

Sierra Foothill Charter School

SAFE SCHOOL PLAN

2018-19

CDS Code:
22655320125823

This is a plan of actions to be taken to ensure that the school provides a clean and safe environment for students and staff to pursue their educational and professional goals. For additional information on school programs and how you may become involved, please contact the following person:

Contact Person: Mindy Bolar

Position: **Principal/Superintendent**

Telephone Number: (209) 742-6222

Address: 4952 School House Road, Catheys Valley, CA 95306

E-mail address: *principal@sierrafoothillcharterschool.org*

The District Governing Board approved this revision of the Safe School Plan on: 11/27/18

ANALYSIS OF CURRENT SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

The following statements characterize school conditions that have an impact on the safety and security of the school.

Safe School Vision

The Vision is to create a safe, peaceful, curriculum-rich learning environment that provides stability, flexibility, consistency and direction for all students to enable them to realize their full learning potential. The Safe School Goal is to maintain an orderly and purposeful place in which students and staff are free to learn and teach without the threat of physical and psychological harm.

Safe School Mission Statement

The administration and staff of Sierra Foothill Charter School (SFCS) will create and maintain a safe school environment for students and staff. Students will be accountable for their behavior and recognized for their achievements. Staff will take an active part in maintaining a safe school environment by participating in school activities to give students a sense of belonging in the school community. The Principal/Superintendent will monitor the school site and infrastructure to ensure that school grounds are free from hazards.

School Profile

SFCS is located in Mariposa County, on the western border of the county. SFCS serves all families in California who wish their children to attend. SFCS currently serves 132 students. The school is located on 4952 School House Road in Catheys Valley. The school is situated on a 4.5 acre site and is surrounded by beautiful oak laden hills in the Sierra Nevada mountain range. The facilities are adequate for the number of students in attendance. The site has 5 classrooms, an office/library, a multipurpose room, a storage building, two sets of bathrooms, and a parking lot.

Characteristics of Students, Staff, School

- A. **Ethnic and Cultural Diversity of Students:** Our student population is 91% White, 1% Asian Indian, 4% African American/Black, 5% Native American, 1% Chinese, 1% Korean, 6% of two or more ethnicities, and 4% declined to state.
- B. **School location and relationships with business and community:** SFCS is located in the community of Catheys Valley, CA.
- C. **Staff Composition:** Staff is predominantly White with a few members of Hispanic/Latino descent.

Component 1: Physical Safety of Students and Staff

- A. **Site security, fencing, and signage:** The school has a sign to regulate speed of cars entering the campus area. Fencing has been put up to separate students from the parking area. Blinds/blackout curtains have been installed in all classrooms for lock-down purposes.
- B. **Proper lighting and access to prevent loitering:** School site is protected by a locked gate at the driveway at night and on weekends. Fencing does not extend around the perimeter of the school. Lighting at night on campus could be improved.
- C. **Harmful/dangerous conditions:** Snake tongs are available for safe removal of snakes, if necessary. The school also has black widow

spiders, scorpions, and centipedes. Students receive instruction on identification and the dangers of these creatures. The school contracts with a pest management company for regular inspection and treatment. Poor drainage on the blacktop can cause icy slipping hazards, and on the driveway can restrict travel to and from school. The field is no longer grass due inoperable irrigation system and restricted water use. Holes in the dirt field are a tripping hazard. The dry rot in the play structure restricts play to smaller students only (TK-4), and the metal slides are dangerous in the hot weather. A section of the parking lot is not paved and prone to deep mud holes. The intercom system is difficult to hear in some rooms and outdoors. There is significant dry rot throughout the campus. Two roofs were replaced recently. All other roofs are at risk for additional leaks despite patching. Lack of shade on the playground during hot days is concerning.

- D. **Vandalism policy and prevention:** Incidents of vandalism are documented with digital photos and repair requests are referred to the site custodian or district maintenance department within 24 hours. Police reports are also filed. Students who vandalize school property are suspended for up to 5 days and fined for the cost of repairs. There are three cameras on the bus, but currently no exterior cameras on the school site.

Component 2: School Climate

- A. **Sense of safety:** Student and parent/guardian feelings about the safety of the school environment are notably positive according to surveys and informal measures (96% of parents and 83% of students).
- B. **School discipline and attendance policies:** SFCS distributes a Parent/Guardian/Student Handbook that includes expectations regarding attendance and disciplinary matters. Incidents requiring disciplinary intervention have been reduced annually. There were three suspension and no expulsions during the 2017-18 school year. The Attendance Policy was revised in January 2018, and attendance has slightly improved.
- C. **Classroom environment:** The desire is for every SFCS student to feel safe and welcomed. Teachers involve students in establishing classroom goals and rules, fostering a sense of ownership in their education as well as their discipline. Students continue to make academic progress given the conducive learning environment.
- D. **Parents and Community Involvement:** SFCS was created and is continually supported by both parent/guardian and community volunteers. Ongoing efforts are made to increase involvement. Parent/guardian and community volunteerism is encouraged, and a volunteer clearance process is in place. The volunteer rate increased by 21% in 2017/18.

