Safety Audit Update

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Action Items for the 24-25 School Year:

Conduct a Comprehensive Review of All Emergency Response Protocols

- Evaluate current procedures to identify strengths, gaps, and areas for improvement across all emergency scenarios.

Standardize Emergency Procedures and Resources Across the District

- Ensure consistency in emergency response protocols at all schools within the district for seamless coordination.

Implement Proactive Education and Communication Strategies for Students and Families

- Educate parents and students on school safety through workshops and presentations to foster awareness and preparedness.

Provide Targeted Training Opportunities for Staff

- Offer hands-on training sessions and workshops to equip staff with the knowledge and skills needed to respond effectively in emergencies.

Action Item #1:

Review of Emergency Response Protocols

Memorandum of Understanding: 24-25 SY

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):

- Partnership with the Chief of Police, Superintendent, and Chair of the Regional School Committee.

School Resource Officers for Berlin Memorial (SROs):

- Sergeant David Goulding
- Officier Molly Plante

Primary Points of Contact for Boylston Elementary and Tahanto Regional:

- Sergeant Matt Ryel

SCHOOL DISTRICT AND POLICE THREAT PROTOCOL

All serious threats made by students must be reported to the local police. Specific intervention steps include:

Collaborative Investigation:

The Administration will collaborate with law enforcement to evaluate the credibility of any threat and determine the necessary response. The Principal must provide relevant information to police as needed, including personal details of the individual responsible.

Home Assessment/Interviews:

If the threat occurs outside school hours, law enforcement may conduct a home visit. For threats during school hours, police will interview the student and their parent or guardian to assess the situation.

Response to Threats:

Based on the investigation, the Administration and law enforcement will implement appropriate safety measures, such as a lockdown, evacuation, or other protocols. Following the investigation, the Principal will determine school-based actions, which may include disciplinary measures or the implementation of a safety plan.

REPORTING THREATS MADE TO SCHOOL

During School Hours:

- If you become aware of a threat to the school, regardless of how the information is received, report it immediately to the school administration.
- Do not attempt to assess the seriousness or credibility of the threat yourself.

After School Hours:

- Contact the local police and the building principal directly.
- Provide as much detailed information as possible regarding the nature of the threat.

SCHOOL BUILDING RESPONSE TEAM

The Leadership Team plans,responds,and debriefs crisis and serious school safety incidents:

School Building Response Team



Action Item #2:

Standardize Emergency Procedures and Resources Across the District

SCHOOL DRILLS

The following drills were reviewed in detail with all district employees

- Fire Drills
- Hold in Place
- Shelter in Place
- Lockdown
- Evacuation
- Medical Emergency



School Announcements for Emergencies

The intercom system will be the primary means of communication during an emergency.

Additionally, each school within the district will utilize automated emergency messages, which will be delivered through automated calls, text messages, and emails to all families and staff.

- Hold in Place
- Shelter in Place
- Lockdown
- Evacuation
- Medical Emergency

Each administrative assistant and secondary point person has been trained to initiate automated messages in case of an emergency.

WALKIE-TALKIES

Equip each school with walkie-talkies to ensure adequate staffing and communication coverage.

Establish a direct link between walkie-talkies and local law enforcement, ensuring at least one device per building administrator.

Proper charging protocols for walkie-talkies, including turning devices off during charging to preserve battery health.



GO-BUCKETS

Some essential lockdown items include:

- First Aid Kit
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Whistle
- Emergency Contact List
- Water
- Non-perishable Snacks
- Portable Phone Charger
- Blanket
- Maps of Evacuation Routes
- Notebook and Pen
- Plastic Bags

These items ensure that basic needs are met during an emergency, and the kit allows for effective communication and organization. Schools may tailor their "Go Buckets" based on specific needs or local guidelines.



Building Security Protocols



Wear Your Badge: Keep your badge visible at all times.

No Sharing: Never give your badge to anyone.

No Tailgating: Ensure others use their own credentials for entry.

Do Not Prop Doors: Always secure doors when leaving.

Inquire About Visitors: Ask visitors where they're headed unless they are a violent intruder.

Action Item #3:

Implement Proactive Education and Communication Strategies for Students and Families

Cyber Safety and Bullying Presentation

Provided by the Worcester County District Attorney's office, led by District Attorney Joseph Early Jr., focused on educating individuals about online safety and cyberbullying, particularly aimed at young students and highlighting the legal consequences of such behavior as well as the important of notifying a trusted adult about anything concerning they see online.



Bridging Communication and Resources

- Social Emotional Instructional (SEI) focuses conducted by School Counselors
- “See Something Say Something” anonymous google form
- Weekly Counseling Newsletter detailing community resources



Action Item #4:

Provide Targeted Training Opportunities for Staff

CPR/AED Training:

CPR/AED training teaches people how to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and use an automated external defibrillator (AED). AED CPR training can help people save lives in emergencies, as the chance of survival decreases by about 10% for each minute that defibrillation is delayed.



Stop the Bleed:

What stops bleeding? In an ACS Stop the Bleed course, you'll learn three quick techniques to help save a life before someone bleeds out: (1) How to use your hands to apply pressure to a wound; (2) How to pack a wound to control bleeding; (3) How to correctly apply a tourniquet. These three techniques will empower you to assist in an emergency and potentially save a life.



Safety Care Crisis Prevention:

Safety Care Crisis Prevention Training: Safety-Care goes beyond crisis management, equipping you with skills to prevent, manage, and de-escalate behavioral challenges with dignity and safety. It incorporates effective strategies from Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) and Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports (PBIS), tailored for individuals with developmental, psychiatric, or neurologic impairments, as well as those with trauma histories. Emphasizing reinforcement-based methods, Safety-Care focuses on skill-building, maintaining safety, and minimizing restrictive interventions like restraint.



Continued Alignment/Development of Practices and Procedures

- Primary focus is to finalize our comprehensive School Safety Audit in each school with a team of Administrators and Public Safety Officials by the end of the 24-25 school year.
- Evaluate current procedures to identify strengths, gaps, and areas of improvement.
- Ensure consistency in emergency response protocols at all schools within the district for seamless coordination.
- Develop school building response teams and debriefing protocols for continued growth.
- Proactive education for students and families.
- Offer hands-on training sessions and workshops to equip staff with the knowledge and skills needed to respond effectively in emergencies.

Questions? Feedback? Suggestions?

