



Safety message from Dr. Deena Bishop



The safety of our staff, students and visitors are our district's top priority. Our schools must be safe places for everyone who enters through our doors. As your superintendent, I am fully committed to this goal.

To meet our Destination 2020 goal, our school cultures must foster safe working environments. We can achieve this by promoting safe processes and behaviors. Accidents in our schools cost us more than \$5 million annually—this is money that could be redirected to our classrooms.

It is each of our responsibility to create and maintain a safe environment. Each of us is accountable for our own behavior; but equally important is we need to be willing to encourage safe actions of those around us and step forward when improvements are needed. Teamwork is the key to successfully fostering a safety culture.

The following principles will guide our efforts to maintain a safe place to work and learn:

- We are all safety leaders.
- Safety is at the forefront of all of our activities.
- Incidents and injuries can be prevented with good planning, recognition of hazards and helping each other avoid risky behaviors.
- We learn from injuries and near misses as a means to prevent them in the future.
- We expect each other not only to be safe at school, but to take safety home as well.
- We are never in such a hurry that we do something that isn't safe.

As a career educator, I know the best learning takes place in a safe and secure environment. I ask each of us to keep these safety principles in mind and develop habits to recognize, mitigate or avoid hazards. It's also important that we look out for and take care of each other.

Together, our district's culture will sustain a safe environment to work, teach, learn, prepare and educate all students for success in life.

