



# **Blind Brook-Rye**

Union Free School District

**DISTRICT-WIDE SAFETY & EMERGENCY**

**MANAGEMENT PLAN**

UPDATED MARCH 2026

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## STATE REQUIREMENTS

Requirement	Required Action	Date	Check when Completed
The District-Wide School Safety Team was <b>appointed by the Board of Education</b> . <sup>1</sup>	<b>Appointed by the Board of Education on:</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>
The District Chief Emergency Officer is: Dr. Brian Alm, Superintendent of Schools, balm@blindbrook.org	<b>District Chief Emergency Officer Appointed on:</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>
The District-Wide School Safety Team conducted <b>annual review and updates</b> to the District-Wide School Safety Plan. <sup>2</sup>	<b>Annual Review and Updates completed on:</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>
The District-Wide School Safety Plan was <b>made available for public comment at least thirty days prior to its adoption</b> by the Board of Education. <sup>3</sup>  It is recommended that a <b>DRAFT</b> version of the plan be <b>posted on the district website for the 30-day comment period</b> (watermark is suggested)	<b>Public Comment Period <u>Start Date:</u></b> <b>Public Comment Period <u>End Date:</u></b>		<input type="checkbox"/>
At least one <b>public hearing</b> that provided for the participation of school personnel, parents, students, and any other interested parties, was held prior to adoption of the plan. <sup>4</sup>	<b>Date of Public Hearing/Adoption (by September 1st):</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>
District-wide plan must be <b>submitted to the commissioner</b> within 30 days after its adoption, and <b>no later than October 1st</b> . <sup>5</sup>	<b>District plan submitted in the NYSED business portal (no later than October 1st):</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>
The date the <b>Board Adopted District-Wide School Safety Plan was posted on District Website</b> . <sup>6</sup> <b>Within 30 days from adoption and no later than October 1st.</b>	<b>Date Posted (no later than October 1st):</b>  <b>URL of District-wide School Safety Plan on District Website</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>

<sup>1</sup>155.17(b)(14) District-wide school safety team means a district-wide team appointed by the board of education, the chancellor in the case of New York City, or other governing board.

<sup>2</sup>155.17(a) Each district-wide school safety plan and building-level emergency response plan shall be reviewed by the appropriate school safety team on at least an annual basis, and updated as needed.

<sup>3</sup>155.17(c)(3)(i) Each board of education, chancellor or other governing body shall make each district-wide safety plan available for public comment at least 30 days prior to its adoption.

<sup>4</sup>155.17(c)(3)(i) Such district-wide plans 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.

<sup>5</sup>155.17(c)(3)(i) Each district shall submit its district-wide safety plan and all amendments to such plan to the commissioner, in a manner prescribed by the commissioner, within 30 days after its adoption. Commencing with the 2019- 2020 school year, such district-wide plans must be submitted no later than October 1, 2019, and each subsequent October 1st thereafter.

<sup>6</sup>District-wide School Safety Plan Self-Assessment and Planning Tool, Within 30 days from adoption, and no later than October 1, each district must post their District-Wide Safety Plan on their district website. The URL must be submitted to the Education Department to comply with the requirement that the plan be submitted to the Commissioner within 30 days from adoption.

<p>Date <b>training</b> was provided to staff on <b>Building-level Emergency Response Plans, school violence prevention, mental health and sudden cardiac arrest</b>, specifically covering how to recognize sudden cardiac arrest or similar life-threatening health emergencies and the procedures outlined in the Cardiac Emergency Response Plan, by <b>September 15th</b>, within 30 days of hire or as part of the district’s existing new hire training program, whichever is sooner.<sup>7</sup></p>	<p><b>Date of Training:</b></p>		<input type="checkbox"/>
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<sup>7</sup>155.17(c)(1)(xiii) policies and procedures for annual multi-hazard school safety training for staff and students, provided that the district must certify to the commissioner that all staff have undergone annual training by September 15, 2016 and each subsequent September 15th thereafter on the building-level emergency response plan which must include components on violence prevention and mental health, provided further that new employees hired after the start of the school year shall receive such training within 30 days of hire or as part of the district’s existing new hire training program, whichever is sooner;

## PURPOSE

Emergencies in schools are defined as undesirable events that occur and have the potential to cause injury or illness to members of our school community or disrupt the orderly educational process. They range from acts of bullying or harassment to catastrophic natural or man-made events. Emergency management is the discipline of dealing with and avoiding risks. It is a discipline that involves preparing for an emergency situation or disaster before it occurs as well as supporting and rebuilding from the emergency after natural or human-made disasters have occurred.

