

Richard David Kann Melanoma Foundation's SunSmart Schools Sun Safety Policy Template

School Name: _____

Rationale

Too much exposure to ultraviolet radiation from the sun causes sunburn, skin and eye damage and increases the risk of developing skin cancer. The United States is in the top five countries that have the highest incidence of skin cancer.

Adolescence and childhood are critical periods during which sun exposure is likely to contribute to skin cancer later in life. It is estimated that more than 75% of all skin cancers could be prevented by practicing sun protection in childhood and adolescence.

This policy has been developed as part of our commitment to a safe school environment, to reduce the risk to students and staff of exposure to UV radiation from the sun.

Objectives

The objectives of the SunSmart School Sun Safety Policy are to:

- Increase student and whole-school awareness of skin cancer and other damage caused by exposure to UV radiation
- Work towards a safe school environment that provides shade and other sun protective measures for the entire school
- Encourage the entire school community to use a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV Index levels reach 3 and above
- Ensure that families and new staff are informed of the school's sun protection policy.

Implementation

Strategies 1-4 (clothing, sunscreen, sunglasses, shade/scheduling) will be implemented throughout the year, as the UV index is high enough to damage the skin and lead to skin cancer.

Strategies 5-7 (role modeling, curriculum, professional development for staff) are ongoing and will therefore be implemented at various times throughout the year.

1. Clothing

Note: As a minimum standard, at least three of the following items must be included in your policy. It is anticipated that schools will work toward achieving all of these standards over time.

- ☐ Students should be allowed, year-around, to wear articles of sun-protective clothing, including hats, when outdoors.
- ☐ Students should be strongly encouraged to wear articles of sun-protective clothing, including hats, when outdoors, throughout the school year.
- ☐ Schools may specify the type(s) of clothing and hats that are, or are not, permissible on campus.
- ☐ The principal or designee may assess school uniforms, including physical education uniforms, to determine if and how they might be modified to better protect students from exposure to UV rays.

2. Sunscreen

- ☐ SPF 30+ broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen and is available for staff and students use and students are encouraged to bring their own sunscreen to school.
- ☐ Staff encourages students to use sunscreen and lip balm and provide time for students to apply sunscreen and/or lip balm before going outside.
- ☐ The school is educated about the correct use of sunscreen and lip balm and the level of protection it provides.

3. Sunglasses

- ☐ Students should be allowed, year-around, to wear UV protective sunglasses, when outdoors.
- ☐ Students should be strongly encouraged to wear UV protective sunglasses, when outdoors, throughout the school year.

- ☐ Schools may specify the type(s) of UV protective sunglasses that are, or are not, permissible on campus.

4. Shade/Scheduling

- ☐ The Principal or designated teacher of each school site will ensure shade is available on the school grounds particularly in areas where students congregate – for example, lunch areas, outdoor lesson areas.
- ☐ The Principal or designated teacher of each school site shall survey the school campus to identify existing shaded areas, and non-shaded areas where the addition of shade would be practical and desirable.
- ☐ The Principal or designated teacher of each school site will ensure that shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.
- ☐ Processes for the planning of outdoor activities and excursions include the consideration of shade.
- ☐ During the school year, the Principal or designated teacher of each school site shall optimize shade options for students and personnel, and shall encourage the utilization of existing shaded or indoor areas for congregation and recreation.

5. Role Modeling

- ☐ Staff are encouraged to act as a role model by using a combination of protection measures (sun protective clothing and hats, sunglasses, sunscreen and shade) when outside.
- ☐ Parents, families and visitors are encouraged to use a combination of sun protection measures (sun protective clothing and hats, sunglasses, sunscreen and shade) when participating in and attending outdoor school activities.
- ☐ Schools shall inform parents and guardians about the importance of, and strategies for, preventing skin cancer, and shall alert them that the risk of developing skin cancer is highest for individuals with lightly pigmented skin. Schools shall also urge families to reinforce sun safe behavior outside the school and to support the school's sun safety program.

6. Curriculum

- ☐ Sun protection and educational programs are incorporated into appropriate areas of the school curriculum (**PLEASE REFER TO THE SUNSMART AMERICA K-12 CURRICULUM**)
- ☐ Students are encouraged to be involved in initiatives to promote and model sun protection measures to the school community.
- ☐ Sun protective behavior is regularly reinforced and promoted to the school community through a variety of channels such as newsletters, staff meetings, school news/announcements, sun safety posters.

7. Professional Development for Staff

- ☐ Sun protection is included in staff training to enable staff to work safely outdoors and to encourage them to be positive role models.
- ☐ School Nurses, health educators and school health resource specialist shall promote, reinforce and support sun protection and skin cancer prevention efforts for students, their families and for personnel.
- ☐ New staff are given a copy of this policy
- ☐ The Principal or designated teacher of each school site will regularly monitor and review the effectiveness of the sun protection policy (at least every three years) and revise the policy when required.
- ☐ Next policy review:

- ☐ Name of person/position with ultimate responsibility for reviewing policy:

SunSmart School Sun Safety Policy Program membership and Agreement Form

School Details

School:

Address:

Zip Code:

Telephone:

Fax:

General School Email Address:

School Type:

- ☐ **Public** ☐ **Private** ☐ **Charter**
☐ **Daycare/Pre-school** ☐ **Day Camp** ☐ **Other**

Grade Levels Taught:

Gender Composition: ☐ **Co-ed** ☐ **Boys** ☐ **Girls**

Contact Name (Sun Protection Coordinator):

Position:

Email Address:

Date:

Protecting Your Privacy: Your contact information will be used only by The Richard David Kann Melanoma Foundation in order to provide you with information and resources relating to sun protection

and will never be shared with a third party without your consent. Identifying information will at all times be kept private and confidential. Non-identifying information such as school type and region may be used to compile summary statistical reports on the program. If you wish to discuss the storage and use of your details, please contact the Richard David Kann Melanoma Foundation at (561) 655-9655 or send an email to: info@melanomafoundation.com.

Agreement

Participating schools must agree to the following terms and conditions:

- ☐ To enforce this sun protection policy as documented
- ☐ To take reasonable steps to ensure that all staff, students and families are aware of the sun protection policy and its requirements
- ☐ To inform the Richard David Kann Melanoma Foundation of any changes to the school's policy and practices
- ☐ To nominate a sun protection coordinator, with whom the Richard David Kann Melanoma Foundation can communicate.

Name of School:

Agrees to the above terms and conditions

School Principal:

Name – please print

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Sun Protection Coordinator:

Name – please print

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please send or fax this signed agreement form, together with a copy of your school's sun protection policy to:

Richard David Kann Melanoma Foundation
621 Clearwater Park Road
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Fax: (561) 655-9650