

Holland Patent Central School District

District-wide School Safety Plan

Commissioner's Regulation 155.17

2021 DRAFT

Introduction

Emergencies and violent incidents in school districts are critical issues that must be addressed in an expeditious and effective manner. Districts are required to develop a District-wide School Safety Plan designed to prevent or minimize the effects of serious violent incidents and emergencies and to facilitate the coordination of the district with local and county resources in the event of such incidents or emergencies.

The district-wide plan is responsive to the needs of all schools within the district and is consistent with the more detailed emergency response plans required at the school building level. Districts are at risk of a wide variety of acts of violence, natural, and technological disasters. To address these threats, the State of New York has enacted the Safe Schools Against Violence in Education (SAVE) law. This component of Project SAVE is a comprehensive planning effort that addresses risk reduction/prevention, response, and recovery with respect to a variety of emergencies in the school district and its schools.

The Holland Patent Central School District continues to support this integral component of the SAVE Legislation through the regular review and updating of its contents. The District Superintendent encourages and advocates this ongoing district-wide cooperation and support of Project SAVE.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION I: GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS AND PLANNING GUIDELINES

- A. PURPOSE
- B. IDENTIFICATION OF SAFETY TEAMS
- C. IDENTIFICATION OF THE CHIEF EMERGENCY OFFICER (CEO)
- D. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS
- E. PLAN REVIEW AND PUBLIC COMMENT

SECTION II: RISK REDUCTION/PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

- A. PREVENTION/INTERVENTION STRATEGIES
 - *Program Initiatives*
 - *Training, Drills, and Exercises*
 - *Implementation of School Security*
 - *Vital Educational Agency Information*
- B. EARLY DETECTION OF POTENTIALLY VIOLENT BEHAVIORS
- C. HAZARD IDENTIFICATION
- D. CONSTRUCTION AND CAPITAL PROJECT SAFETY

SECTION III: GENERAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANNING AND RESPONSE TO THREATS AND ACTS OF VIOLENCE

- A. NOTIFICATION AND ACTIVATION (INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS)
- B. RESPONSE PLANS (SITUATIONAL)
 - *Multi-Hazard Response*
 - *Responses to Acts of Violence: Implied or Direct Threats*
 - *Acts of Violence*
 - *Response Protocols*
 - *Arrangements for Obtaining Emergency Assistance from Local Government*
 - *Procedures for Obtaining Advice and Assistance from Local Government Officials*
 - *District Resources Available for Use in an Emergency*
 - *Procedures to Coordinate the Use of School District Resources and Manpower during Emergencies*
 - *Protective Action Options*

SECTION IV: RECOVERY

- A. DISTRICT SUPPORT FOR BUILDINGS
- B. DISASTER MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
- C. FORMS AND RECORDKEEPING

Section I: General Considerations and Planning Guidelines

A. Purpose

Oneida Herkimer Madison BOCES District-wide School Safety Plan was developed pursuant to Commissioner's Regulation 155.17. At the direction of the Oneida Herkimer Madison BOCES Board of Education, the District Superintendent appointed a District-wide School Safety Team and charged it with the development and maintenance of the District-wide School Safety Plan.

B. Identification of Safety Teams

As referenced in the previous section, The Holland Patent Central School District has appointed a District-Wide Safety Team that includes, but is not limited to, representatives of: School board, Teacher organizations, Administrator organizations, School safety personnel, Parent organizations, Law enforcement, Student (at discretion of BOE) and other school personnel. The members of the team and their positions or affiliations are as follows:

Members Name	Title
Dr. Cheryl Venettozzi	Superintendent
Nancy Nowicki	Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum
William Paolozzi	Board of Education
Russell Stevener Jr.	High School Principal
Lisa Gentile	Middle School Principal
Justin Barlow	High School Asst. Principal and AD
Kristin Casab	Gen. Wm. Floyd Elementary Principal
Sarah Vergis	Holland Patent Elementary Principal
Kenneth Smith	Health and Safety Coordinator
Christopher Roberts	Transportation Supervisor
John Brown	CSEA President
Kevin Kalk	Barneveld Fire Chief/District Chief
Ian Brucker	Holland Patent Fire Chief
Michael Anania	Westernville Fire Chief
Bill Sutherland	Stittville Fire Chief
John Stark	Floyd Fire Chief
Charles Schram	Community Member, Fireman
Special Patrol Officers	Oneida County Sheriff (SPO)
Risk Management Coordinator	Utica National Insurance Rep.
Patty Cerio, Michael Colangelo	BOCES Safety Office

This District-Wide Safety Team was approved by the Board on December 15, 2021.

