

***VALLEY HIGH
SCHOOL***

2008/2009



***COMPREHENSIVE SAFE SCHOOL
PLAN***

SECTION I

The Valley High School Safe School Plan Committee will be comprised but not limited to the school wide **Culture and Climate Team** that is made up of a site administrator, a representative from each academic department, a member of the clerical staff, the custodial staff, a paraeducator, the student resource officer, a campus supervisor, the career counselor, the athletic director, activities director and a parent representative. The following representatives are:

Members of Culture and Climate Team:

Rick Messer – Vice Principal	Mike Rosales – Business/Technology
Paul Burke– Vice Principal	Colonel Bill Norman – AFJROTC
Greg Ortiz – Counselor	Dennis Boggs - Math
My Vo – Career Counselor	Katherine Cook – World Language
Deputy Pete Avalos – SRO	Michael Nevin – Social Studies
Christina Hill – Lead Custodian	Jennifer Geddes - VAPA
Cathy Ramos – Clerical Staff	Ellie Koutalides - English
Mary Lacey – Paraeducator	Robert Brockman - Science
LaDonna Green – Parent Representative	Wendy Murrill - Library
Stephanie Haas – Athletic Director	Rodney Black - Health
Dan Laine – Activities Director	Sonia Badilla – Campus Supervisor

The Culture and Climate Team was assigned the task of completing the California Safe Schools Report due to its overall purpose and vision:

PURPOSE: The Culture and Climate Team will work to be a **PROACTIVE** team represented by **ALL** stakeholders of the Valley High School Community for the purpose of promoting:

A SAFE learning environment so ALL staff and students can focus on teaching and learning.

A Schoolwide commitment and BELIEF that ALL students can and will learn.

A Schoolwide COLLEGE and CAREER environment.

The Culture and Climate Team meets monthly on the second Monday of each month. The members assemble after school with a proactive focus to address issues related to the climate of Valley High School and/or to plan for changes that are necessary to maintain a positive learning environment.

SECTION II

VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

Our task at Valley High School is to provide learning opportunities for students that empower them to become responsible, ethical citizens who are both academically and technologically adept.

Our additional task is to provide learning experiences that require students to employ the use of complex thinking skills in order to solve problems as individuals and as group members.

To accomplish the goals of our mission statement, it is our belief that we have to provide a safe environment for all members of the teaching and learning community at Valley High School. Because the student population at Valley High School mirrors the ethnic and cultural diversity of the community, the school takes pride in its diversity and recognizes “unity in diversity” as a paradigm that provides a framework for our core values and beliefs. Everyone will be respected, no matter their ethnic background, age, gender or abilities.

We believe it takes the entire community to help keep Valley High School safe by including not only students, parents and staff, but also community programs and grants such as the ASSETs grant, the City of Sacramento, People Reaching Out, California Gear Up, the Valley Hi Adult and Youth Coalition, and local law enforcement.

Valley High School also offers a number of mentoring programs to students on campus through these programs. The Link Crew program partners up freshmen with an upper classman at the beginning of the school year and helps in their transition to high school. Four other mentoring programs support our students as well: Too Good for Violence, the New Era Vikings , the Leadership Skills Initiative and the G-Unit for young women.

Next, Valley High School offers two after school programs that provide a safe environment for students to not only work on academics, but also gain enrichment. The ASSETs grant is an after school program that offers credit recovery classes, tutoring, enrichment classes, mentoring for all students and family literacy classes for parents. This grant is funded for five years and will continue to grow with the needs of the students. The City of Sacramento also provides an afterschool tutoring and enrichment activities for all students that runs year round.

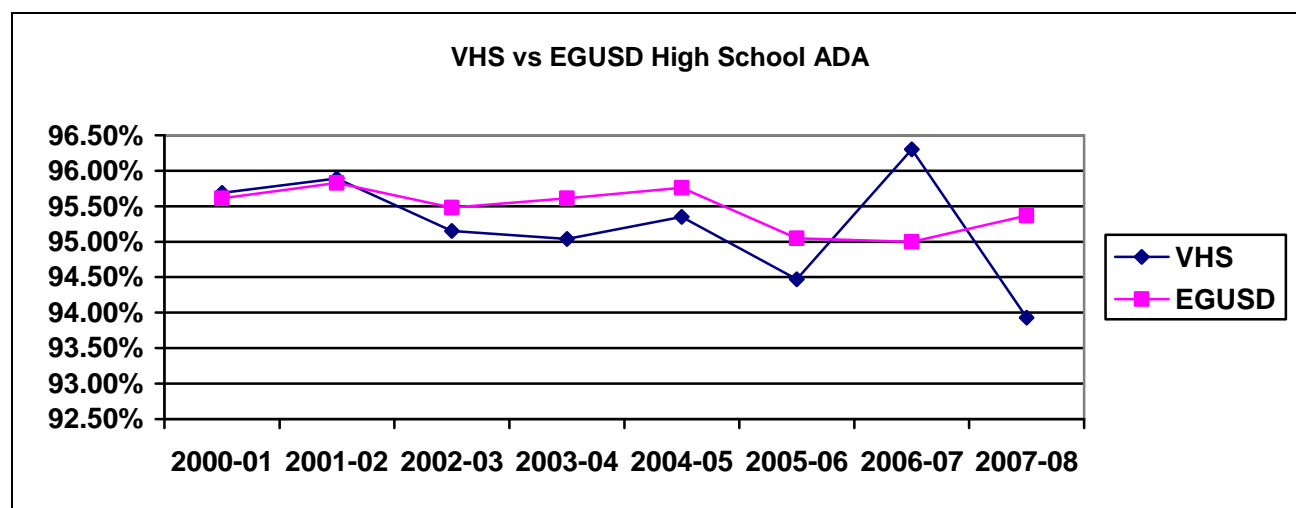
Finally, to keep our campus safe, we provide a structured environment to students and staff that reflect safety on a regular basis. Our campus supervisor team is assigned specific areas of the campus to monitor as well as communicate with teachers and other support staff. Our first campus supervisor arrives at 6:45 am and the last leaves at 6:30 pm daily. We practice fire and lockdown drills in case of emergencies. Our tardy sweep policy moves students into classes where they can be accounted for. Our Student Resource Officer from the Sacramento County Sheriff’s Department not only monitors the campus, but also the neighborhood around the school. With the respect of all students and staff, the commitment from the community, and commitment to safety on the campus at Valley High School, we believe we provide a safe teaching and learning environment where teachers can teach and ALL students can learn.

