



Schools are up to PARR

Providing our students and employees a safe learning and working environment is a top priority for Aiken County Public Schools. The South Carolina School Boards Insurance Trust (SCSBIT) implemented the Premium and Risk Reduction (PARR) program in an effort to minimize safety hazards in schools and help districts maximize their long-term savings. Districts choosing to participate in the program select at least one school to meet the annual criteria and are eligible to receive a five percent reduction in their workers' compensation premiums.

Aiken County has had two schools successfully participate in PARR since its inception in 2008. To date, South Aiken High and New Ellenton Middle have completed the process by meeting the annual 10-step criteria. This year's steps required schools to create a commitment statement, coordinate a safety committee, set goals, develop an accessible system for hazard reports, train personnel on personal protection equipment, hazard communication for maintenance employees, conduct safety audits regularly, maintain Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) recordkeeping (300 logs), attend the annual SCSBIT's Risky Business seminar and share present safety practices that go beyond what the PARR program requires.

This program reinforces our "safe schools" mentality and keeps personnel aware of how important on-the-job safety is. The added bonus to reducing workplace accidents is the savings. Our district received a five percent reduction in our SCSBIT insurance premium after completion of the PARR program equaling \$49,977 this past year.

Judy Hall, retired risk management specialist, was recently recognized by the school board for her leadership in PARR and efforts to decrease costs sustained by workers' compensation claims. Participation in PARR has allowed us to become more aware of our safety procedures and preventative measures, as well as amplify our strengths and weaknesses in that area. The Aiken County Board of Education, Superintendent, and Administration is working diligently to enhance safety practices among our entire workforce.

For more information on the PARR program, please contact Heather Kinard, SCSBA risk control manager, at hkinard@scsba.org or 803.799.6607 or Tray Traxler, district comptroller, at ttraxler@aiken.k12.sc.us or 803.641.2437.