C. Identification of the Chief Emergency Officer (CEO)

The Holland Patent Central School District has appointed Dr. Cheryl Venettozzi as the Chief Emergency Officer. The Board appointed Dr. Venettozzi on November 22, 2021.

The responsibilities of the CEO include, but not be limited to:

- a) Coordination of the communication between school staff, law enforcement, and other first responders;
- b) Lead the efforts of the District-Wide Safety Team in the completion and yearly update of the District-Wide School Safety Plan, by September 15th and the coordination of the District-Wide Plan with the Building-Level Emergency Response Plans;
- c) Ensure staff understanding of the District-Wide School Safety Plan;
- d) Ensure the completion and yearly update of Building-Level Emergency Response Plans for each school building by the dates designated by the Commissioner;
- e) Assist in the selection of security related technology and development of procedures for the use of such technology;
- f) Coordinate appropriate safety, security, and emergency training for district and school staff, including required training in the emergency response plan by September 15th annually;
- g) Ensure the conduct of required evacuation and lock-down drills in all district buildings as required by Education Law Section 807.

D. Concept of Operations

- General protocols reflected in the District-wide School Safety Plan guide the development and implementation of the Building Safety Plans. The District-wide Safety Plan sets forth the general procedures and protocols to be adhered to at each division and serve as the standard operating procedures.
- In developing the district-wide plan, key internal and external stakeholders were involved in order to garner the best local operational knowledge and the best emergency management and safety expertise in creating and revising the plan. The District is an integral part of the community and, as such, it is important that community stakeholders are involved and understand the role of the school district and its relationship to the safety of the community at large.
- In the event of an emergency or violent incident, the initial response to all emergencies at an individual division will be by the Building Emergency Response Team.
- Upon activation of the Building Emergency Response Team, the Superintendent or designee will be notified and, where appropriate, local emergency officials will also be notified. Efforts may be supplemented by county and state resources through existing protocols.

E. Plan Review and Public Comment

- Pursuant to Commissioner's Regulation, Section 155.17 (e)(3), this plan will be made available for public comment at least 30 days prior to its adoption. The district-wide plan may be adopted by the School Board only after at least one public hearing that provides for the participation of school personnel, parents, students and any other interested parties. The plan must be formally adopted by the Board.

- Full copies of the District-wide School Safety Plan and any amendments will be submitted to the New York State Education Department within 30 days of adoption and no later than October 1st of each year. In addition, the Building Safety Plans will be sent to the New York State Police, Oneida County Sheriff's Office and the Local Police Agency(ies).
- This plan will be reviewed periodically during the year and will be maintained by the District-wide Safety Team. The required annual review will be completed on or before July 1st of each year after its adoption by the Board.
- While linked to the District-Wide School Safety Plan, Building-Level Emergency Response Plans shall be confidential and shall not be subject to disclosure under Article 6 of the Public Officers Law or any other provisions of the law, in accordance with Education Law Section 2801-a. Building-Level Emergency Response Plans will be provided to the New York State Police, Oneida County Sheriff's Office and Police Department(s) within 30 days of adoption and no later than October 1st of each year.

Task	Date(s)
District-Wide Safety Team annual review date	September 25 – November 30, 2021
District-Wide School Safety Plan – Public comment period (began & ended)	November 15 – December 15, 2021
Public Hearing	December 15, 2021
District-Wide School Safety Plan approved by Board	December 15, 2021
District-Wide School Safety Plan posted to website	November 30, 2021
URL of District-Wide School Safety Plan verified	November 30, 2021

Section II: Risk Reduction/Prevention and Intervention

A. Prevention/Intervention Strategies

Initiatives that improve the culture and climate in our schools and improve communication at all levels can substantially enhance our ability to truly prevent any negative event from occurring. Prevention would always be preferred over risk reduction. However, not all such events will be prevented despite our best efforts. Therefore, we must formulate plans to intervene and reduce risk by minimizing the impact of any negative event.

