



# SCHOOL SAFETY

*Sustain a safe school environment that actively seeks to prevent and does not accept behavior that hurts self or others.*

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# EDUCATION LAW SECTIONS 2801-A AND 807

The New York State School Safety Team recommended statutory changes to improve the scope of emergency response planning. This resulted in amendments to the Education Law.



# AMENDMENTS INCLUDE:

Each district develop policies and procedures for responding to implied or direct threat of violence by students, teachers, other school personnel and visitors to the school, including threats by students against themselves, which includes suicide.



# AMENDMENTS INCLUDE:

That Staff and Students receive annual multi-hazard school safety training.

## Emergency Drills

- ▶ District-Level School Safety Plan - Focuses on district policy and outlines strategies rather than provide details. (Posted on website)
- ▶ Building-Level Emergency Response Plan - Detailed strategies in response to emergency (confidential / not public)



# SAFETY PLAN

▶ [www.cccsd.org/SafetyPlan](http://www.cccsd.org/SafetyPlan)

# AMENDMENTS (CONTINUED)

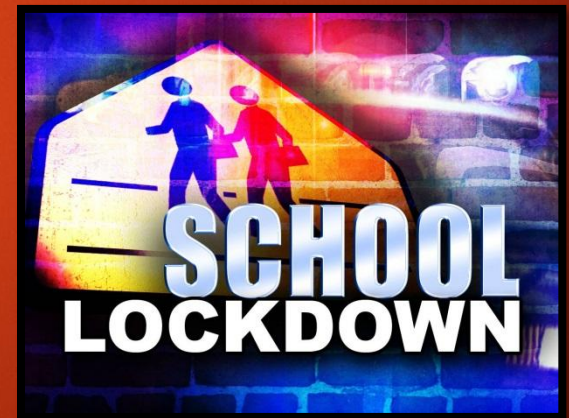
Each District must submit certification to NYSED that all district and school staff have undergone annual training on the emergency response plan, and that it include components on violence prevention and mental health.



# AMENDMENTS (CONTINUED):

Building-level emergency response plans include policies and procedures for response to emergency situations such as those requiring evacuation, sheltering and lock-down.

- Shelter-in-place
- Hold-in-place
- Evacuation
- Lockdown
- Lock-out



# AMENDMENTS (CONTINUED):

District Safety Team must include members of designated groups (students are not mandated because of confidential information)



School Administrators - Department Directors - BOE - Fire Department - Law Enforcement - Teacher - etc.



# AMENDMENTS (CONTINUED):

District must standardize selected terms including Building Level Emergency Response Plan and Emergency Response Team (used to be called Building Level Safety Team and Building Response Team).

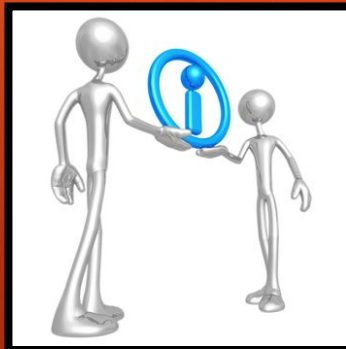
District must complete a total of 12 drills but 4 of those drills must be “Lockdown” drills.

# Threats of Violence

Early recognition and intervention into conflicts and potentially violent or threatening behaviors is important.



Timely communication and sharing information regarding conflicts, threats or troubling behaviors is key.



# Early Warning Signs

There are early warning signs in most cases of violence to self and others — certain behavioral and emotional signs that, when viewed in context, can signal a troubled person. But early warning signs are just that — indicators that an individual may need help.

# Early Warning Signs

- ▶ social withdrawal
- ▶ feelings of isolation or rejection
- ▶ expression of violence in writing or drawings
- ▶ patterns of impulsivity
- ▶ history of inappropriate behaviors
- ▶ threats of violence; or sharing ideas of threats with others
- ▶ involvement in arguments, fights or desire to hurt others
- ▶ drug and alcohol use
- ▶ intolerance for differences and prejudicial issues
- ▶ drastic changes in behavior or personality
- ▶ other general disorders: anxiety (PTSD), eating disorder, mood swings (bi-polar), and psychotic behaviors



# Imminent Warning Signs

- ▶ serious physical fighting with colleagues, peers, family
- ▶ severe destruction of property
- ▶ severe rage for seemingly minor reasons
- ▶ detailed threats of lethal violence
- ▶ possession and or use of firearms and other weapons
- ▶ obsession with weapons
- ▶ self-injurious behaviors or threats of suicide



# Reporting Early Warning Signs



- Usually begins at the school building level
- Any staff member may report to the building administrator, school counselor, nurse
- School Crisis Team - trained and coordinates immediate intervention
- Law Enforcement - imminent warning signs observed

School-wide referral systems should enable teachers, staff, and parents to access Support in a timely, respectful, supportive, and confidential manner.

# If You See Something, Say Something

Students who have information about a peer or a potentially dangerous situation may be fearful and hesitant to share their concerns.

One method we use at CCCSD is the **Safe School Hotline**



- CALL: 1-800-418-6423, EXTENSION 359
- TEXT: 66746 AND TYPE "TIPS"
- VISIT: [WWW.SAFESCHOOLHELPLINE.COM](http://WWW.SAFESCHOOLHELPLINE.COM)

- DOWNLOAD THE APP



# District Support Strategies

Improved communication among students, parents/guardians, and school staff adds to the quality of life and sense of safety at all our schools.