SECTION III

The Culture and Climate Team reviewed data using SISWEB to address key areas that we felt dealt with overall safety issues. The areas we covered were student attendance, student expulsions, and student suspensions. We also reviewed the Valley Hi Community Survey produced by Students Reaching Out and the Valley Hi Youth and Adult Coalition completed in the fall of 2008. The survey questioned students and adults from the community about their sense of safety in the community as well as Valley High School and it was mentioned that more after school programs were necessary to keep students safe. We also reviewed the 2008 Support Personnel Accountability Record Card (SPARC) for Valley High School.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Valley High School decreased in the Average Daily Attendance last year. The Average Daily Attendance was 93.9% for the 2007-2008 school year. This represents a 1.4% drop from the previous year. While this represents a drop, the school is continuing to develop ways to increase communication to bridge the attendance gap. It is our belief that all students need to be in school and in class to be able to provide the safest environment possible.



The goal of the Elk Grove Unified School District is mutual respect among all students and staff at all levels. Valley High School's discipline policy is reviewed with students annually in Advocacy classes. Ninth grade students are introduced to Valley's policies during orientation as well as during Advocacy at the beginning of the school year. The Elk Grove Unified School District publishes a Code of Conduct Student/Parent Handbook that covers the behavior expectations and guidelines for students as well as the consequences for violating these rules. In addition, our school has a Link Crew program that provides more support to our incoming ninth graders, "linking" them to their new high school. Valley High School also has Conflict Management and Peer Mediation programs in place to support students and provide interventions so that all students are part of a safe campus. According to the 2008 SPARC report, peer mediators conducted 125 mediations with a 100% peaceful resolution rate which possibly reduced home suspensions. Our new mentoring programs on campus have been created to help both male and female students stay engaged in a positive way. Based on the suspension data

below, the number of suspensions have gone up six percent in 07/08, but continue to fall below the three prior years. Based on the expulsion data listed, the number of expulsions have gone up one over the last year, but also remain lower than the previous 3 years. This is credited to the implementation of the policies and programs stated above. We believe that more interventions and mentoring with students will continue to lower both the suspension and expulsion numbers.

EXPULSION AND SUSPENSION DATA

SUMMARY OF EXPULSION

Ethnicity	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
1	0	0	1	0	0
2	4	0	1	1	0
3	0	0	0	0	1
4	11	8	8	11	5
5	21	20	23	8	13
6	3	1	0	0	1
7	2	1	0	0	1
Totals	45	30	33	20	21

***(1) American Indian/Alaskan, (2) Asian, (3) Filipino, (4) Hispanic, (5) African-American, (6) White, (7) Pacific Islander**

SUMMARY OF SUSPENSIONS

Year	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
Suspensions	1153	1071	898	843	880

SECTION IV

Areas of Pride and Strength

Seven years ago at Valley High School, a new culture was developed, focusing on high expectations for all students and making sure staff had the time, professional learning and resources to facilitate change. The result of work has shown a growth of 142 API points over that time. A sustained school-wide professional learning program continues to focus on instruction using late start Wednesday for results meetings as well as subject area retreats to develop common standards based curriculum and assessments. Coupled with the math/English Language Arts intervention programs and the most comprehensive secondary EL program in the district, Valley High School's work has helped propel our student achievement in the right direction.

Valley High School has also worked to create an environment of student and staff unity and safety by providing opportunities for students to meet and get to know each other better during the school day. During the 07/08 school year, the program Breaking Down the Walls spent three days on campus working with over 900 students and 60 teachers. During the 08/09 school year, Valley had a nationally recognized program called Challenge Day that served 80 students and also supported Friendship Day that is twice per year that serves about 150 students per event.