This section will identify specific prevention and risk reduction strategies that have been implemented within the District. Many of these components serve as both prevention and risk reduction tools.

Program Initiatives

The District recognizes the importance of programs and activities that improve the school climate and communication throughout the school community and that encourages the reporting of potentially dangerous, suspicious or violent behavior. Such efforts serve to improve the security,

safety and quality of life for all those in the community. The following is a partial list of such current initiatives:

Holland Patent High School

- Special Patrol Officer Presence
- Rachel's Warriors
- IRT behavioral supports as needed
- Distracted Driving presentation
- Health Classroom Instruction
- County Probation Officer on site two days per week

Holland Patent Middle School

- Special Patrol Officer Presence
- Rachel's Warriors
- IRT behavioral supports as needed
- Health Classroom Instruction
- National Honor Society Mentors for Middle School Students
- Intervention Response Team
- County Probation Officer on site two days per week

Holland Patent Elementary School and General Wm. Floyd Elementary School

- Special Patrol Officer Presence
- Second Step social competence and bullying prevention program
- Monthly newsletter highlighting the news, events, and points of pride of the elementary school
- IRT behavioral supports as needed
- Classroom instruction that includes literature and discussion around tolerance, i.e. The Wonder Project
- Periodic presentations by the Center for Missing and Exploited Children centered on personal and Internet safety, and bullying prevention

The district encourages buildings to develop strategies that support a positive safe learning environment for students, such as community involvement in the schools, mentoring programs, or adjusting scheduling to minimize potential for conflicts or altercations.

The district encourages all divisions to develop strategies that support a positive safe learning environment for students, such as community involvement in the schools, mentoring programs, or adjusting scheduling to minimize potential for conflicts or altercations.

Training, Drills, and Exercises

The District will ensure that each building conducts drills and exercises to test the components of their respective building-level plan. To comply with Education Law §807, each school must

conduct 4 lock-down and 8 evacuation drills (12 drills total) each year. The use of tabletop exercises to accomplish this task in coordination with local and county emergency response and preparedness officials may be considered when live drills are impractical or not sufficient to meet training goals. Specific drills and training for various types of hazards will be conducted for staff and students on selected response protocols including: Shelter-In-Place; Hold-In-Place, Evacuation, Lockout, and Lockdown. This training will identify various types of hazards that could occur, response actions that should be employed, as well as training on violence prevention and mental health. Students should be informed, in a non-traumatizing way, about different types of responses that can be used. This type of training will be conducted before September 15th annually, new employees will be trained within 30 days of hire.

Each drill/exercise will be followed with a debrief session for all staff involved and suggestions/recommendations that will improve response actions and protocols in the future.

Additional drills will be held during summer school, if summer school is being conducted with one of the drills completed during the first week of summer school.

In addition, Early Dismissal drills will not occur more than 15 minutes earlier than normal dismissal time. Transportation and communication procedures will be included in the test, and parents and guardians will be notified in writing at least one week prior to such drill.

By October 1st of each year, written information regarding emergency procedures will be given to students and staff.

The emergency back-up generators and lighting are also tested annually and all systems verified functional without electricity.

Implementation of School Safety & Building Security

Routine Precautions by all staff

All staff are expected to immediately report to their respective principal and/or supervisor about any information they have received or observations they have made regarding anything that could possibly impact the safety and security of anyone within the school community.

Note: Staff should always err on the side of safety and share such information each and every time. No detail is too small or inconsequential as individual staff may not be aware of all circumstances surrounding a particular student or concern.

Limited Access

Each building is tasked with implementing this policy while tailoring it to the specific needs of their program. Generally, this means that the fewest exterior doors necessary to maintain normal business will remain unlocked during portions of the regular school day. Doors shall not be propped open so that safety, security and fire code regulations can be maintained. Those doors that may need to remain unlocked during a portion of the school/business day should be monitored in some fashion. All entrances are to be secured shortly after the start of the instructional/business day.

