

Safety Committee *

Safety Officer

The administrator shall designate a safety officer. The safety officer shall:

1. Establish a site safety committee to implement and monitor the safety program;
2. Be responsible for writing and implementing a safety program. (The written program shall include reporting procedures and in-service safety training program);
3. Coordinate all matters relating to safety and shall make, or cause to be made, periodic inspections of the school and manage the status of record keeping, reports and meeting agendas;
4. Maintain liaison with applicable agencies outside the public charter school;
5. Maintain the accident record system; make necessary reports, personally investigate fatal, serious and potentially serious accidents; and check corrective action taken by teachers or other personnel to eliminate causes of accidents;
7. Establish specific goals for the safety program and evaluate goals and accomplishments on a regular basis.

Safety Committee

A safety committees shall be established at the public charter school site to represent the safety and health concerns of public charter school employees and students.

The safety committee shall be composed of an equal number of employer and employee representatives. The committee will consist of no fewer than four members for public charter schools with more than 20 employees.

A reasonable attempt will be made to ensure that committee members represent major work activities (i.e., teacher, custodian, food-service worker, administrator).

Members of the committee shall serve at least a continuous one-year term. Terms shall be staggered to provide continuity. There shall be a chair mutually agreed on in two-person committees.

Employee representatives attending safety committee meetings outside a regularly scheduled workday shall be compensated by the employer at the regular hourly wage.

The safety committee will:

1. Hold regular meetings at least once a month except months when quarterly workplace safety inspections are made;
2. Provide written agendas for each meeting which shall set the order of business;
3. Make written records of each meeting which the public charter school shall maintain for three years for inspection;

4. Post and send copies of meeting records to committee members;
5. Assist in creating a hazard-free work environment by:
 - a. Recommending to the public charter school how to eliminate hazards in the workplace and promoting employees' adherence to safe work practices; and
 - b. Using lines of communications to promote cooperative attitudes among all persons involved in the operations of the workplace.

Duties of the safety committee will include:

1. Establishing procedures for minimum quarterly workplace safety inspections of a safety committee inspection team to locate and identify safety and health hazards. The safety inspection team shall include employer and employee representatives. The team shall document the location and identity of the hazards and make recommendations as to how and when the hazards will be corrected;
2. Establishing procedures for investigating all significant safety-related incidents including injury accidents, illnesses and deaths for the purpose of recommending corrective action necessary to prevent similar events from recurring;
3. Evaluating public charter school policies which may affect safety and health in the workplace and making recommendations for changes to existing policies or adoption of new policies;
4. Evaluating all the accident and illness prevention programs brought to the committee's attention and making recommendations necessary to make the programs more applicable to the workplace;
5. Establishing a system whereby the safety committee can obtain information that would help in creating a hazard-free work environment, directly from all persons involved in the operations of the workplace. The information obtained shall be reviewed at the next safety committee meeting;
6. Establishing procedures for the review of all safety and health inspection reports made by the committee and making necessary recommendations;
7. Establishing procedures for the review of corrective action taken on the committee's recommendations or determining the reasons why no corrective action was taken;
8. Making all reports, evaluations and recommendations of the safety committee a part of the minutes of the safety committee;
9. Evaluating employee/supervisor training needs.

Degree of Authority

The safety committee is authorized to make written suggestions to the public charter school safety officer, based on its experiences, inspections and input from other employees, students and public charter school patrons, as appropriate.