

Student Safety

The Bethany Board of Education (Board) shall strive to build safe, supportive, and academically challenging school learning environments in partnership with students, staff members, and families.

The Board shall ensure that all facilities, grounds, equipment, and vehicles meet acceptable injury and violence prevention standards for design, installation, use, and maintenance.

Student safety shall be a priority of all Bethany Public School District (District) personnel through close supervision of students in all school buildings and grounds and through special attention to:

1. Maintenance of safe school environments through conducting regular safety vulnerability and hazard assessments of all school facilities, school grounds, sports-related equipment, and vehicles used to transport students. Security and vulnerability assessments shall be conducted every two (2) years, resulting in a school safety plan, based upon the assessment results.
2. Safe practices by school personnel and students – particularly in instructional areas or in extracurricular activities presenting special hazards.
3. Development of school programs and activities consistent with appropriate abilities and limitations of students at each age level.
4. Offering safety education to students germane to particular subjects, such as laboratory courses in science, health, and physical education.
5. Appropriate first aid care for students in case of accident or sudden illness.
6. Adequacy of emergency response procedures at Bethany Community School (first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, infection control, security).
7. Development, adoption, and implementation of a code of conduct and other appropriate rules that are designed to promote health and safety and prevent unintended injury, harassment, bullying, and other forms of violence. Such code shall prohibit the use and possession of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs and weapons and dangerous instruments at school.
8. Training exercises for all school staff designed to help them maintain a positive climate for learning and to effectively enforce safety and discipline rules.
9. Requiring the District to have safety and security plans which serve as a guide to address the various safety needs in the school, such as lockdown procedures, evacuations, drills and safety protocols, and personnel assignments. The School Security and Safety Plan for each of the District's schools shall annually be submitted to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection.
10. Conducting regular audits (at least annually) to evaluate and analyze the effectiveness of each school's safety and security plans. First responders, local law enforcement, and the entire school staff shall be involved in this process. Law enforcement and local public safety officials shall evaluate all fire and crisis response drills.
11. Communicating with parents/guardians and community members about school-level emergency preparedness protocols to the greatest extent possible.

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12. Providing regular training for all school employees on the Districts' school emergency management systems and protocols, as well as violence prevention training.
13. Creating a partnership between area schools, local law enforcement, and appropriate community agencies, including mental health, to prevent and reduce school violence.
14. Establishing a school security and safety committee. Such committee shall be responsible for assisting in the development of the School Security and Safety Plan and administering such plan.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes § 10-200f
Public Act 13-3 §§ 86, 87, 88

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