
MEMORANDUM No. 2014-042

TO: District Superintendents
School Principals

FROM: Bruce Hayes, Ed. S., School Safety Consultant
Support Systems and Resources Division

DATE: March 31, 2014

SUBJECT: New Federal Guidelines for School Safety

US DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RELEASES NEW GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL SAFETY

Document contains three core principles

The US Department of Education recently issued Guiding Principles: A Resource Guide for Improving School Climate and Discipline. It can be accessed at:

<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/school-discipline/guiding-principles.pdf>

The guidance content itself is only 18 pages; amazingly concise by federal standards. It comes by way of recommendation and centers on three core principles.

- Principle 1: Climate and Prevention: Schools that foster positive school climates can help to engage all students in learning by preventing problem behaviors and intervening effectively to support struggling and at-risk students.
- Principle 2: Expectations and Consequences: Schools that have discipline policies or codes of conduct with clear, appropriate, and consistently applied expectations and consequences will help students improve behavior, increase engagement, and boost achievement.
- Principle 3: Equity and Continuous Improvement: Schools that build staff capacity and con-

tinuously evaluate discipline policies and practices are more likely to ensure fairness and equity and promote achievement for all students.

Each principle has its own set of suggested action steps.

For more information or questions, contact Bruce Hayes at bruce.hayes@wyo.gov or 307-777-6198.

BH:rs