# Intervention Techniques & District Support Strategies

- ▶ Counselors, Social Workers and Psychologists (K-12)
- ▶ Administrative Consultation
- ▶ Response to Intervention (RtI) for academic and behavioral supports
- ▶ Employee Assistance Program (adults/family)
- ▶ CC STARS Mentoring
- ▶ Building Classroom Environment and Relationships (Peace circles and District Core Beliefs)
- ▶ Restorative Practices
- ▶ Support Groups - facilitated by counselors, psychologists, social workers
- ▶ Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI)
- ▶ TIG - Trauma Illness and Grief team

# Creating a positive and supportive environment

- ▶ Promote social and emotional competency and build resilience
- ▶ Help ensure a positive, safe school environment
  - ▶ District Core Beliefs
  - ▶ Character Education
- ▶ Teach and reinforce positive behaviors and decision-making
- ▶ Encourage helping others
- ▶ Encourage good physical health
- ▶ Help ensure access to school-based mental health supports (counselors, social workers)

# District Policies / Non-Violent School Climate



- Code of Conduct #3410
- Fingerprinting #6180
- Anti-Sexual Harassment of Students #7531
- Whistleblower #5580
- Dignity for All #7532
- Child Abuse Reporting #7530
- Weapons in School and the Gun-Free Schools Act #7360

# Safety Practices

- ▶ Secure entrances
- ▶ Raptor, orange cards and ID badges
- ▶ Camera and PA systems
- ▶ Drills
- ▶ Visitor policies, code of conduct, drills
- ▶ Building or District safety team meetings
- ▶ Safe schools tip line
- ▶ Student searches
- ▶ Canine searches
- ▶ Evening security procedures, daily report
- ▶ Acceptable use policy, Network use audit (technology oversight)



# Personnel Support



- ▶ Security team
  - ▶ Director of Security and Sentry
  - ▶ 9 Security Workers
  - ▶ Hall monitors
- ▶ Mental health staff (counselor, psychologists, social workers)
- ▶ Teachers, nurses, mentors, support staff, coaches
- ▶ Office staff, Greeters and Receptionist, Informational Technology staff
- ▶ Cafeteria monitors, Sports study hall monitors, custodians, bus drivers, chaperones

# Maintaining a Safe Environment

- ▶ Safe School Helpline - for reporting violence and safety
- ▶ Fingerprinting of all new hires
- ▶ Raptor System for all visitors
- ▶ OSPRA arrest alert (NYS)
- ▶ Updated Building Level Emergency Response Plans
- ▶ Updated District-wide School Safety Plan
- ▶ Active District Safety Team
- ▶ Strong Community Partners (Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Mental Health)

# Training

- ▶ Therapeutic Crisis Intervention training (not engaging in the conflict cycle)
  - ▶ ACE's
  - ▶ CPR
  - ▶ Mandated Reporting
  - ▶ Trauma, Illness and Grief
  - ▶ Mental Health Team- risk assessment
- ▶ Drills - tabletop, fire safety, lockdown, weather emergency, intruder, medical emergency
- ▶ Raptor System training
- ▶ Bus safety (drivers and students)
- ▶ Emergency Response - orange cards (classroom/ID tag), after hours booklet, annual 8 Hour certification for security,

# Maintaining a Safe Facility

- ▶ Capital Project Improvements
  - ▶ Secure entrances at each school
  - ▶ Impact resistant film at entrances
  - ▶ Updated windows with egress
  - ▶ Door locking hardware; Key for all staff including substitutes
  - ▶ Camera systems
  - ▶ Signage at door numbers
  - ▶ Extra exterior lighting
  - ▶ Gates at Fields
  - ▶ Perimeter checks (throughout the day/night by security)
  - ▶ Security alarms
  - ▶ Remote monitoring through mobile computers in security vehicles
  - ▶ Parking lot surveillance (registering vehicles/tags)



# Community Collaboration

- ▶ Sheriff's office
  - ▶ Safety team meetings, student discipline collaboration, canine search, DARE program
- ▶ Fire Department (safety team, drills, alarm system)
- ▶ Connect Ed outreach and emergency robocalls
- ▶ Tipline
- ▶ Social media (Twitter)
- ▶ Website and Newsletters
- ▶ Outside mental health agencies (Bivona, CPS)
- ▶ District Safety Team (ongoing contact with emergency responders, First Responders and community members)
- ▶ Shared sex offender list





Additional reference material can be located in the Security Department Area on the district's webpage.

<https://www.cccsd.org/Departments.cfm?subpage=1298>





# Questions

- ▶ Arming teachers – at this time legislation does not support having teachers carry a gun
- ▶ Parent Notification of an incident – we need time to assess and respond to the situation; as soon as practicable, a district message will be sent. Please know that you will receive a text from your child sooner than the district can send a message given that we will be working through the event
- ▶ All “threats” are investigated; credible threats are met with referral to law enforcement and parent notification



# Questions

- ▶ Metal detectors – at this time, we have not invested in this measure
- ▶ Using window egress for emergency exits – fire safety protocol; lockdown drills require staying hidden as recommended by NYS guidance
- ▶ Lockdown vs alarm (pulled to exit building) – if in a lockdown, students/staff remain in lockdown even if alarm goes off
- ▶ Doors open on campus after hours – we are assessing the opportunity to limit door access (#5 for athletics)
- ▶ Secure entrances – two levels of secure doors along with safety film