SWIMMING POOL USE AND AQUATIC SAFETY

The Board of Education recognizes that aquatics is an integral part of the elementary and secondary physical education curriculum. Regular and thorough inspection and maintenance of swimming facilities, according to applicable state and local safety regulations, is very important. Staff involved in aquatics instruction must be familiar with applicable regulations and students must be taught swimming safety prior to in-pool activity of any kind.

Prior to any student using a pool under District supervision or participating in an aquatics program or interscholastic athletics, each student must pass a Water Safety Test for swimming and diving with a score of 100% correct. Students with disabilities and/or documented health issues may require test modifications to pass the test. Instructors should record the names of students who have passed the Water Safety Test in a test log and should keep the completed test on file until such time as it may be disposed of according to applicable regulations.

General safety rules shall be determined and enforced for all pool facilities. These general safety rules shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Students are not to be in or near the pool unless the instructor ("supervising teacher") and lifeguard are present.

2. Running, jumping or diving are prohibited unless expressly permitted.

3. Spectators must not interfere with instruction and are to remain a reasonable distance away from the pool.

Pool safety conditions should be inspected on a regular basis (at least monthly) according to applicable state and local regulations. Required safety rules and signage (such as "Shallow Water," "No Diving" and "No Running") should be located on and around pools in appropriate, prominent locations, and regularly maintained. Emergency procedures, emergency contact information, First Aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation information must be posted on pool walls or in similar, accessible and prominent locations.

Staff Responsibilities

Students using a District pool facility must be under the direct supervision of a certificated physical education teacher with current lifeguard certification as required by state law, in addition to standard First Aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training ("supervising teacher"). However, a lifeguard must also be on duty while students are using a pool, and the teacher may not serve in a dual capacity as supervising teacher and lifeguard.

The supervising teacher plans and conducts instruction in swimming and water safety skills. The supervising teacher is also responsible for maintaining a safe pool environment and ensuring that students follow safety guidelines, including demonstrating safety procedures by

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example. The supervising teacher is responsible for understanding and following applicable state and local regulations and other guidelines for safe and appropriate use of pool facilities by students. Prior to allowing any student to use a pool or engage in swimming instruction, the supervising teacher shall confirm that the student has passed the Water Safety Test with 100% accuracy, and shall keep a record of each student's test results until such time as the records are no longer required to be maintained under state regulations.

Lifeguard service, pursuant to applicable state regulations, shall be provided at District pools any time students are using facilities. The lifeguard on duty must possess a current American Red Cross Lifeguard Training Course Certificate or equivalent certification. A lifeguard must be present in addition to the supervising teacher even if the teacher has received all applicable lifeguard training. Lifeguards are solely responsible for surveillance and preservation of student safety and shall have no teaching responsibilities.

An employee designated as the pool manager/custodian shall be responsible for maintaining the physical condition of the pool, including water quality, heating, chlorination and filtration, on a regular basis, following applicable state and local regulations and accepted norms for pool maintenance.

Legal References

California Health and Safety Code, Division 104, Part 10, Chapter 5
California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Sections 65501-65551