Emergency management in our schools is the continuous process by which our staff, students, administrators, parents, school groups, emergency responders and our community manages hazards in an effort to avoid or mitigate the impact of disasters resulting from hazards. Preventive measures and good planning will reduce the likelihood that emergencies will occur and allow us to address those that do in an expeditious and effective manner.

Districts are required to develop district-wide school safety and emergency management plans designed to prevent and effectively manage such events to minimize the effects of serious incidents and emergencies. These plans also facilitate the coordination of the District with local and county plans and resources when incidents and emergencies occur.

The district-wide plan is responsive to the needs of all schools in the District and is consistent with the more detailed building-level emergency plans. Districts are vulnerable to a wide variety of acts of violence; and natural and manmade disasters. To address these threats, the State of New York has enacted the Safe Schools Against Violence in Education (S.A.V.E.) law. Project S.A.V.E. is a comprehensive planning effort that addresses prevention, response, and recovery with respect to a variety of emergencies in schools.

The Blind Brook-Rye Union Free School District supports the S.A.V.E. legislation. As such, the Superintendent of Schools, Board of Education, and the entire District staff encourages and advocates on-going district-wide cooperation in support of Project S.A.V.E.

In July 2025, the New York State Legislature passed Desha's Law, which requires schools to develop and implement Cardiac Emergency Response Plans (CERPs) to address sudden cardiac arrest incidents at any school site owned or operated by the District and at the location of any school-sponsored event, including athletic events, on school grounds and during school-sponsored events. In accordance with this law, CERPs have been developed and are incorporated into each confidential Building-Level Emergency Response Plan.

The District ensures that these plans provide for the recognition of sudden cardiac arrest and similar life-threatening health emergencies, the use and accessibility of automated external defibrillators (AEDs), coordination with local emergency medical services, response at school-sponsored events including athletic activities, and staff training aligned with nationally recognized, evidence-based guidance such as that of the American Heart Association.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S DIRECTIVE

The Superintendent, or Designee (see [State Requirements](#)), will serve as the District's Chief Emergency Officer (CEO)<sup>8</sup> whose duties shall include, but not be limited to:

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<sup>8</sup>155.17(1)(c)(xix) the designation of the superintendent, or superintendent's designee, as the district chief emergency officer whose duties shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Coordination of the communication between school staff, law enforcement, and other first responders;<sup>9</sup>
2. Leading the efforts of the district-wide school safety team in the completion and yearly update of the district-wide school safety plan and the coordination of the district-wide plan with the building-level emergency response plans;<sup>10</sup>
3. Ensuring staff understanding of the district-wide school safety plan;<sup>11</sup>
4. Ensuring the completion and yearly update of building-level emergency response plans for each school building.<sup>12</sup> The CEO will require each building principal to maintain a Building-level Emergency Response Plan in compliance with Commissioner of Education Regulation 155.17(2). Each plan should be updated annually with the assistance of the Building Emergency Response Team (BERT). The plan shall provide for lockdown, secure lockout, sheltering, evacuation, early dismissal, fire and other emergency planning, including Sudden Cardiac Arrest, and notification (when necessary) to students and staff, annual drills and exercises, and coordination with local and county emergency preparedness administrators. These plans shall be submitted to the District's Safety Team for annual approval and incorporation into the overall District-wide Safety and Emergency Management Plan.
5. Assisting in the selection of security related technology and development of procedures for the use of such technology;<sup>13</sup>
6. Coordination of appropriate safety, security, and emergency training for district and school staff, including required training in the district-wide school safety plan and building-level emergency response plan;<sup>14</sup>
7. Ensuring the conduct of required evacuation and lockdown drills in a trauma-informed, developmentally, and age-appropriate manner that does not include props, actors, simulations, or other tactics intended to mimic a school shooting or other act of violence or emergency in all district buildings as required by Education Law section 807;<sup>15</sup> and
8. Ensuring the completion and yearly update of building-level emergency response plans by the dates designated by the commissioner.<sup>16</sup>
9. Ensures protocols for responding to a declared state disaster emergency involving a communicable disease are substantially consistent with the provisions of Section 27-C of the Labor Law.