Once secured for the instructional/business day, the divisions may utilize an audio and/or video electronic, visitor access control system at their primary entrances that provides a means for school staff to remotely screen and approve visitors prior to actually granting them access into the building.

The District also utilizes a keyless entry / electronic access control system allowing specific access (designated days/times, buildings and entrances) to authorized personnel by presenting a programmed proximity identification card to a reading device at those entrances. This system also automatically unlocks and locks specific entrances to accommodate normal arrival, dismissal and after school activity.

Staff Photo Identification Badges

All employees are issued photo identification badges that are to be **displayed at all times** while on District property to assist visitors, students and staff in identifying employees as well as possible intruders.

Visitor policy

All visitors should report to the main office upon entry into the building. Visitors will sign-in and be issued a name badge, which needs to be visible at all times. Visitors are required to sign-in and out where they first entered the building.

Should an unannounced visitor appear at a classroom, office or be observed in the hallways without proper identification (visitor pass/name badge), staff may approach and inquire as to a subject's business or contact their school's main office immediately.

Student Sign-Out Procedures

The District is diligent in ensuring that only those persons authorized to sign-out students are allowed to do so. Staff may also require a photo ID if the requesting party is unknown to them and may contact a parent or guardian for confirmation when deemed appropriate.

Video Surveillance

A digital video surveillance system is in service to assist in monitoring, deterring and recording activity in high use areas, as well as areas of chronic concern or perceived vulnerability.

School Safety Assessment

School safety assessment – a strategic evaluation and facilities audit to identify emerging and potential school safety problems.

Fire Alarm

A fire detection alarm that is linked to a central monitoring station is in service at the District. These alarms and fire response procedures are tested regularly and consistent with New York State Education Department regulations.

Special Patrol Officer(s)

The District contracts with the Oneida County Sheriff's Office to provide Special Patrol Officer(s) on campus during the school day. The Special Patrol Officer(s) acts as the liaison between students and staff and will field anonymous reports of acts of violence and bullying.

Random Drug Sniffing Canine Search

The District may occasionally conduct canine searches throughout the school year.

Vital Educational Agency Information

The District maintains general information located at the District, including information on school population, number of staff, transportation needs, and the telephone numbers of key officials.

B. Early Detection of Potentially Violent Behaviors

The District recognizes the importance of early recognition and intervention into conflicts and potentially violent or threatening behaviors. As such, the District will ensure that appropriate school violence prevention and intervention training will be incorporated into all phases of staff professional development. Communication strategies are utilized to deter potentially violent incidents with the establishment of various programs.

Informative materials regarding the early detection of potentially violent behaviors shall be made available to the school community through various means that may include brochures, newsletters, and the district website.

Students, parents, and all staff are encouraged to share information regarding any student conflicts, threats or troubling behaviors with the appropriate school administrator so that an investigation can commence in a timely fashion if deemed necessary.

Strategies for Improving Communication Among Students and Between Students and Staff and Reporting of Potentially Violent Incidents

The District recognizes the importance of good communication among students and between students and staff. All parties are encouraged to strive for improvement at all times. Sharing information is the first line of defense in keeping students safe. It is vital that students understand that reporting information about potential problems is a way of preventing harm to another. Reporting concerns that may impact on the safety and health of others is the responsibility of the entire District's community.

Short term and long-term strategies to bettering communication and preventing violence at the District include:

- Set clear expectations for students and communicate these standards to students,

staff and parents. (Code of Conduct)

- Pay attention to what students are saying
- Encourage communication among parents, student, staff and community members
- Train staff to listen and question effectively
- Institute programs, initiatives and community service students to promote character development.

This communication may extend beyond District personnel to include members of the District Safety Team, Law Enforcement, Mental Health Professionals, etc., when deemed appropriate and within existing legal parameters.

