highest for individuals with lightly or moderately pigmented skin. The communication shall include, but shall not be limited to, details of the school policy relating to hats, sun-protective clothing, sunscreen usage, uniforms, and sunglasses. Schools shall also urge families to reinforce sun-safe behavior outside the school and to support the school's sun safety programs.

Personnel

All personnel shall be educated about skin cancer's impact and prevention, including sun protection methods. Employees shall be strongly encouraged to protect themselves from overexposure to the sun and to model sun-safe behavior for students between March 1 and October 31.

Health Services

School nurses, health educators, and school health resource specialists shall promote, reinforce, and support sun protection and skin cancer prevention efforts for students and their families, and for personnel.

Evaluation

Schools shall evaluate and revise sun safety programs, and address identified shade needs, annually.