



GOOSE CREEK CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Sun Safety Committee

Date Effective: December 4, 2018

GCCISD Sun Safety Policy

Sunburns during childhood are a major risk factor for skin cancer. In fact, five or more blistering sunburns before the age of 20 increases the risk of melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer, by 80%. It is estimated that at least half of children and adolescents report one or more sunburns per year. And only 10% of high school students report using sunscreen. To prevent our youth from developing melanoma or other forms of skin cancer, it is imperative for them to learn sun protective behaviors at an early age to reduce their lifetime risk.

At Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District (GCCISD), we are dedicated to the health and wellbeing of students and the surrounding community. GCCISD has prepared and adopted a comprehensive plan to increase sun safety practices in our schools to reduce ultraviolet radiation (UVR) exposure among all students, faculty and staff. The Sun Safety Policy outlines procedures primarily focused on the implementation of sun safety education, adoption of sun-safe physical environments, integration of sun protective behaviors and communication.

GCCISD Sun Safety Policy objectives include the following:

- Provide information and resources to students, families, faculty and staff on the dangers of UVR and of the sun safety policy
- Increase knowledge and skills among students, families, faculty and staff on how to practice sun safety
- Increase district-wide awareness about the damage that can be caused by UVR exposure
- Increase shaded areas across the district to provide sun-safe areas
- Encourage the entire school community, including students, staff, faculty, families, and administration to reduce their exposure to UVR by integrating sun protective behaviors into daily routines, inside and outside of the classroom

Sun Safety Committee

GCCISD is dedicated to implementing the Sun Safety Policy and the long-term sustainability of its ideals listed above. The execution will be realized through the collaborative efforts of district stakeholders known as the Sun Safety Committee. The Sun Safety Committee's major function will be to evaluate the implementation of the Sun Safety Policy annually and revise content as needed. The committee shall be composed of the Executive Director of Strategic Planning and Support Services, Director of Athletics, Director of Student Services, Director of Benefits, Health Coordinator, and Healthy Community School Coordinator, and/or other representatives with similar titles that are connected to employee wellness, student wellness, the School Health Advisory Committee and district-wide administration.

During an annual review, the committee will:

- Assess the implementation of sun safety curricula among grades Pre-K to 12th grade
- Assess the amount and quality of shade provided on all school grounds for both students and staff
- Utilize sun safety school evaluation assessments

Component 1: A commitment to enhance schools' physical environment to increase shaded areas

Increase shaded areas by developing a plan of action for schools who do not have adequate shade. Goose Creek CISD will:

- Evaluate school campuses to identify existing shaded areas and non-shaded areas where shade would be practical and desirable



GOOSE CREEK CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Sun Safety Committee

Date Effective: December 4, 2018

- Consider shade options for new construction and/or building remodeling plans
- Fundraise to increase shade structures or tree planting
- Apply for grant funds that focus on shade structures and/or tree planting
- Partner with community organizations to alleviate some of the costs associated with purchase of shade structures by developing a joint use agreement
- Partner with community organizations on tree planting initiatives
- Encourage staff to utilize shaded areas where students congregate (e.g., lunch areas, outdoor classrooms, recreation areas)
- Hold outdoor activities in shaded areas whenever possible, with a focus on increasing sun protection between 10 am and 4 pm

Component 2: A commitment to adopt sun safety curricula in the classroom and as a component of staff education

As a dedicated institution of education, Goose Creek CISD will:

- Create educational opportunities for all staff and faculty, including coaching staff and others who lead outdoor extracurricular activities, to learn about skin cancer prevention including information on the harmful effects of natural and artificial UV rays, appropriate skin cancer screening and sun protective behaviors
- Provide resources and education to staff and faculty on sun safety curricula annually including dissemination of the GCCISD Sun Safety Policy
- Encourage all teachers pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade to implement evidence-based sun safety programs (e.g., MD Anderson Cancer Center's Ray and the Sunbeatables®: A Sun Safety Curriculum, MD Anderson/Scholastic Be Sunbeatable™Program, SunWise, SunSmart America™)
- Encourage teachers to integrate sun safety lessons into appropriate academic subjects (e.g., Health, Science, Math, Social Studies, etc.)
- Encourage all teachers pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade to deliver at least 1 one hour of sun safety curricula per school year
- Provide information on the harmful effects of UV rays and sun protective behaviors to students engaged in extracurricular activities including all student athletes