C. Hazard Identification

The list of sites of potential emergencies include: Main building, playground area, properties adjacent to the building, buses, off-site field trips, and commercial areas adjacent to school property. Each individual Building Health and Safety Team has assessed their own division for any unique hazards and has documented them on their respective Building-Level Emergency Response Plans. The District has developed multi-hazard response plans, based on the Incident Command System and the National Incident Management System (NIMS), for the following emergency situations:

Multi-Hazard List

Hazard Category	Type
Civil Disturbance	Bomb Threat, Intruder Alert, Hostage Taking, Kidnapping, Physical Assault or Threat
Environmental Emergency	Flood, Hazardous Materials Incident, Snow/Ice Storm, Tornado Warning, Thunder/Lightning Storm, Wind Storm, Fire, Explosion, Gas Leak
Building Failure	System Failure, Structural Failure
Medical Emergency	Sick/Injured Person, School Bus/Car Accident, Mass Illness/Epidemic, Influenza Pandemic/Pandemic

Identified Onsite Hazards

- Various chemical storage areas
- Welding/hot work area
- Indoor vehicle transportation areas
- Compressed gas storage areas
- Paint spray booths
- Areas of student congregation
- Student/teacher/administrator conference areas
- Boiler/mechanical rooms

Identified Offsite Hazards

- Major highways (chemical transport)
- Airport (flight path)

- Railroad
- Certain industrial sites (refineries, etc.)
- Creeks

D. Construction and Capital Project Safety

The District will take steps to ensure the safety and security of the students and staff during periods of construction. This requirement may include conducting background checks on workers, maintaining sufficient and appropriate emergency egress routes, and notifying building occupants of any changes.

The District Safety Committee, or a subcommittee thereof, may be involved in monitoring safety during construction projects as needed. The Committee may include: the Superintendent, Director of Facilities, members of the Safety Office, Administration team members, architect, construction manager, and contractors. The Committee will hold additional meetings as needed to review issues and address complaints related to health and safety resulting from the construction project.

Section III: General Emergency Response Planning and Response to Threats and Acts of Violence

A. Notification and Activation (Internal and External Communications)

Quick and accurate contact with appropriate law enforcement officials is essential in the event of a violent incident. These relationships have been established through the participation of local response officials on Building-Level Emergency Response Teams. These individuals and appropriate means of contact are documented in the Building-Level Emergency Response Plans. Internal communication is also of prime importance and will be specifically defined in each Building-Level Emergency Response Plan.

Incident Commanders are authorized to and will initiate contact with the appropriate law enforcement officials in the event of a violent incident. The District maintains a list of local law enforcement agencies, and the designation of the individual who is authorized to contact the law enforcement agencies.

The methods used for notifications of a disaster or an act of violence include the following possible forms of communication: Oneida County Emergency Services, telephone, e-mail, portable radio system, NOAA weather radio, District maintained website, intercom or PA system, local media, and others as appropriate or necessary.

The plans may specify that in the event of an emergency, or impending emergency, the District will notify all principals/designees within the complex to take the appropriate action.

The District may utilize the resources of the Oneida County Emergency E911 Center and other messaging means to contact parents, guardians or persons in parental relation to the students in the event of a violent incident or an early dismissal. The District may also use local media in some instances or post information on the website.

B. Situational Responses

Multi-Hazard Response

In the event of a catastrophic emergency (fire, building collapse, etc.) the evacuation of the building and the preservation of life is the only consideration. It is anticipated that specific procedures outlined in this document, particularly as they relate to notifications, line of authority, etc., and may be violated in cases involving catastrophic emergencies.

There are many variables that could impact the manner in which the Building Emergency Response Team responds to a particular occurrence. These variables could include: time of day, weather, age of students, and location of students, anticipated response time of emergency responders, availability of support personnel, and availability of transportation. Specific emergency situations are identified and standard response procedures are detailed in the Building-Level Emergency Response Plans; however, given the aforementioned variables, it is impractical to try and map out the specific steps to take for every conceivable scenario. It is more practical to focus on just a few critical decisions that need to be made in every emergency pursuant to our primary goal of preventing injury and loss of life. In the event that the following response actions, emergency closing, early dismissal, evacuation, shelter-in-place, lockdown, lockout are activated, the following actions will be implemented. For example: a response protocol could include the following steps:

1. Assess the situation – Incident Commander/Designee
2. Response Action Implementation
3. Notification of Parents/Guardians
4. Recovery
5. Evaluation

Each Building-Level Emergency Response Plan includes procedures and actions that will be implemented in the event of the occurrence of a hazardous event. Such plans are not available to the public, nor are they to be included in the District-Level Safety Plan.