In December of 2007, the California Drop-Out Project declared Valley High School, a school “Beating the Odds.” In August 2008, Newsweek Magazine included Valley High School on their list of the 1,300 top high schools in the United States. Valley’s counseling department has been recognized for its 2008 SPARC Report that represents the quality of support it provides to all students. Valley also has a nationally recognized AVID program. This last fall, Valley High School received the ASSETs grant that allows for a comprehensive afterschool program that offers opportunities for students. ASSETs offers credit recovery classes, tutoring, enrichment classes, mentoring for all students and family literacy classes for parents. Valley High School has managed to lift up the achievement of some of its neediest students, while at the same time has expanded AP/Honors and college-going programs such as AVID. To combat the declining enrollment, the principals in the region are working together to promote the positive aspects of the region. For example, the open house at Valley High in the spring of 2008 was a regional event that was highlighted by the regional band program performing. Students, parents, and administrators of the Valley region were all in attendance. What had traditionally been a report card distribution night attended by a small number of parents was transformed into an event to celebrate the successes of teachers and students. Each of these successes fall in line with our mission statement.

Areas of Change or Concern

As listed above, improving attendance is an ongoing concern and we are continuing to work to improve student attendance. Based on our tardy policy, students who are tardy to any class will be swept to OCS where the teacher will work to motivate students to get to class on time and then make contact with parents. As of the fall of this school year, we have improved our parent communication by having our new on-campus suspension teacher call parents on a regular basis to notify them that their student had been tardy-swept to OCS and then logged those calls into SISWEB. We have found that some students have used the tardy sweep system to avoid going to classes and hence ending up failing those classes. Our goal is intervene as soon as possible by making contact with the parents to get students into classes. Valley High School also provides School Loop to help parents have access to their student’s teachers and their grades.

Our next area of concern is suspensions. Our goal is to continue to provide student and staff support to prevent certain behavior oriented suspensions by providing resources and training to the staff and students alike. At the beginning of the school year, teachers are trained on the use of SISWEB as a tool of communication with parents, teachers and administration. The goal is to provide early interventions to deter student behaviors that disrupt the learning environment. Mentoring programs have also been implemented to help provide more support for students who are struggling in and out of the classroom.

Finally, Valley High School welcomed a new principal, Mr. Keven MacDonald this school year. Mr. MacDonald is committed to maintaining and improving upon all of the success Valley has achieved.

SECTION 5

Component 1: People and Programs

Goal 1: Reduce the truancy rate from the previous school year.

Objective 1-1: School staff will continue to use tardy sweep system.

Objective 1-2: School will modify OCS to communicate with parents on a regular basis when student is in attendance and log contacts into SISWEB.

Objective 1-3: Attendance clerk, vice principals and SRO will work towards getting frequent truant students to school.

Person Responsible for implementation: Rick Messer, Vice Principal

Resources Needed: 1 FTE

Timeline: Fall Semester 2008.

Goal 2: Reduce the number of suspensions and expulsions

Objective 2.1: Over-communicate school wide policies to the students through daily bulletins, posters in classrooms, and advocacy classes.

Objective 2.2: Teacher and administrative interventions and parent communication.

Objective 2.3: Proper supervision by campus supervisors, administration, and staff.

Persons Responsible for Implementations:

Rick Messer, Vice Principal

Lai Saeteurn, Vice Principal

Don Ross, Vice Principal

Paul Burke, Vice Principal

Sheila Caruthers, Teacher in Charge

Campus Supervisor Teams

Staff

Timeline for Implementation:

September 2008.

COMPONENT 2: Physical Environment

Goal: To improve the security and safety on campus.

Objective 1.1: The campus supervisor team members are assigned specific areas of the school including the front gate to meet and greet visitors.

Objective 1.2: Campus Supervisors, admin and the SRO will meet weekly to monitor procedures and safety issues.

Objective 1.3: Students will be ushered off campus at the end of the school day in a timely fashion.

Persons Responsible:

Rick Messer, Vice Principal

Deputy Pete Avalos

Sheilor Robinson, Lead Campus Supervisor

Timeline for Implementation:

September 2008

SECTION 6

The Safe School Plan will be shared with the public through various means:

- The Culture and Climate Team members will be notified of publication, given a hard copy, and will share with their departments or programs.
- Once published, the plan will be shared with the school's leadership team.
- Once published, the plan will be shared with the staff at the next faculty meeting.
- The school community will be notified through the next school letter to the community.
- The plan will be shared with the School Site Council at their next meeting.
- The plan will be shared on the school's web page.
- The plan will be placed in the Emergency Response Box.
- The district will be sent three copies for Risk Management and approval by the Board of Education.

Section 7

On an annual basis, our Culture and Climate Team will evaluate and review the prior year's Safe School Plan. This process will involve meeting to determine areas of strength and concern. Our team will recommend refinements based on data and the experiences. Steps to modify the plan will take place based on discussion and consensus. The new plan will then be implemented and shared with the community through the process outlined in Step VI.