



COLORADO SPRINGS FIRE DEPARTMENT

Brett T. Lacey
Fire Marshal

2020/2021

Dear School Principal/Administrator:

Colorado Springs Fire Department (CSFD) applauds all of the work put into creating a healthy learning environment supportive of the goals and guidelines set by Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Colorado Department of Education, and your school district. During the necessary heightened awareness of public health caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, I ask you to be equally mindful of the fire risks in your in-person learning environments and the requirements for reporting unwanted fires on school campuses.

Some common fire code violations in schools are artwork/teaching materials on fire doors and flammable items (curtains, fabric, artificial plants, etc. not treated with a flame retardant) on walls. In your role as a principal/school administrator, educate your staff on the importance of honoring what Colorado State Law, and the City of Colorado Springs and the International Fire Code mandate. Review, reference, and make available to your employees the items accompanying this correspondence. An excuse of "I didn't know we couldn't do that," and ignoring known violations, like those listed above, rests on you.

This letter also serves as a reminder that not reporting an unwanted fire is unlawful. Regardless of evidence leading to the intent of starting a fire, a fire's magnitude, or the age(s) (minor or adult) of the person/people involved, reporting fire-related incidents is a requirement and the responsibility of principals/administrators. **In every situation and under all circumstances, mandatory fire reporting is the law!**

Schools reported 29 fire incidents during the 2019/2020 school year. Many of these reports prompted referrals to CSFD's fire and life safety educators providing them the opportunity to conduct risk assessments on the youth involved. These assessments determined the level of risk for future fire-setting behaviors by each student, and outcomes of the evaluations resulted in the mandatory participation of students and their caregivers in CSFD's FireFactor² educational intervention program and, when warranted, referrals to mental/behavioral health specialists. In 2019, 77 youth were referred and participated in the FireFactor² program.

The 29 reports of unwanted fires on school campuses, and the 77 referrals, are poignant statistics proving our community has principals/administrators abiding by the legal requirements, and ultimately, allowing the fire and life safety educators opportunities to do their jobs. Please continue calling 719.385.7376 or emailing Firefactor@coloradosprings.gov to report all unwanted fires.

All of the information attached to this packet is available via coloradosprings.gov/schoollink, but if you have questions, or want to discuss code requirements or educational opportunities, please call the fire department's general business number, 719.385.5950.

Have a healthy and fire-safe school year.

Respectfully,

Brett T. Lacey, Fire Marshal



Colorado Springs Fire Department
375 Printers Parkway
Colorado Springs, CO 80910-3191
719.385.5950 | brett.lacey@coloradosprings.gov



The mission of the Colorado Springs Fire Department is to provide fire, emergency and prevention services with professionalism, compassion and excellence.