#### IDENTIFICATION OF SCHOOL TEAMS

The District-wide Safety and Emergency Management Plan was developed pursuant to Commissioner's Regulation 155.17(b)(13) and NYS Education Law 2801-a<sup>17</sup>. At the direction of the Board of Education and under the direction of the Superintendent, a District-wide Safety Team will be utilized for

<sup>9</sup>155.17(c)(1)(xix)(a) coordination of the communication between school staff, law enforcement, and other first responders;

<sup>10</sup>155.17(c)(1)(xix)(b) lead the efforts of the district-wide school safety team in the completion and yearly update of the district-wide school safety plan and the coordination of the district-wide plan with the building-level emergency response plans

<sup>11</sup>155.17(c)(1)(xix)(c) ensure staff understanding of the district-wide school safety plan

<sup>12</sup>155.17(c)(1)(xix)(d) ensure the completion and yearly update of building-level emergency response plans for each school building

<sup>13</sup>155.17(c)(1)(xix)(e) assist in the selection of security related technology and development of procedures for the use of such technology

<sup>14</sup>155.17(c)(1)(xix)(f) coordinate appropriate safety, security, and emergency training for district and school staff, including required training in the district-wide school safety plan and building-level emergency response [plan] plan(s);

<sup>15</sup>155.17(c)(1)(xix)(g) ensure the conduct of required evacuation and lock-down drills in a trauma informed, developmentally, and age-appropriate manner that does not include props, actors, simulations, or other tactics intended to mimic a school shooting or other act of violence or emergency in all district buildings as required by section 807 of the Education Law

<sup>16</sup>155.17(c)(1)(xix)(h) ensure the completion and yearly update of building-level emergency response plans by the dates designated by the commissioner

<sup>17</sup>2801-a Each district-wide school safety team shall be appointed by the board of education, or the chancellor in the case of the city school district of the city of New York, and shall include but not be limited to representatives of the school board, teacher, administrator, and parent organizations, school safety personnel, and other school personnel including bus drivers and monitors.

emergency management within the District<sup>18</sup>. The Safety Team shall include, but is not limited to, representatives of the school board, teacher, administrator, and parent organizations, school safety personnel and other school personnel including bus drivers and monitors.

At the discretion of the board of education, a student may be allowed to participate on the safety team.<sup>19</sup> If the Board appoints or selects a student to participate on the safety team, in accordance with Regulation 155.17(b)(14) and EL 2801-A(4), no portion of a confidential building-level emergency response plan shall be shared with such student nor shall such student be present where details of a confidential building-level emergency response plan or confidential portions of a district-wide emergency response strategy are discussed.

The duties of the team shall include the development, review, and update of the District-wide Safety and Emergency Management Plan in compliance with Commissioner of Education Regulation 155.17. The District Safety Team should meet regularly throughout the year to conduct the following business:

1. Assess and review the District-wide Safety and Emergency Management Plan annually.
2. Make any necessary recommendations regarding emergency operations, planning, procedures, and/or protocols.
3. Conduct training sessions as necessary.
4. Meet with, oversee, and help guide the Building-level Emergency Response Planning Teams at each school as necessary.
5. Meet as needed with the District's Emergency Management Consultant to review protocols and procedures as well as receive training and instruction.
6. Meet with local government and emergency service organization officials to develop procedures for obtaining guidance and for emergency situations that exceed the expertise and/or resources of the District. These procedures may then be incorporated into the District's Emergency Management Plan.
7. Conduct all other business as deemed necessary.

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<sup>18</sup>155.17(b)(14) District-wide school safety team means a district-wide team appointed by the Board of Education, the chancellor in the case of New York City, or other governing board. The district-wide team shall include, but not be limited to, representatives of the school board, teacher, administrator, parent organizations, school safety personnel, and other school personnel including bus drivers and monitors.

<sup>19</sup>155.17(b)(14)/2801-A(4) At the discretion of the board of education, or the chancellor in the case of the city of New York, a student may be allowed to participate on the safety team, provided however, that no portion of a confidential building-level emergency response plan shall be shared with such student nor shall such student be present where details of a confidential building-level emergency response plan or confidential portions of a district-wide emergency response strategy are discussed.