The District Superintendent is designated as the Chief Emergency Officer and Incident Commander during the initial response to any emergency at the District. The District Superintendent will provide leadership, organize activities and disseminate information with the assistance of the Emergency Response Team(s). If the District Superintendent is unavailable or not on site, a Designated Alternate will act in their absence with the same authority and responsibility.

Response Protocols

The District's selection of appropriate responses to emergencies, including protocols for responding to bomb threats, hostage takings, intrusions and kidnappings will be included in the Building-Level Safety Plans. The following possible protocols are provided as examples:

- ◆ Identification of decision-makers
- ◆ Plans to safeguard students and staff
- ◆ Procedures to provide transportation, if necessary

- ◆ Procedures to notify parents
- ◆ Procedures to notify media
- ◆ Debriefing procedures

In most instances where this level of school response is warranted, the District will be seeking assistance from outside emergency responders in resolving the situation. As such, the immediate objective is generally to contain and manage the incident until the emergency responders arrive on scene.

Procedures for obtaining advice and assistance from local government officials including the county or city officials responsible for implementation of Article 2-B of the Executive Law. By contacting Oneida County 911, the system for coordinating the delivery of assistance from both the county and local agencies will be activated.

Responses to Acts of Violence: Implied or Direct Threats Including Threats by Students Against Themselves, to Include Threats of Suicide

The District's policies and procedures for responding to implied or direct threats of violence by students, teachers, other school personnel and visitors to the school will be included in the Building-level Safety Plans. In situations in which Implied or Direct threats of violence by students, teachers, other school personnel or visitors to the school have been made and recognizes the need to take immediate action.

The following types of procedure(s) may be used:

- ◆ Follow procedures outlined in the Code of Conduct
- ◆ Use of staff trained in de-escalation or other strategies to diffuse the situation.
- ◆ Inform Building Principal of implied or direct threat.
- ◆ Determine level of threat with District Superintendent/Designee.
- ◆ Contact the appropriate law enforcement agency, if necessary and follow the Memorandum of Understanding developed collaboratively between local police agencies and the District.
- ◆ Monitor situations, adjust responses as appropriate, and include the possible use of the Emergency Response Team.

Acts of Violence

The District policies and procedures for responding to acts of violence by students, teachers, other personnel and visitors to the District will be included in the Building-Level Safety Plans. The following types of procedure(s) could be used:

- ◆ Determine level of threat with District Superintendent/Designee.
- ◆ If the situation warrants, isolate the immediate area and evacuate if appropriate.
- ◆ Staff and Students are asked to inform the Building Principal/ Superintendent.
- ◆ If necessary, initiate a response procedure (Hold-In-Place, Lockout and/or Lockdown), and contact appropriate emergency response agencies. As well as follow the Memorandum of Understanding.
- ◆ Monitor situation; adjust response as appropriate; if necessary, initiate early dismissal, sheltering or evacuation procedures.

- ♦ Keep parents/guardians informed.

Responses to Violence (Incident reporting, Investigation, Follow-Up, Evaluation, and Disciplinary Measures)

The District requires all incidents of violence, whether or not physical injury has occurred (verbal abuse, threats of violence, etc.), to be reported immediately by employees and students and documented. With the realization that employees and students may otherwise be reluctant to come forward, all must maintain confidentiality. Individuals are assured that there will be no reprisal for reporting their concerns. Incidents will be reported as follows:

- The School Building Principal/Administrator or Designee will be responsible for receiving and responding to all incident reports including anonymous reports.
- Information on the reporting process for students and staff will be provided as part of the violence prevention training program.
- Each incident will be reported to and evaluated by a Threat Assessment Team for the purpose of compiling data and evaluating the Violence Prevention Program.

Relationships have been established with the Police Department and other emergency response agencies at the building level. Representatives from these agencies (Law Enforcement, Fire and Emergency Medical Responders) are asked to participate on Building-Level School Safety Teams.

