ALLEGANY-LIMESTONE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SAFETY PLAN PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW

Emergencies and violent incidents in school districts are critical concerns that must be addressed in an effective and efficient manner. Districts are required by NYS Project SAVE (Safe Schools Against Violence in Education) to develop a District-wide School Safety Plan designed to prevent or minimize the effects of serious violent incidents and other emergencies and to facilitate the coordination of the district with local and county resources in the event of such incidents or emergencies occurring.

The Allegany-Limestone Central School's District-wide School Safety Plan was developed in accordance with New York State Education Law and regulatory guidance. At the direction of the ALCS Board of Education, the Superintendent appointed a District-wide School Safety Team and charged it with the development and continuous maintenance of the District-wide School Safety Plan.

The overall District-wide School Safety Plan is designed to provide guidance to each Building-Level School Safety Team in completion of the individual building level plans. It also provides guidance for before, during, and after an emergency and describes the general roles and responsibilities of its members. It identifies who will coordinate an incident and the procedures that may be employed.

The procedures outlined within this document are intended to provide for the protection of lives and property before, during, and after an emergency through the effective use of resources and support available from within the district and with the assistance and support of local agencies and county emergency response services.

PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS

This District-wide School Safety Plan is based on a realistic approach to the kinds of problems likely to be encountered on any of the district campuses during an emergency or disaster. The plan is based on the following assumptions:

- An emergency or a disaster may occur at any time of the day or night, weekend or holiday, with little or no advance warning. For that reason, members of the ALCS community cannot and should not, wait for direction from local emergency response agencies when prompt, prudent action is required immediately to save lives and protect district property.

- The succession of events in an emergency are fluid and always changing, thus safety plans will serve only as a guide and may require field modifications during an emergency.

- While this plan does not cover every possible situation, it does outline the basic protocols and procedures necessary to address most emergencies.

- Assistance from the county and community emergency services will generally be needed to address and resolve events of a serious nature.

- Due to our geographic location local emergency response services may not be immediately available to assist with an emergency at one of our campuses.

- Proper prevention and mitigation actions, such as creating a positive school environment and conducting fire and safety inspections and various emergency drills, may prevent or reduce incident-related losses.

- Maintaining the District-wide School Safety Plan and Building Level Plans and providing frequent opportunities to train and exercise the plan through live drills and table-top exercises can improve the district's readiness to respond to incidents.

COMMON LANGUAGE USED FOR EMERGENCIES

LOCKDOWN: The primary objective of a lockdown is to quickly ensure all school staff, students and visitors are secured in rooms away from immediate danger. A Lockdown is the initial physical response to provide a time barrier during an active shooter/intruder event. Lockdown is not a stand-alone defensive strategy. Executing a Lockdown should involve, hiding from view, remaining silent and readying a plan of evacuation as a last resort.

SHELTER IN PLACE: A Shelter-in-Place describes courses of action when students and staff are required to remain indoors, perhaps for an extended period of time, because it is safer inside the building or a room than outside. Depending on the threat or hazard, students and staff may be required to move to rooms that can be sealed (such as in the event of a chemical or biological hazard) or without windows, or to a weather shelter (such as in the event of a tornado).

EVACUATION: This focuses on the courses of action that the school will execute to evacuate school buildings and grounds. Included are school policies and procedures for on-site and off-site evacuation including evacuation routes, transportation needs, and sheltering sites.

Evacuation should take place if it is determined that it is safer outside than inside the building (fire, explosion, intruder, hazardous material spill) and staff, students and visitors can safely reach the evacuation location without danger.

LOCKOUT: This describes the courses of action the school will execute to secure school buildings and grounds during incidents that pose an imminent concern outside of the school. The primary objective of a lockout is to quickly ensure all school staff, students, and visitors are secured in the school building away from the outside danger.

DRILLS AND COMMUNICATION

In accordance with NYS regulations the Allegany-Limestone Central School District will conduct a minimum of 12 emergency drills including 4 lockdown drills per school year. The district may also conduct additional drills as deemed necessary for training. All drills will be documented and recorded for review with safety team.

Communication about any drill or real emergency will be communicated to families before a drill (if applicable) or after an incident has occurred with information regarding the incident. This may be accomplished via our school messenger system, our school website, or other social media outlets.

THREAT, HAZARD TYPES, AND EXAMPLES

Threat and Hazard Type	**Examples**
Natural Hazards	• Earthquakes • Tornadoes • Lightning and/or severe wind • Hurricanes • Floods • Wildfires • Extreme temperatures • Landslides or mudslides • Winter precipitation • Wildlife
Technological Hazards	• Explosions or accidental release of toxins from industrial plants • Accidental release of hazardous materials from within the school, such as gas leaks or laboratory spills • Hazardous materials release from major highways or railroads • Radiological releases from nuclear power stations • Dam failure • Power failure or Water failure
Biological Hazards	• Infectious diseases, such as pandemic influenza, extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis, *Staphylococcus aureus*, and meningitis • Contaminated food outbreaks, including *Salmonella*, botulism, and *E. coli* • Toxic materials present in school laboratories

Adversarial, Incidental, and Human-caused Threats:	• Fire • Active shooters • Criminal threats or actions • Gang violence • Bomb threats • Domestic violence and abuse • Cyber attacks • Suicide

THE NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS)

ALCS uses a system that allows for collaborative and consistent incident management in an emergency. Five major components make up this systems approach: Preparedness, Communications and Information Management, Resource Management, Command and Management, and Ongoing Management and Maintenance. These critical components are addressed in detail within the district-level School Safety Plan.

PLAN DEVELOPMENT, DISTRIBUTION, REVIEW AND UPDATES

Plan development: The District-wide School Safety Plan in is developed in coordination with the District Emergency Response Coordinator and emergency team members. The plan is a living document that will be revised as needed to address any chronic or acute concerns, situations, or procedural changes.

The District-wide plan and a summary of the Building-Level plans for the 2023-2024 school year will be formally adopted by the Allegany-Limestone BOE on July 11, 2023.

Plan Distribution: Copes of the District-wide plan and Building-level plans will be distributed to the appropriate district and school level personnel and to State and local emergency response agencies (as required) that have any role in responding to an incident at any of our campuses.

Full copies of the District-wide School Safety Plan and any other amendments will be submitted to the New York State Education Department as required.

Review and Updates: The District-wide School Safety Team will formally review this plan and the Building-level plans annually. This required annual review will be completed on or before July 1 of each year. The plan may also be reviewed and amended or updated as needed based upon: changes in information; deficiencies identified during incident management activities and exercises; and when there are changes in potential threats, hazards, resources, capabilities or school district structure.

Each update or change is tracked and recorded including affective section number, the date of the change, and the name of the person who made the change and a brief summary of the change.

ADDITIONAL WEBSITES FOR SCHOOL SAFETY INFORMATION

https://safeschools.ny.gov/

http://www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/ssae/schoolsafety/save/

http://www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/ssae/schoolsafety/