**DISTRICT SAFETY TEAM<sup>20</sup>**

*Members listed here may be removed from the “additional emergency numbers” table*

<b>REQUIRED MEMBERS</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>OFFICE PHONE</b>	<b>ALTERNATE NUMBER (optional)</b>
School Board	Katherine Hallissy Ayala	School Board Member	914-937-3600 x1001	
Teacher	Steve Forzaglia	BMPRSS Teacher	914-937-3600 x2045	
	Marnita Brown	BBMS Teacher	914-937-3600 x4401	
	Tarra Strauss	BBHS Teacher	914-937-3600 x4327	
Administrator	Brian Alm	Superintendent of Schools/ Chief Emergency Officer	914-937-3600 x1002	
Parent Organization	Don Starr	Parent Organization Member	914-937-3600 x1001	
	Anthony Samella	Parent Organization Member	914-937-3600 x1001	
School Safety Personnel	Eugene Matthews	School Safety Monitor	914-937-3600 x4850	
Bus Driver	Louis Greco	Custodian/Bus Driver	914-937-3600 x4450	
<b>Other School Personnel (below)</b>				
	Frannie Wilsey	BMPRSS Nurse	914-937-3600 x2217	
	Laurie Baum	Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Facilities	914-937-3600 x1003	
	Seth Horowitz	Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment	914-937-3600 x1004	

<sup>20</sup>155.17(b)(14) District-wide school safety team means a district-wide team appointed by the board of education, the chancellor in the case of New York City, or other governing board. The district-wide team shall include, but not be limited to, representatives of the school board, teacher, administrator, parent organizations, school safety personnel, and other school personnel including bus drivers and monitors. At the discretion of the board of education, or the chancellor in the case of the City of New York, a student may be allowed to participate on the safety team, provided however, that no portion of a confidential building-level emergency response plan shall be shared with such student nor shall such student be present where details of a confidential building-level emergency response plan or confidential portions of a district-wide emergency response strategy are discussed.

	Charles Von Hollen	Director of Technology	914-937-3600 x1005	
	Alexandra Lafontaine-Casabona	Director of Pupil Personnel Services	914-937-3600 x1007	
	Tracy Taylor	Principal - Bruno M. Ponterio Ridge Street School	914-937-3600 x2101	
	Daniel McRedmond	Parent/Community Member	914-937-3600 x1001	
	Bertha Hidalgo	Bus Monitor	914-937-3600 x1001	
	Barry Friedman	Parent/Community Member	914-937-3600 x1001	
	Luis Rodriguez	Director of Facilities	914-937-3600 x4450	
	Detective Orelvis Lazala	Village of Rye Brook Police	914-937-1020	
<b>After School Personnel (optional, but NYSED recommended below)</b>				
Athletic Director / PE Coordinator				
After-School Program Director				
Before-School Program Site Supervisor				
Extracurricular Activities Coordinator				

## CONCEPTS OF OPERATION

1. The District-wide School Safety and Emergency Management Plan will be directly linked to individual Building-level Emergency Response Plans for each school. Protocols developed in the District-wide School Safety and Emergency Management Plan will guide the development and implementation of Building-level Emergency Response Plans.
2. All District building plans have been standardized to the extent possible so that leadership decisions are consistent and leaders may be interchangeable as necessary. The training and expectations set at the district level are applicable to all building team members.
3. In the event of an emergency or violent incident, the initial response at an individual school will be by the Building-level Emergency Response Planning Team.
4. Once the Superintendent and/or their designee are notified, the District Emergency Response Team may be mobilized to respond, and when appropriate, local emergency officials will be notified. All will follow the emergency management protocols and practices outlined in the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and will practice Incident Command System (ICS) techniques to better manage these events.

## PLAN REVIEW & PUBLIC COMMENT

1. The District-wide Safety and Emergency Management Plan shall be monitored and maintained by the District Safety Team and reviewed annually on or before September 1st of each year. A copy of the plan will be available at the District office and on the District website.<sup>21</sup>
2. On June 23, 2022, Governor Hochul signed Alyssa's Law, Chapter 227 of the Laws of 2022 (Chapter 227) which became effective immediately. Chapter 227 amends Education Law § 2801-a to require that district-wide school safety teams of public schools, boards of cooperative educational services, and county vocational education extension boards consider the usefulness of silent panic alarm systems when reviewing and amending district-wide safety plans. The District has installed these panic systems at each school building.<sup>22</sup>
3. Building-level Emergency Response Plans shall be confidential and not subject to disclosure under Article 6 of the Public Officers Law or any other provision of law in accordance with Education Law Section 2801-a.

