

Almond Acres Charter Academy

Safe School Plan

2016

Almond Acres Charter School

Mission Statement

Almond Acres Charter Academy is dedicated to providing all kindergarten through eighth grade students with an academically challenging and cooperative educational environment rich in authentic experiences emphasizing core curriculum, the arts, and character development to ensure students receive the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in a dynamic society.

Vision Statement

Almond Acres Charter Academy is dedicated to providing children with an education that will enable them to be accountable for their learning and success in today's complex society. Creating a learning environment that is relevant, active, and challenging to ensure our children remain engaged is essential to the education process.

AACA will do this by creating an environment that will foster children's intrinsic motivation to learn and offering a balanced educational program that places a strong emphasis on K-8 curriculum while infusing second language, technology, environmental studies, physical education, and the arts.

SMJUSD District Goal

San Miguel Joint Union School District will maintain schools where:

- Students love learning and are expected to excel.
- Parents are proud to send their children.
- Staff works cooperatively and professionally to maximize student achievement in a happy, healthy workplace conducive to learning.

School Support Programs

Programs that Promote Safe & Drug Free Schools for all Students

Almond Acres Charter Academy
Character Counts
GREAT Program - SLO Sheriff's Department
Positive Behavioral Interventions & Support/Restorative Practices
Bully Prevention Programs
Internet Safety/Cyber Bullying Prevention
Enrichment Programs
Counseling Services, K-8
SLO County Drug and Alcohol Services Outreach
School Resource Officer
Fire Department - Home Safety Training
Program Site Counsel – Parent Meetings
Emergency Drills
Pathways Program 6 th - 8 th
Burn Relay Fire Department – Fire Safety Training
California Healthy Kids, Survey Online 7 th graders
On-site Parent Participation

School Support Programs

Support Staff

Almond Acres Charter Academy
Bob Bourgault, Executive Director Pathways Program Pupil Personnel Services General Family Meetings & Workshops
Chad Morton, Assistant Executive Director Restorative Practice Positive Behavioral Interventions & Support Saturday Family Participation Days
Matthew Clough, Support Service Director Individual & Group Socialization Skills
Deputy Scott Curry, School Resource Officer GREAT Program
Campus Supervisors Daily Supervision
Teacher Mentors Classroom Positive Behavior Intervention Systems

School Support Programs

Funding Cycle

Program	Funding
School Safe and Violence Prevention Act (Assembly Bill 1113)	General Block Grant
Title IV Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities	General Block Grant
Crossing Guards	Funded by School
Yard Duty Supervisors	Funded by School

Discipline Policy and Practices

Existing school-site discipline rules and procedures are regularly reviewed to ensure compliance with all regulations and that they are being appropriately enforced and address student behavior problems and school safety issues. Family handbooks and the Annual Notice to Parents are given to all students and parents to read and sign at the beginning of the school year, as well as when new students enroll, that explain codes of conduct, unacceptable behavior, and disciplinary consequences.

The school emphasis is on positive, proactive programs to encourage good behavior, not on reaching disciplinary policies.

To that end, we strive to provide positive opportunities for enrichment, acceleration and intervention, and student suspensions and expulsions are viewed, unless mandated by the nature of the offense, as a last resort to be used only when other means of correction have failed.

(BP 5131 – Conduct)

(BP/AR 5131.1 – Bus Conduct)

(BP/AR 5144 – Discipline)

(BP/AR 5144.1 – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

(BP/AR 5144.2 – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process—Students with Disabilities)

Legal Reference

EC 48900-48925 – Suspension or expulsion

School Site Uniform Policy

All students shall dress appropriately for school with attention to neatness, safety, and personal and public health. **All clothing and grooming that may create a distraction, impede the educational process shall not be allowed.** Administration will make final determination of whether a student's clothing meets the student uniform policy.

Hats and beanies are not to be worn indoors. ***Reminder: California state law requires safety headgear to be worn by any student that rides a bicycle to school.*** Hats are to be worn with bills forward.

To review the complete uniform policy, please refer to the Family Handbook.

(BP/AR 5132 – Dress and Grooming)

(BP/AR 5136 – Gangs)

(BP 5137 – Positive School Climate)

Child Abuse Reporting Procedures

Child Welfare Services (805) 781-1700 to report a SCAR
(You must call and fax or mail a written report)

All paid staff serving children are **Mandated** by California law to report any knowledge or suspicion that a child's safety or welfare is at risk. It is the responsibility of the mandated reporter to REPORT, not to investigate. Reports should be made immediately and no later than 24 hours after suspected abuse is observed.