Reporting

Once an incident has been reported, and depending on its severity, the School Building Principal/Administrator or Designee will assume responsibility as the Incident Commander, who should take the following steps:

- Report it to the Police Department;
- Secure the area where the disturbance has occurred;
- Ensure the physical safety/medical management of students/staff remaining in the area
- Ensure that while responding to the incident, the remainder of the building remains appropriately supervised;
- Quickly assess the area of the incident to determine damage as a result of the incident and if it is safe to remain; if necessary, evacuate or shelter as per the Building-Level Emergency Response Plans;
- Provide notification to Administration;
- Provide incident debriefing to students and staff as needed;
- Notify parents.

Investigation

After the incident has occurred, the Threat Assessment Team will conduct a detailed investigation. It is the purpose of the Team to focus on facts that may prevent recurrence, not find fault. The Team conducting the investigation will:

- Collect facts on how the incident occurred;
- Record information;
- Identify contributing causes;
- Recommend corrective action;

- Encourage appropriate follow-up; and
- Consider changes in controls, policy and procedures.

Follow-up

The District recognizes the importance of responding quickly and appropriately to the medical and psychological needs of students/staff following exposure to a violent incident. All individuals affected by a violent act will be provided with appropriate medical and psychological treatment and follow-up. Provisions for medical confidentiality and protection from discrimination will be included to prevent the victims of violent incidents from suffering further loss.

Evaluation

Emergency Response/Threat Assessment Team is responsible for ensuring that an initial school building security analysis is conducted and periodically re-evaluated. These physical evaluations will focus on the identification and assessment of school building security hazards and address necessary changes in building practices. These evaluations will review the potential for different types of violent incidents including bomb threats, hostage-taking, intrusions, and kidnapping. Professionals will be utilized from local law enforcement and private consultants as necessary.

Disciplinary Measures

The Code of Conduct will be the basis for determining the appropriate disciplinary measures that may be necessary.

Code of Conduct

The District has created a detailed Code of Conduct to describe the expected behavior of students, staff and visitors to school buildings and the disciplinary actions resulting from violations of the Code. The Code, which will be communicated to all students/staff and parents, will serve as a major component of the violence prevention program. The Code will be evaluated annually and revised as necessary to reflect changes in school policies and procedures. A copy of the Code of Conduct will be made available to students, parents, staff and community members. The Code of Conduct was updated and adopted by the Board on October 6, 2020, and then made available and posted on our website.

Arrangements for Obtaining Emergency Assistance from Local Government

Arrangements for obtaining assistance during emergencies from emergency services organizations and local government agencies include contacting 911 immediately. Additional support can be obtained by contacting the Sheriff, Local Police Departments, Local Fire Departments, and Oneida County Emergency Services.

Procedures for Obtaining Advice and Assistance from Local Government Officials (see above)

Resources Available for Use in an Emergency

District resources which may be available during an emergency include all of our facilities and other vehicles and trucks. We can also contact the Village and Town Highway Department for access to heavy equipment and other resources.

Procedures to Coordinate the Use of Resources and Manpower during Emergencies

The District will use the Incident Command System to coordinate the use of resources and manpower during emergencies.

Protective Action Options

Plans for taking the following actions in response to an emergency where appropriate will be included in Building-Level Emergency Response Plans:

School cancellation

The cancellation or delay of District educational programs shall be made by the Superintendent or designee.

Early dismissal

Early dismissal shall be implemented under conditions when it is imperative to return students to their homes as quickly as possible (e.g. impending blizzard). The decision to dismiss early shall be made by the Superintendent or designee. Persons in parental relation will be notified through various communication platforms.

Emergency evacuation

Emergency evacuation is implemented under conditions when it is no longer safe for students and staff to remain in the building (e.g. hazardous materials spill). The decision to evacuate will be made by the Principal or designee. Students and staff will be accounted for. In some cases, students and staff will be taken to an alternative location, off site.

Shelter-in-place

Sheltering will be implemented if conditions inside the building is safer for students and staff (e.g. tornado warning). The decision to shelter on site will be made by the Principal or designee. If the sheltering period is to extend more than a few hours, arrangements to meet basic human needs will be accounted for.

Hold-in-place

Hold in place will be implemented if conditions exist in the building to keep students and staff where they are (e.g. medical emergency). The decision to hold in place will be made by the Principal or designee.