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<sup>21</sup>155.17(a) By September first of each school year, every board of education of a school district, every board of cooperative educational services and county vocational education and extension board, and the chancellor of the City School District of the City of New York shall adopt a comprehensive district-wide school safety plan and building-level emergency response plans regarding crisis intervention and emergency response and management, and commencing with the 2023-2024 school year district-wide school safety plans shall include plans for the provision of remote instruction during any emergency school closure, provided that in the City School District of the City of New York, such plans shall be adopted by the chancellor of the city school district.

<sup>22</sup>EL 2081-A(f) District-wide school safety teams shall consider, as part of its reviews of the comprehensive district-wide safety plan, the installation of a panic alarm system. For purposes of this paragraph, "panic alarm system" shall mean a silent security system signal generated by the manual activation of a device intended to signal a life-threatening or emergency situation requiring a response from local law enforcement or, in the case of a school building located in a municipality in which there is no municipal police department, a location designated by the superintendent of state police and may include one or more of the following: wired panic button or buttons, wireless panic button or buttons or a mobile or computer application; The New York State Register, December 2022, <https://dos.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/12/122822.pdf> (page 12)

4. Full copies of the District-wide Safety and Emergency Management 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 each year.
5. The Board of Education must formally adopt the District-wide Plan pursuant to Commissioner's Regulation, Section 155.17(c)(3).<sup>23</sup> This plan will be made available for public comment at least 30 days prior to its adoption.
6. Building-level Emergency Response Plans will be supplied to the appropriate local law enforcement agency and the State Police by October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year or within 30 days of adoption.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>23</sup>155.17(c)(3)(i) Each board of education, chancellor or other governing body shall make each district-wide safety plan available for public comment at least 30 days prior to its adoption. Such district-wide plans 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. Each district shall submit its district-wide safety plan and all amendments to such plan to the commissioner, in a manner prescribed by the commissioner, within 30 days after its adoption. Commencing with the 2019-2020 school year, such district-wide plans must be submitted no later than October 1, 2019, and each subsequent October 1st thereafter.

<sup>24</sup>155.17 (c)(3)(ii) Each board of education, chancellor or other governing body or officer shall ensure that each building-level emergency response plan and any amendments thereto, is submitted to the appropriate local law enforcement agency and the State Police within 30 days of its adoption, but no later than October 1 for the 2020-2021 school year and each October 1st thereafter. Building-level emergency response plans shall be confidential and shall not be subject to disclosure under Article Six of the Public Officers Law or any other provision of law.

## SECTION II RISK REDUCTION/PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

### PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION STRATEGIES<sup>25</sup>

The District utilizes a variety of intervention strategies to reduce risk and prevent critical incidents.

1. The District utilizes trained multidisciplinary Threat Assessment Teams (a.k.a. Behavioral Assessment Teams) at each building to evaluate threats and implement the appropriate mitigation strategies. The District provides support and record keeping for the activities of each team.
2. The District has established a building-level multidisciplinary Behavioral Assessment Team which assesses whether certain exhibited behaviors or actions need intervention or other support. The Behavioral Assessment Team convenes annually to conduct staff training sessions on the safety and emergency procedures of such team<sup>26</sup>
3. The District Safety Team utilizes table top exercises to discuss their roles during an emergency and their responses to a sample emergency situation.<sup>27</sup>
4. Any utilized school safety officers and other security personnel are trained annually with the assistance of one or more of the following collaborative relationships:
  - Emergency Responders
  - Regional BOCES
  - District Consultants
5. Training for school staff working in an incident control capacity may include:
  - a. Individual and group de-escalation techniques
  - b. Non-violent conflict resolution skills and
  - c. Peer mediation
6. The District may provide de-escalation techniques and nonviolent conflict resolution training to other staff annually. Each building has some staff trained in nonviolent conflict resolution.

