

Policy

CONSERVATION SUSTAINABILITY AND GREEN INITIATIVES

Introduction

The board of education recognizes that responsible environmental stewardship is an integral part of its mission in ensuring that schools are well run. The board supports conservation and sustainable planning, operations and maintenance, and shall endeavor to implement *green initiatives in all day-to-day district operations. *Sustainability is defined as meeting the needs of the present while not compromising the future. The board recognizes that sustainability through the adoption of green initiatives in all day-to-day district operations will only succeed with the cooperation and support of the board, the students, the parents/guardians and the community. The district shall endeavor to engage all members of the school community in the conservation and green initiatives of the district.

The board directs the chief school administrator or his or her designee(s) and other key stakeholders to contribute and oversee the districts' programs for conservation and green initiatives including but not limited to energy efficient practices, recycling, sustainable programs and business practices within the district, environmental assessments, green construction within school facilities, and education and training programs for students, staff and the community.

The board will introduce and consider sustainability goals and objectives as part of the strategic planning process. Sustainability goals and objectives shall be reviewed and adjusted as part of the regular strategic planning process.

The district shall endeavor to implement a "3E" approach to sustainability:

- A. **Economy** – actions to reduce operating costs, save money and redirect savings towards school improvement.
- B. **Education** – actions to train district staff members and engage students in the academics of the district's sustainability initiatives and increase student's connections to an Integrative Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (*iSTEM) process, thereby increasing student achievement.
- C. **Environment** – actions to create healthy and safe places for students and staff to learn, work, and play.

Target Areas/Goals

A sustainable environmental future means that the board may assess, devise and implement initiatives focused on:

- A. Recycling, Composting and Waste Management
- B. Energy
- C. Environmentally Sustainable Business Practices
- D. Curriculum Component
- E. Community Engagement

School District Green Team

A district Green Team may be appointed by the chief school administrator with approval by the school board. The team may include teaching staff members, administrators, board members, facility staff members, community experts, students, and parents/guardians. The team shall be responsible for investigating and proposing a district wide sustainability audit, conservation and green initiatives for day-to-day operations, and practices that promote a sustainable environment that is conducive to learning and lowers the operational cost of the district. The Green Team will also oversee:

- A. The assessment of the impact on the environment of the district's current practice's and operations;
- B. The implementation of learning and participation opportunities for students in the areas including energy audits, water, materials and general resources, conservation measures, recycling, and composting;
- C. The implementation of curriculum components that supports the district conservation and green initiatives;
- D. Employee and community engagement;
- E. The development of goals and objectives for improving the district's sustainability, conservation and green initiatives.
- F. The creation of a strategic plan or action plan to achieve district goals and objectives.
- G. Advising the school board and making recommendations.

Adopted: April 4, 2016

Key Words

Sustainability, Conservation, Green Policy, Green Initiative, Environment, Environmental, Recycling, Solar

Possible

<u>Cross References:</u>	*1100	Communicating with the public
	*1330	Use of facilities
	*2130	Evaluation of principals
	*3100	Budget planning and preparation
	*3320	Purchasing procedures
	3508	School gardens
	*3510	Operation and maintenance of plant
	*3516	Safety
	*3542.1	Wellness and nutrition
	*4112.4/4212.4	Health
	*4115	Supervision
	*4116	Evaluation of teaching staff members
	*4131/4131.1	Staff training and development
	*4215	Supervision
	*4216	Evaluation
	*4231/4231.1	Staff training and development
	*5141	Student health
	*5142	Student safety
	*6010	Goals and objectives in instruction
	*6114	Emergency and disaster preparedness
	6142.15	STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math)

*Indicates the policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.

*Green – Anything environmentally friendly

*Sustainability - Sustainability is based on a simple principle: Everything that we need for our survival and well-being depends, either directly or indirectly, on our natural environment. Sustainability creates and maintains the conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony, that permit fulfilling the social, economic and other requirements of present and future generations.

*iSTEM - An interdisciplinary or Trans-disciplinary and applied approach that is delivered through a project or problem based learning and focused on real-world problem solving.