

Springfield, IL DISTRICT #186

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One of my responsibilities as a Springfield ALT has been to answer questions about Springfield District #186's school policies. District #186 has a wonderful website that is a wonderful reference point for questions about Springfield's schools. Below I have briefly outlined some of Springfield's school policies for general reference, a good guideline of useful knowledge, and a future reference point.

NUMBER OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS: In Springfield's District #186 there are: 26 Elementary Schools, 5 Junior High or (Middle) Schools, and 3 High Schools.

ATTENDANCE: Attendance is a mandatory process for every school. Attendance is taken at the beginning of school for Elementary School(ES) students and at the start of school as well as the start of each class for Junior High School(JHS) and High School(HS) students. JHS and HS students take attendance at the beginning of school and before each class because they usually change classrooms and have a different teacher for each subject.

GENERAL DISTRICT RULES & POLICIES: There are a number of policies that have been established by Springfield's Board of Education with the mission to provide a safe and endusive learning environment for students and teachers. Within the past few years school policies have changed nationwide due to the Airline Suicide Crash into America's New York trade center on September 11, 2001 and the tragic shootings that killed and injured students and teachers in Columbine High School in Littleton Colorado on April 20th, 1999.

In light of the stronger precautions that schools are now taking to ensure safe schools in America, the following is a brief list of areas that District #186's has created policies: attendance, dress code, alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, athletic programs, food service, instructional materials fee, emergency school cloising, immunizations and physical exams, interrogations and searches, medical assistance, weapons, sexual harrassment, student abuse/neglect reporting and so on.

Although I don't have the space to expand on these policies outside of above points this list is a great starting point for essays and expansion on Springfield's school system. I hope I have been able to provide a great frame of reference for ALT's to think about and explore Ashikaga's school system and the curriculum that is established for ALT's and teachers in Japan. Do you know what to do if there is an emergency in your school or if there is an earthquake? Have fun...KG

For further information please visit District 186's site at www.springfieldk12il.us