Lockout

A lockout will be implemented if there is a threat that exists outside of the building or vicinity (e.g. bank robbery). The decision to implement a lockout will be made by the Principal or designee.

Lockdown

A lockdown will be implemented if there is a threat inside of the building (e.g. a violent act). The decision to implement a lockdown will be made by the Principal or designee.

Terrorist Threats & Activities

In the event of terrorist threats or activities, the Principal shall be instructed by the Superintendent or designee to follow the recommended actions outlined by NYS Homeland Security. The actions recommended are based on the level of alert declared by the State and Federal governments.

National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS)

NTAS advisories – whether they be Alerts or Bulletins – encourage individuals to follow the guidance provided by state and local officials and to report suspicious activity. Where possible and applicable, NTAS advisories will include steps that individuals and communities can take to protect themselves from the threat as well as help detect or prevent an attack before it happens. Individuals should review the information contained in the Alert or Bulletin, and based upon the circumstances, take the recommended precautionary or preparedness measures for themselves and their families.

Bulletin:

Describes current developments or general trends regarding threats of terrorism.

Elevated Threat Alert:

Warns of a credible terrorism threat against the United States.

Imminent Threat Alert:

Warns of a credible, specific, and impending terrorism threat against the United States.

Individuals should report suspicious activity to local law enforcement authorities. Often, local law enforcement and public safety officials will be best positioned to provide specific details on what indicators to look for and how to report suspicious activity. The *If You See Something, Say Something*™ campaign across the United States encourages the public and leaders of communities to be vigilant for indicators of potential terrorist activity, and to follow the guidance provided by the advisory and/or state and local officials for information about threats in specific places or for identifying specific types of suspicious activity.

Section IV: Recovery

A. District Support for Buildings

After an incident, the Crisis Plan will be initiated by the appropriate level Emergency Response Team. Necessary resources will be deployed in order to support the Emergency Response Teams and post-incident responders.

The Emergency Response Team and the Post-Incident Response Team will be supported in their efforts by all available in-agency resources and personnel as required by the nature of the emergency. The Emergency Response Team is available for support when necessary to assist all buildings in their response effort.

B. Disaster Mental Health Services

The Building-Level Emergency Response Team will designate the Post-Incident Response Team in each school building to respond in crisis situations and help provide disaster mental health services as outlined in the Building-Level Emergency Response Plan for that building. The Department(s) affected may draw upon additional resources from existing pupil personnel staff, as needed. Depending on the nature of an incident, if a Department does not have the needed resources, services will be arranged for pupil personnel staff, such as school psychologists and school social workers, to assist on the Post-Incident Response Team. Employees will also be encouraged to seek assistance from the Employee Assistance Program (EAP). Depending on the scope of the situation, the Oneida County Office of Emergency Management and Department of Mental Health may be contacted to help coordinate a County or State-wide effort.

C. Forms and Recordkeeping

The success of the Violence Prevention Program will be greatly enhanced by the District's ability to document and accurately report on various elements of the program along with training staff. This will allow us to monitor its success and update the program as necessary. Forms, resources, and training materials have been developed for this purpose. Records will be kept in accordance with record retention laws.

APPENDIX A

Description of Duties, Hiring and Screening Process, Required Training of Hall Monitors and Other School Safety Personnel

The process of establishing the duties for hall monitors and other school safety personnel shall rely on past practice, or be completed by civil service with consultation of the District, or shall be determined by the District pursuant to applicable Federal, State, County and Municipal guidance.

The District is an equal opportunity employer. The Civil Rights Act 1964 prohibits discrimination in employment because of race, sex or national origin. Public Law 90-202 prohibits discrimination because of age. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicap.

The process of hiring hall monitors and/or school safety personnel will follow applicable Federal, State, County and Municipal laws & Guidelines. The qualifications for such positions will be established by civil service when applicable or by the Board of Education. On or after July 1st, 2001, all newly hired school personnel will be required to submit two sets of fingerprints for the purpose of background checks, consistent with the S.A.V.E. Legislation of 2000.

APPENDIX B

SRO/SPO Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

This MOU can be obtained by contacting District Administration.