There are two types of reporters

1. **Mandated:** those, such as school employees, who are required to report suspected child abuse. These reporters have a legal duty to report and can be held liable for not reporting.
2. **Discretionary reporters:** those who report simply because they develop a concern for a child's welfare.

Circumstances for Reporting:

ANY Reasonable Suspicion: if a person is suspicious, based on observations that could create a reasonable person with his/her training and experience to suspect child abuse.

Knowledge criteria: this includes actual observation of child abuse or obtaining knowledge of abuse.

Obstacles: many people are afraid to make a report because of denial, fear of making a mistake, fear that the parent may be angry, the belief that nothing happens when you make a report, or that it makes things worse.

You are **LEGALLY** responsible to report if you have "reasonable suspicion" of abuse and obtain this knowledge during the course of your work. You are **NOT** required to prove the abuse or collect evidence. You could be found legally liable if you do no report and the child victim or another child is further victimized because of your failure to report.

Types of Abuse:

- Physical
- Sexual Abuse – Assault or Exploitation
- Emotional Abuse
- Neglect – General, Severe, Caretaker Absences

What to report:

- Physical injury inflicted by other than accidental means on a child. Consider developmental abilities when assessing injuries.
- Sexual abuse and sexual exploitation. Perpetrators in most cases are family members. Unusual sexual behaviors that are not necessarily age appropriate should be reported. Again, we report based on concerns, we do not investigate.
- Emotional Abuse is any act which results in mental suffering or when a child's emotional well-being is endangered. This includes verbal assaults, belittling, threats, blaming and screaming, continual negative mood, domestic violence that affects the child's emotional wellbeing, neglect, and emotional deprivation.
- Intimate Partner Violence. California is one of the few states that mandates reports of abuse between adolescent/teenage couples.
- Neglect is the #1 form of abuse. Neglect occurs when parents are unable or unwilling to provide the basic needs such as food, shelter, medical care, or educational needs. This also includes failure to protect a child.
- Homelessness. In and of itself, it is not reportable unless it includes specific instances of physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse or emotional abuse. The priority is to provide necessary shelter, food, medical care, education and services.
- Substance/Alcohol abuse. Again, not necessarily reportable as "child abuse" unless it impacts the child's wellbeing and has ongoing endangerment.
- Religious Considerations. Using spiritual means of healing instead of medical is not reportable unless it could result in the death or disfigurement of a child which would be a case of medical neglect.

Red Flags of Child Behaviors

- Hostile, aggressive, verbally abusive towards others
- Anxious, fearful or withdrawn
- Self-injuries
- Destruction
- Frightened of going home
- Frightened of parents/caretaker
- Attempts to hide injuries
- Frequent absences from school
- Clingy, forms indiscriminate attachments
- Tries to be perfect

Red Flags of Parent Behaviors

- Mental health issues
- Domestic violence
- Unemployment
- Poverty – inadequate food, clothing, shelter or medical care for the children
- Lack of social support
- History of abuse as a child
- Substance abuse

Report any concerns about possible abuse to CWS as soon as possible, and no longer than 24 hours of becoming aware of suspected abuse. To report, call 805-781-1700 CWS or after hours 24 hour line 805-781- KIDS (5437). For immediate safety issues, contact Law Enforcement (911) and they will report to CWS.

(BP/AR 5141.4 – Child Abuse Prevention and Reporting)

School Support Programs

Programs to Meet Individual Needs of Students

Goal: Programs and strategies are consistently being used to create a safe and drug-free learning environment.

- Counseling Services, K-8
- SLO County Drug and Alcohol Outreach Services
- Progressive Discipline Framework
- SAAS
- Enrichment Programs
- Community Garden
- Shared Start/Habit of the Week
- General Family/Parenting Workshops

Safe School and Violence Prevention

Goal: To make the schools safer by reducing and preventing acts of violence on campus.

- GREAT Program – Gang Resistance Education and Training
- Digital Citizenship/Cyber Bullying Prevention
- Character Counts/Bullying Prevention
- School Resource Officer
- Yard duty staff
- Crossing guards
- Locked gate during school hours
- Check in process for all visitors
- Emergency Drills

School Support Programs

Safe and Drug-Free Schools

Goal: To attain drug-free and violence free campuses where our students can achieve academic and social excellence.