Component 3: Youth Development

- A. **Student behavioral expectations, including cooperative relationships with staff to ensure reporting of incidents:** Student expectations are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Students provide input for both classroom rules and school wide policies along with their teachers and principal/superintendent.
- B. **Student academic expectations:** All students will learn at high levels. According to the State testing results and local measures, students continue to achieve at higher levels each year in ELA and mathematics.
- C. **Recognition of student and staff achievement:** Students and staff will be recognized and honored for their achievements and efforts. Assemblies, bulletins, announcements, and discussions with the principal/superintendent are a few of the ways this recognition is

communicated to the school community. SFCS was named a California Honor Roll School for 2017 for outstanding achievement.

- D. Programs to address specific issues – drug use prevention, bullying, etc.: Various community-based groups currently serve as resources as needed (Mountain Crisis, Ethos, Mariposa Safe Families, County Mental Health, etc.). Character education program is in place, and the school is focusing on the integration of Social Emotional Learning.
- E. Coordination of community health and mental health programs: The principal/superintendent coordinates services with these agencies, as needed. Mariposa County Human Resources has contracted with Compass Counseling to provide a counselor one day a week.

Sources of Data on School and Community Environment

Current SFCS data (surveys, maintenance reports, informal feedback, anecdotal records, classroom observations, discipline logs, academic testing results, attendance rates) was used to develop the Safe School Plan objectives.

Analysis of Data

Identification of unsafe conditions in one or more of the component areas:

1. Lack of secure fencing and appropriate gates around perimeter of school
2. Inferior exterior lighting
3. Lack of exterior cameras
4. Ineffective drainage on blacktop area and on driveway
5. Dry rot on play structure and throughout school
6. Uneven, dirt playing field and parking lot
7. Inferior intercom system

SAFE SCHOOL PLAN GOALS 2018-2019

SCHOOL NAME: Sierra Foothill Charter School

PRINCIPAL: Mindy Bolar

COMPONENT 1: Physical Safety of Students and Staff				
GOAL - ENSURE THAT SCHOOL CLASSROOMS, BUILDING AND GROUNDS ARE FREE FROM HAZARDS.				
Objective 1	Activities to Support Objective	Resources Needed (Funding Source)	Implementers	Timeline
<i>Conduct regular inspections of school site and facilities</i>	Establish regular check-ins with custodian to review facility conditions.	NONE	Principal/Superintendent Custodian	Monthly
Objective 2	Activities to Support Objective	Resources Needed (Funding Source)	Implementers	Timeline
<i>Develop and maintain plan to repair or replace hazardous items.</i>	Work with MCUSD per the Facilities Use Agreement to address hazards.	Repair costs	Principal/Superintendent, Custodian, and MCUSD staff	Monthly

COMPONENT 2: School Climate Strategies (to promote a climate of respect, emotional safety, and a caring community)

GOAL - SUPPORT POSITIVE BEHAVIOR CHOICES.

Objective 1	Activities to Support Objective	Resources Needed (Funding Source)	Implementers	Timeline
<i>Students and parents/guardians will understand what is expected of students attending SFCS</i>	Provide clear expectations and opportunities for feedback on policies and procedures	NONE	Principal/Superintendent, Teachers/Aides, Parents/Guardians and Students	Beginning of year and revisited throughout the year
Objective 2	Activities to Support Objective	Resources Needed (Funding Source)	Implementers	Timeline
<i>Students will understand what is expected of them in each learning setting and be recognized for positive behavior and effort.</i>	Students and teachers will establish classroom rules and procedures. Incentive systems will be in place in classrooms and schoolwide.	Incentives and character education materials	Students, Teachers, Principal/Superintendent	Ongoing

COMPONENT 3: Youth Development Strategies

GOAL - ENSURE THAT EVERY STUDENT WILL LEARN AT HIGH LEVELS.

Objective 1	Activities to Support Objective	Resources Needed (Funding Source)	Implementers	Timeline
<i>Teachers will be able to teach to every student's strength and support areas needing growth.</i>	Teachers will individualize learning. Intervention programs will supplement regular instruction for students with identified needs. Counseling services offered for individual and small groups.	Intervention materials, training, meeting time, assessment materials	Teachers, Students, Support Staff, Counselor	Ongoing
Objective 2	Activities to Support Objective	Resources Needed (Funding Source)	Implementers	Timeline
<i>Teachers will understand what their strengths and weaknesses are as educators and participate in professional growth opportunities..</i>	Analysis of student performance data, formal and informal observations, teacher evaluation process, trainings and resource articles	Training, professional growth opportunities	Teachers, Principal/Superintendent	Ongoing

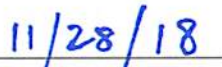
RECOMMENDATIONS AND ASSURANCES

The Governance Committee recommends this Safe School Plan and its related activities to the district Governing Board for approval, and assures the Board of the following:

1. The Governance Committee is correctly constituted, and was formed in accordance with district governing board policy and state law.
2. The Governance Committee reviewed the content requirements included in this Safe School Plan for Sierra Foothill Charter School, and believes all such content requirements have been met.
3. This plan is based upon a thorough analysis of the school's instructional, social and physical environments. The actions proposed herein form a sound, comprehensive, coordinated plan to reach stated school safety goals to improve the safety and security of the students, staff and facilities of the school.

Attested:


Mindy Bolar, Principal/Superintendent


Date