

Health & Safety

focus

ADDRESSING THE HEALTH AND SAFETY
NEEDS OF OUR 56 SUBSCRIBING NASSAU
COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Have You Met All Safety Plan Requirements?

The District-wide School Safety Plan and Building-level Emergency Response Plans for the 2024-25 school year should now have been completed. This is necessary to meet compliance dates as follows:



- By September 1st** - The District-wide School Safety Plan has been reviewed by the District-wide School Safety Team and adopted by the School Board after one public meeting and 30-day comment period. The Building-level Emergency Response Plans have been reviewed by the Building-level Emergency Response Planning Teams and adopted by the School Board (The Building-Level Plan is a confidential document). The School Board reviews and adopts this Plan in closed session.
- By September 15th** - Multi-hazard School Safety training has been provided for students and staff. Must certify that staff have received training on the Building-level Emergency Response Plan, including components on violence prevention and mental health.
- By October 1st** - The District-wide School Safety Plan is posted on the school district website. The Building-level Emergency Response Plan information and answers to questions on the District Plan have been entered in the SED Business Portal. The Building-level Emergency Response Plan has been filed with both the State and Local Police. In addition, written information has been provided to all students and staff about emergency procedures.

Regulatory changes to the Commissioner of Education Regulation 155.17 are reflected in the 2024-25 Safety Plan templates provided by Nassau BOCES. Changes that will not become effective until July 1, 2025 have also been incorporated into the Plans. If additional changes occur Safety Plan templates will be revised as needed.

The Nassau BOCES templates for Safety Plans are available to all Nassau County School Districts. Please contact your designated Nassau BOCES In-District Health & Safety Specialist for assistance in implementation.

2024-25

**Sample School District
District-Wide School Safety Plan**

This District-wide School Safety Plan template has been developed by Nassau BOCES for the exclusive use of Nassau County School Districts participating in the Nassau BOCES Health & Safety Training and Information Service. This guidance document was written to assist school districts in their compliance efforts to meet the requirements of the Safe Schools Against Violence in Education Act (SAVE) and related legislation. This Plan should be customized as necessary to reflect individual school district's specific endeavors to achieve a safe school environment. This is a general overarching document that can be shared with the public and should be posted on the school district website by October 1st of each school year, as required by law. Parts of the Plan which may include names, contacts and personal information can be redacted for posting purposes. This Plan can also serve as an educational tool to help in-district personnel and the public to understand the requirements of the SAVE legislation. This contrasts to the Building-level Emergency Response Plan which details specific emergency response procedures, and as such, is a confidential document which cannot be shared with the public, cannot be filed and is protected under law. This Plan includes amendments to Section 155.17 of the Commissioner of Education Regulations effective July 31, 2024 and proposed amendments effective July 1, 2025. If the proposals change or are removed, this Plan, which is a living document, will be revised at that time. This update is being provided now to assist school districts in meeting the September 1st deadline for school board approval.

NASSAU BOCES PROVIDED DISTRICT-WIDE SCHOOL SAFETY PLAN TEMPLATE (REVISED MAY 2024)

Emergency Drills

The revised legislation regarding Safety Plans, noted above, also includes significant changes to the practices for conducting emergency drills. While the total number of drills (12) remains the same, (6) evacuation drills and (2) lockdown drills, must be completed by December 31st. Parents must also be notified within one week preceding any drill. In addition, at the time drills are conducted, students and staff shall be informed that the activities being conducted are a drill. However, students and staff are not required to be informed in advance for evacuation drills. Fire drills are considered evacuation drills.

Emergency Drills – New Requirements

(Effective July 31, 2024)

Evacuation Drills

- At least **8** times in each school year.
- 6** between September 1st and December 31st.
- 2** additional drills during summer school.
 - 1** during the first week of summer school.
- Student instruction** on procedures to be followed if a fire occurs during a **lunch period or assembly**.
 - Instruction may be waived** where a drill is held during the regular lunch period or assembly.
- At the time drills are conducted**, students and staff are **not required to be informed in advance** of the evacuation drill.
- Parents** shall be given advance notice of each drill being conducted **within one-week** preceding any such drill.

Lockdown Drills

- At least **4** times in each school year.
- 2** between September 1st and December 31st.
- Student instruction** on procedures to be followed if a fire occurs during a **lunch period or assembly**.
 - Instruction may be waived** where a drill is held during the regular lunch period or assembly.
- At the time drills are conducted**, students and staff **shall be informed in advance** of the lockdown drill.
- Parents** shall be given advance notice of each drill being conducted **within one-week** preceding any such drill.



Compliance Issues

Answers to recent compliance questions arising in school districts.

Q. I know that school districts are now required to include a Remote Instruction Plan in their District-wide Safety Plan. What are the essential components?

- Policies and procedures to ensure computing devices will be made available to students.
- Policies and procedures to ensure students receiving remote instruction under emergency conditions will access internet connectivity.
- Expectations for school staff as to the proportion of time spent in synchronous and asynchronous instruction of students.
- A description of how instruction will occur for those students for whom remote instruction by digital technology is not available or appropriate.
- A description of how special education and related services will be provided to students with disabilities.
- For school districts that receive foundation aid, the estimated number of instructional hours the school district intends to claim for State Aid purposes.

Q. The United States Secret Service has provided much of the guidance and training on threat assessments. According to the Secret Service what are the six principles of threat assessment?

- Targeted violence is the end result of an understandable, and often times discernable, process of thinking and behavior.
- Targeted violence stems from an interaction between the individual, the situation, the setting and the target.
- An investigative, skeptical, inquisitive mindset is critical to a successful threat assessment.
- Effective threat assessment is based upon facts, rather than characteristics or traits.
- Threat assessment is guided by an integrated systems approach.
- The central question in a threat assessment inquiry is whether a student poses a threat, not whether a student made a threat.

These principles should be considered in the development of a school district threat assessment program.

**Nassau BOCES
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The Nassau BOCES *Health & Safety Focus* is a review of health and safety issues for subscribing school districts. Questions and comments on this document are welcome. Please contact the Health & Safety Training and Information Service staff at:

**516-396-2387, or fax to
516-997-0446, or e-mail
pladuca@nasboces.org.**



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