

SCHOOL SAFETY PLANS AND TEAMS

Emergencies and violent incidents in schools are critical issues that must be addressed in an expeditious and effective manner. The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to adopt and keep current a comprehensive district wide school safety plan and building-level emergency response plan(s) which address violence prevention, crisis intervention, emergency response and management.

Taken together, the district-wide and building level plans shall provide a comprehensive approach to addressing school safety and violence prevention, and provide the structure where all individuals can fully understand their roles and responsibilities for promoting the safety of the entire school community. The plans shall be designed to prevent or minimize the effects of serious violent incidents, declared state disaster emergencies involving a communicable disease or local public health emergency declaration and other emergencies and to facilitate the district's coordination with local and county resources. The plans shall also address risk reduction/prevention, response and recovery with respect to a variety of types of emergencies and violent incidents in district schools, and will address school closures and continuity of operations.

In accordance with state law and regulation, the district shall have the following safety teams and plans to deal with violence prevention, crisis intervention, and emergency response and management:

Comprehensive District-Wide School Safety Team and Plan

The Board shall annually appoint a district-wide school safety team that includes, but is not limited to, a representative from the following constituencies: the Board, teachers, administrators, and parent organizations, school safety personnel and other school personnel. This team shall be responsible for the development and annual review of the comprehensive district-wide school safety plan and must consider the installation of a panic alarm system. The plan shall cover all district school buildings and shall address violence prevention (taking into consideration a range of programs and approaches that are designed to create a positive school climate and culture), crisis intervention, emergency response and management including communication protocols, at the district level. It shall include all those elements required by law and regulation, including protocols for responding to declared state disaster emergencies involving a communicable disease that are substantially consistent with the provisions of Labor Law §27-c, and an emergency remote instruction plan.

The Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee shall be the district's chief emergency officer, and shall coordinate communication between school staff and law enforcement and first responders. The chief emergency officer shall ensure that all staff understand the district-wide school safety plan and receive training on the building-level emergency response plan, violence prevention, and mental health, and shall also ensure that district-wide and building-level plans are completed, reviewed annually, and updated as needed by the designated dates. The chief emergency officer shall ensure that the district-wide plan is coordinated with the building-level plans, and shall ensure that required evacuation and lock-down drills are conducted.

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Building-Level Emergency Response Plans and Teams

Each Building Principal shall be responsible for annually appointing a building-level emergency response team that includes representation from teachers, administrators, parent organizations, school safety personnel, other school personnel, law enforcement officials, fire officials, and other emergency response agencies. The emergency response team shall be responsible for the development and review of a building-level emergency response plan for each district building. The plan(s) shall address response to emergency situations, such as those requiring evacuation, sheltering, lockout, and lockdown at the building level and shall include all components required by law and regulation, including measures necessary to comply with Labor Law § 27-c to respond to public health emergencies involving a communicable disease. These confidential plans shall include evacuation routes, shelter sites, medical needs, transportation, and emergency notification of parents and guardians.

Building-level emergency response plans shall include protocols in response to carbon monoxide alarms or detection. Alarm or detection of carbon monoxide will result in the appropriate actions as described by the emergency response plan.

Building-level emergency response plans shall designate:

- an emergency response team for incidents that includes appropriate school personnel, law enforcement officials, fire officials, and representatives from local, regional and/or state emergency response agencies to assist the school community in responding to a violent incident or emergency; and
- a post-incident response team that includes appropriate school personnel, medical personnel, mental health counselors, and other related personnel to assist the community in coping with the aftermath of a serious violent incident or emergency.

The building principal shall be responsible for conducting at least one test every school year of the emergency response procedures under this plan including procedures for sheltering and early dismissal, in addition to or in conjunction with one of the drills required by Education Law § 807.

To maintain security and in accordance with law, the building-level emergency response plan(s) shall be confidential and shall not be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Law or any other law.

Roles and Areas of Responsibility of School Personnel

The District will establish a written contract or memorandum of understanding which defines the roles and responsibility of school personnel, security personnel, and law enforcement, that is developed with stakeholder input, including, but not limited to, parents, students, school administrators, teachers, collective bargaining units, parent and student organizations, and community members, as well as probation officers, prosecutors, defense counsels, and courts that are familiar with school discipline. Such written contract or memorandum of understanding shall

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define the relationship between a district's, personnel, students, visitors, law enforcement, and public or private security personnel. Such contract or memorandum of understanding shall be consistent with the code of conduct, define law enforcement or security personnel's roles, responsibilities and involvement within a school and clearly delegate the role of school discipline to the school administration. Such written contract or memorandum of understanding shall be incorporated into and published as part of the district safety plan.

Annual Review and Report

All plans shall be annually reviewed and updated, if necessary, by the appropriate team by July 15. In conducting the review, the teams shall consider any changes in organization, local conditions and other factors including an evaluation of the results of the annual test of the emergency response procedures which may necessitate updating of plans. If the plan requires no changes, then it shall remain in effect. If the district-wide plan requires change, then the updated plan shall be submitted to the Board of Education in time to allow 30-days of public comment and to hold a public hearing which provides for the participation of school personnel, students and other interested parties, prior to Board adoption. All plans must be adopted annually by the Board of Education by September 1st.

The Superintendent of Schools shall be responsible for filing the district-level school safety plan and any amendments to the plan with the Commissioner within 30 days after their adoption, no later than October 1st of each year. The district-wide plan will be posted on the district's website. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall be responsible for filing the building-level emergency response plans for the buildings, and any amendments to the plans, with the appropriate local law enforcement agency and the state police within 30 days after their adoption, but no later than October 1st of each year.

Cross-ref: 5159, Bullying and Cyber Bullying
 4131, Staff Development Opportunities
 3528, Carbon Monoxide Detection and Response
 Code of Conduct

Ref: Education Law §2801-a (school safety plans)
 Executive Law §2B (state and local natural and manmade disaster preparedness)
 8 NYCRR Part 155 (Educational Facilities)

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