

LYON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Staff Travel Report
to
School Board of Trustees*

Your recent request to travel has been approved. Within two weeks of the date of the conference, the following report is due in the office of the Deputy Superintendent.

Please Download & TYPE the following information.

Staff Member:	<u>Dyana Juarez</u>	School:	<u>Transportation</u>
Conference:	<u>Handle with Care Instructor</u>	Staff Assignment:	<u>Driver Trainer</u>
Do not use acronyms			
Location of Conference:	<u>Phoenix, AZ</u>	Dates Attended:	<u>4/26/2026 - 4/29/2026</u>

General Overview: Do not use acronyms

I have completed a comprehensive three-day training program to become a certified "Handle with Care" Instructor. The "Handle with Care" course focused on verbal de-escalation and physical intervention techniques to safely manage students in crisis without causing harm. Key areas included:

1. Understanding and applying the Handle with Care philosophy centered on safety, dignity, and therapeutic rapport.
2. Mastery of verbal and non-verbal intervention strategies to defuse potentially violent situations.
3. Safe physical intervention methods to prevent harm when verbal strategies are insufficient.
4. Instructional techniques to effectively train other staff members in the Handle with Care program.

How will this impact student learning in a positive way?

This training prepares me to effectively train other staff members in safe and appropriate interactions with students who have special needs. By embedding these practices across a school site, staff become better equipped to recognize and respond to student crises, fostering a safer, more supportive learning environment with fewer disruptions.

The training provided in-depth instruction on the escalation - de-escalation cycle, with a focus on identifying where a student is within the cycle and selecting appropriate interventions. It emphasized the importance of verbal strategies, particularly the use of calm, therapeutic communication to de-escalate situations whenever possible, reducing the need for physical intervention.

How will I implement what I learned and how will I share this information with my colleagues?

Through this role, I aim to foster a safer, more supportive school environment by ensuring staff are confident and prepared to respond to student behavior in a calm, respectful, and therapeutic manner.

As a newly certified Handle with Care Instructor, I will share my training and knowledge with fellow employees across the district. My primary goal is to equip staff with the tools to verbally de-escalate student behavior using patience, empathy, and effective communication strategies. When verbal interventions are not successful, I will prepare staff to respond in a way that prioritizes the safety of the student, themselves, and others.

This training can be delivered as a formal certification program for staff, following the Handle with Care curriculum. I will provide ongoing support, guidance, and de-escalation materials to staff members, helping build consistency in our approach to student behavior management. While I will assist in training on verbal de-escalation techniques, all physical intervention training will be coordinated and conducted under the direction of the Special Services Department for staff identified as needing this level of support.

Other Comments:

This was an outstanding and highly valuable training experience. I thoroughly enjoyed learning new verbal and physical intervention techniques and look forward to sharing this knowledge with staff members across the district.

The training was both informative and practical, providing strategies that can be immediately applied in real-world situations. I strongly believe that all staff who work directly with students should complete the verbal component of the Handle With Care program. This training equips educators with the skills to recognize early signs of escalation and respond effectively using appropriate de-escalation techniques before situations become physically unsafe.

Programs like Handle With Care emphasize proactive communication, safety, and dignity, helping staff intervene in ways that reduce risk and promote positive outcomes. Research shows that these types of approaches focus on effective communication and behavior intervention methods designed to create safer environments and reduce incidents requiring physical intervention .

Overall, Handle With Care is an excellent and effective resource that supports a safer, more supportive learning environment. It benefits both staff and students by promoting consistency, safety, and respectful intervention practices across all school sites.

Debra Shenal

Site Principal/Supervisor Approval

Stacy L Cooper, EdD

Deputy Superintendent Approval

5-6-26

Date

5/13/24

Date