Component 3: A commitment to adopt policies that support sun protective behaviors

Our district believes in modeling and encouraging sun protective behaviors. As a result, Goose Creek CISD will:

- Allow and encourage staff, faculty and students to wear sun protective clothing during field days/field trips and other outdoor activities



GOOSE CREEK CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Sun Safety Committee

Date Effective: December 4, 2018

Allowable sun protective clothing includes:

- Broad-brimmed or wide-brimmed hats
 - Bucket hats
 - Legionnaire hats
 - Long-sleeved shirts
 - Sunglasses that are 100% UV protective
-
- Encourage all faculty and staff to serve as role models when outside by using sunscreen, finding shade, and wearing sun protective clothing and sunglasses as appropriate during the school day
 - Encourage all students to properly apply and re-apply their own sunscreen as necessary during outdoor activities and during field days, field trips and extracurricular activities
 - Allow students to carry sunscreen at school and at school-related activities
 - Encourage parents of elementary school students to apply sunscreen to their children before the school day
 - Encourage students who participate in extracurricular/athletic activities outdoors to apply sunscreen before the start of any outdoor activity and, if appropriate, to re-apply sunscreen after 1-2 hours (GCCISD teachers/staff will not apply sunscreen on students)
 - Leverage district or school-wide field trips and events (e.g., Pirate's Bay outing, Annual Parent Fair, PTA meetings) as opportunities to disseminate sunscreen and encourage parents to send sunscreen to school for students to re-apply when appropriate
 - Encourage students to use available shaded areas during all outdoor activities
 - Schedule, when possible, outdoor school activities before 10:00 am or after 4:00 pm when the sun is directly overhead, and UV rays are more harmful
 - Allow the Director of Athletics to modify school athletic uniforms and/or physical education uniforms (e.g. clothing made with ultraviolet protection factor (UPF) to better protect students from exposure to UVR)

Component 4: A commitment to promote and disseminate sun safety information

A variety of communication methods will be used to reinforce sun safety messages and promote sun protective behaviors. Goose Creek will:

- Reinforce sun safety messaging and sun protective behaviors by displaying posters in the schools, including information in newsletters, and in student/teacher activities
- Inform parents and families about the importance of sun safety at the beginning of each school year and encourage practice of sun protective behaviors (e.g., apply sunscreen, wear protective clothing, etc.)
- Share supplemental sun safety curricula materials with parents and families at least 3 times per year
- Communicate broadly to the school board, staff, students and family community, through multiple channels including:



GOOSE CREEK CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Sun Safety Committee

Date Effective: December 4, 2018

- Newsletters
 - Permission slips
 - Posters
 - Press releases
 - Staff emails
 - Social media
 - Other channels as appropriate
- Share GCCISD Sun Safety Policy, goals and approach with the school community
 - Leverage district or school-wide field trips, outdoor school activities, and events (e.g., Pirate's Bay outing, Annual Parent Fair, PTA meetings) as opportunities to disseminate information about the importance of sun safety and the harms of indoor tanning and to encourage parents, families and visitors to practice sun protective behaviors
 - Post signs in the locker rooms, bathrooms and at outdoor sports areas to encourage students and visitors to be sun safe
 - Share information during outdoor sporting events during announcements or through signage to encourage players and visitors to follow sun protective behaviors (e.g., staying in the shade, wearing sunscreen, lip balm, wearing protective clothing, etc.)
 - Work with parent-teacher organizations such as the School Health Advisory Committee to coordinate fundraisers for sun protection initiatives and organize educational opportunities in the community