

**Southwest Georgia STEM Charter School**  
**Policy S20: Student Wellness and Safety Policy**  
**Adopted: September 17, 2020**

**I. Health Screenings**

- a. Southwest Georgia STEM Charter School requires that the parent or guardian of all students attending school in Georgia for the first time, under Georgia Law 20-2-770, provide the school with a properly executed Certificate of Vision, Hearing, Dental, and Nutritional Screening (GA Form 3300) dated within the 12 months prior to the date of enrollment prior to attending the school or within three months of the student's admission. This form is required for a student to attend school, unless any of the following situations exists:
  - i. Religious Exemption - A child may be exempt from the screening or any portion thereof if the parent or guardian furnishes the school a notarized statement that the required screening conflicts with the religious beliefs of the parent. The school must keep the notarized statement on file and forward the statement to any school the student may later attend.
  - ii. Each student's Certificate of Vision, Hearing, Dental, and Nutrition Screening or notarized document of religious exemption will be kept and maintained in the Southwest Georgia STEM Charter School Record's Room.
  - iii. If the student is transferring from another Georgia public school, the school from which the child is transferring must forward the Certificate of Vision, Hearing, Dental, and Nutrition Screening and any related follow-up information.
- b. Vision, hearing, dental, and nutrition screenings may be conducted by a physician with an active Georgia license or a person working under the supervision of a physician with an active Georgia license, by a local health department, or by a school registered nurse.
  - i. The vision portion of the screening may also be conducted by an optometrist with an active Georgia license or by an employee of Prevent Blindness Georgia who is trained in vision screening.
  - ii. The hearing portion of the screening may also be conducted by an audiologist or speech-language pathologist with an active Georgia license.
  - iii. The dental portion of the screening may also be conducted by a dentist or dental hygienist with an active Georgia license.
  - iv. The nutrition portion of the screening may also be conducted by a dietician with an active Georgia license. The Georgia Department of Public Health may conduct audits to ensure that the state charter school requires and maintains evidence that each child received the required vision, hearing, dental, and nutrition screening.

## **II. Suicide Prevention**

- a. The purpose of this policy is to protect the health and well-being of all students by developing policies and procedures to prevent, assess the risk of, intervene in, and respond to suicide and suicide threats or attempts.
- b. Southwest Georgia STEM Charter School will actively respond in any situation where a student verbally or behaviorally indicates an intent to attempt suicide or to do physical harm to himself/herself.
- c. The School shall:
  - i. Provide annual training in suicide awareness and prevention to all certified school personnel within the framework of existing in-service training programs offered by the Georgia Department of Education or as part of required professional development in accordance with state laws and rules established by the Georgia Department of Education.
  - ii. Establish a youth suicide prevention program to:
    1. Identify risk factors for youth suicide
    2. Establish procedures to intervene with such youth
    3. Identify referral services and resources.
    4. Identify resources and establish training for school personnel
    5. Identify resources for education of students regarding suicide and suicide prevention.
  - iii. The School Leader will provide training to the staff and shall use resources from the Georgia Department of Education. The training shall cover how to identify appropriate mental health services, both within the school and also within the larger community, and when and how to refer youth and their families to those services.

## **III. Concussion Management**

- a. Prior to the beginning of each season of any extracurricular athletic activity, all parents or legal guardians of participating students shall be provided an information sheet informing them of the nature and risk of concussion and head injury.
- b. If a student participating in an extracurricular athletic activity exhibits symptoms of having a concussion, he or she shall be removed from the activity and be examined by a healthcare provider.
- c. If a student is deemed by a healthcare provider to have sustained a concussion, the coach or other designated personnel shall not permit the student to return to play until he or she receives clearance from a healthcare provider for a full or graduated return to play.
  - i. As used in this policy, a “healthcare provider” means a licensed physician or another licensed individual under a physician’s supervision, such as a

- nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or certified athletic trainer who has received training in concussion evaluation and management.
- d. The Board authorizes the School Leader to direct the development of administrative regulations, and/or guidelines needed to implement this policy.

#### **IV. Use of Automated External Defibrillators**

- a. Southwest Georgia STEM Charter School will have at least one functional Automated External Defibrillator (AED) on site at the school at all times and easily accessible during any school related function, including athletic practices, athletic competitions, and other occasions where students and others will be present, for use during emergencies. An AED may be used in emergency situations warranting its use by individuals who have received CPR training and training in AED use through a program meeting the standards of a nationally recognized training course.
- b. The Board authorizes the placement of AEDs on the premises of other facilities or property as determined appropriate by the School leader.
- c. Each school or facility possessing and maintaining an AED must involve a licensed physician or other board-certified medical provider to ensure compliance with the requirements specified in Georgia law for training, notification and maintenance of the AED.
- d. The Board authorizes the School Leader to direct the development of administrative regulations and/or guidance documents needed to implement this policy and the provisions of O.C.G.A. Sect. 20-2-775.

#### **V. Eye Protection**

- a. It shall be the policy of Southwest Georgia STEM Charter School's Governing Board that the School Leader shall develop and implement administrative regulations in accordance with the provisions of this policy to ensure the safety of every student, teacher and visitor participating in or observing certain courses of instruction in any school.
- b. The school shall provide appropriate industrial-quality eye protection to every student, teacher, or visitor and require the use of the same while participating in or observing vocational, industrial arts, chemical, physical, or any other course of instruction involving exposure to any of the following:
  - i. Molten metal or other molten materials;
  - ii. Milling, sawing, turning, shaping, cutting, grinding, or stamping on any solid materials;
  - iii. Repairing or servicing any vehicles;
  - iv. Caustic or explosive materials;
  - v. Injurious radiations or other hazards;
  - vi. Finishing materials and solvents;

- vii. Heat treatment, tempering or kiln-firing of any metal or other materials;  
and,
  - viii. Gas or electric arc welding or other forms of welding process.
- c. The school shall keep eye protection equipment that is clean, in good repair, durable, capable of being disinfected and that meets the requirements specified in "Practice for Occupational and Educational Eye and Face Protection," American National Standards Institute, Z87.1-1968. Use of equipment with structural or optical defects shall be prohibited.
- d. Persons whose vision requires the use of eyeglasses shall be provided goggles that can be worn over corrective spectacles without disturbing the adjustment of the spectacles.
- e. If lasers are used in classrooms and laboratories, the school shall register them with the Georgia Department of Human resources and adhere to their Rules and Regulations for Laser Radiation