- SLO County Drug and Alcohol Outreach
- K-8 Internet Safety/Cyber Bullying Prevention
- School Resource Officer
- Emergency Drills
- Bike Safety Assembly
- Healthy Kids Survey, Grade 7
- Middle School Health Curriculum

Student Counseling and Support Groups

Goal: To offer counseling and support to all students to meet their individual academic and social needs.

- Full-time Counseling Services, K-8
- SLO County Drug and Alcohol Services Outreach
- GREAT Program – Gang Resistance Education and Training
- SRO – School Resource Officer
- Student Mentor Program
- SLO County Child Welfare Services

School Support Programs

Collaborative Relationships

Goal: Schools will work with the community, law enforcement agencies, school staff and parents to promote policies and decision-making in the schools.

Board of Trustees

PSC – Program Site Counsel

Junior Optimist Octagon International Club

Friends of the Garden

Sheriff's Department

Fire Department

School Support Programs

Community Support Programs

Goal: Students will work with the community and local organizations to provide enrichment and healthy living habits.

Cal Poly – Co-Teachers

Camp Roberts – Buzz Marathon

Lion’s Club – Health Screenings

Paso Robles Rotary

Paso Robles Optimist Club

Paso Robles Chamber of Commerce

Hispanic Business Association

Paso Robles Youth Arts Foundation

School Support Programs

Professional Development

- **Safety Committee**

The safety committee consists of administrators, managers and staff. The committee encourages students and employees to maintain a healthy and safe campus and to report any safety hazards. The safety committee also provides safety training, including training on emergency preparedness, child abuse reporting, and general safety.
- **Administrative Leadership**

Regular staff meetings are held and administrators provide clear and direct leadership, setting a positive and supportive tone for students and staff.
- **SAAS**

Student Attendance Accountability System meetings help students and parents solve persistent school attendance problems through available school resources and monitoring.
- **CCSA**

The California Charter Schools Association advances the charter school movement through state and local advocacy, leadership on accountability, and resources for member schools. CCSA is a trusted source of data and information on California's charter schools for parents, authorizers, legislators, the press and other interested groups.
- **CSDC**

The nation's oldest charter support organization, the Charter Schools Development Center (CSDC), remains the most comprehensive resource center for charter schools anywhere in the country. Our leadership trainings, publications, consulting, and membership program offer our clients over 20 years of experience in charter school start-up, operational support, and advocacy. We are recognized as the leading experts in charter school law, policy, finance, school design, authorizing, governance, and personnel.

- **ASCD**
Formerly known as the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, is a membership-based nonprofit organization. While ASCD was initially founded with a focus on curriculum and supervision, the association now provides its members with professional development, educational leadership, and capacity building. Its mission is to develop programs, products, and services essential to the way educators learn, teach, and lead.
- **CharterSafe**
CharterSAFE provides group self-insurance and risk management services designed specifically for California's charter schools.
- **ACSA**
The Association of California School Administrators is the largest umbrella organization for school leaders in the United States. ACSA's top priority is advocating for public school students in kindergarten through grade 12, as well as adult learners. Our mission is to be the driving force of education in California and beyond.

Scheduled Emergency Drills

Almond Acres Charter Academy

DATES	FIRE DRILLS (Monthly for Elem. Schools)	EARTHQUAKE DRILLS (Every Quarter for Elem. Schools)	OTHER DRILLS
September	9/18– 8:45 a.m.		10/24 – Bus Drill
October	10/16 – 10:16 a.m.	10/16 – Shake Out	
November	11/19 – 9:00 a.m.		
December	12/15 – 9:30 a.m.	12/15 – 9:30 a.m.	
January	1/22– 2:30 p.m.		
February	2/23 – 10:30 a.m.		Intruder
March	3/4 – 9:00 a.m.	3/4 – 9:00 a.m.	
April	4/18 – 1:45 p.m.		
May	5/20 – 9:15 a.m.	5/20 – 9:15 a.m.	
June	6/3 – 8:30 a.m.		

The Board shall grant the use of school buildings, grounds, and equipment to public agencies, including the American Red Cross, for mass care and welfare shelters during disasters or other emergencies affecting the public health and welfare. The Board shall cooperate with such agencies in furnishing and maintaining whatever services they deem necessary to meet the community's needs. (Education Code 32282)

(BP/AR 3516 – Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness)
(EC 32280-32289 – School Safety Plans)

Submission of Approval

Administration

Submission date: Feb. 26, 2016

Signature of approval: 

School Board

Submission date: FEB 26, 2016

Signature of approval: 

Once approved, the Safe School Plan will be posted on the Almond Acres Charter Academy website at www.aacademy.com.