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<sup>25</sup>155.17(c)(1)(iii) appropriate prevention and intervention strategies, such as:(a) collaborative arrangements with State and local law enforcement officials, designed to ensure that school safety officers and other security personnel are adequately trained, including being trained to de-escalate potentially violent situations, and are effectively and fairly recruited;(b) where applicable, the establishment and/or participation of, school or district staff in a multi-disciplinary behavioral assessment team to assess whether certain exhibited behaviors or actions need intervention or other support, including a school or district-level behavioral assessment team or, if available, a county or regional threat assessment team. Where such teams are utilized, the district-wide school safety plan shall describe the school, district, or county team and its purpose, and annual staff training on safety and emergency procedures shall include information regarding the purpose and procedures of such team. (c) nonviolent conflict resolution training programs; (d) peer mediation programs and youth courts; and (e) extended day and other school safety programs.

<sup>26</sup>155.17(c)(1)(iii)(b) where applicable, the establishment and/or participation of, school or district staff in a multi-disciplinary behavioral assessment team to assess whether certain exhibited behaviors or actions need intervention or other support, including a school or district-level behavioral assessment team or, if available, a county or regional threat assessment team. Where such teams are utilized, the district-wide school safety plan shall describe the school, district, or county team and its purpose, and annual staff training on safety and emergency procedures shall include information regarding the purpose and procedures of such team.

<sup>27</sup>155.15(4)(1)(xiv)(2) Tabletop exercises may be utilized by school and district safety teams as a training resource and may include a discussion-based activity for staff in an informal classroom or meeting-type setting to discuss their roles during an emergency and their responses to a sample emergency situation.

7. Training may be available during staff development sessions, on conference days and via on-demand web-based training modules.
8. Procedures relating to building security including utilization of staff and security equipment are as follows:<sup>28</sup>
  1. All authorized staff members are expected to carry their classroom/office keys/swipe cards at all times.
  2. All staff members are expected to wear District-issued photo identification badges.
  3. After the designated start time of the school day, each school will be appropriately secured.
  4. All visitors must report to each building's designated single point of entry and sign in before proceeding further into the building.
  5. All contractors assigned to work in any building must first be authorized by the Facilities Department to receive an identification badge, which must be visible at all times when workers are on school property. All deliverables and delivery personnel must first be authorized by the Facilities Department, prior to delivery. An exception for regular food service deliveries may be made after the vendor has been authorized for the school year.
  6. Extended day and other school safety programs - The district school buildings and facilities provide a valuable resource to our students and community after the conclusion of the school day. The following strategies are utilized during after-school hours:
    - To the degree possible, access to areas of the school building is limited to only those needed for activities.
    - Some buildings may use a modified point of entry.
9. The district has established a comprehensive **Before and After School Programs, Activities, and Events Safety Annex** to safely manage before- and after-school activities and events, including athletic activities and programs, ensuring a secure and welcoming environment for all attendees. These guidelines outline protocols for visitor management, crowd control, emergency preparedness, and coordination with law enforcement as needed. This detailed annex can be found in each confidential Building-level Emergency Response Plan.
10. The district has adopted a board-approved policy addressing extreme heat conditions. In addition, the district established a **Maximum Temperature in Schools Annex** within each Building-level Emergency Response Plan to guide implementation, including monitoring room temperatures, implementing heat mitigation strategies, and relocating students and staff when practicable. In the event of a heat emergency, the district will activate the protocols outlined in the Building-level Emergency Response Plans, consistent with the district's board-approved policy. The district will also address medical needs, transportation, and emergency notification of parents and guardians as outlined in the Building-level Emergency Response Plans.

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<sup>28</sup>155.17(c)(1)(xi)(a) policies and procedures relating to school building security, including, where appropriate: (a) the use of school safety or security officers and/or school resource officers. Beginning with the 2019-20 school year, and every school year thereafter, every school shall define the areas of responsibility of school personnel, security personnel and law enforcement in response to student misconduct that violates the code of conduct.

The District continually investigates other security measures and conducts staff development training to ensure schools are as safe as possible. Security measures include:

- a. Security personnel
- b. Surveillance cameras
- c. Door-lock (buzzer) entry systems
- d. Portable Radios
- e. Alarm Systems
- f. Keypad or swipe entry systems
- g. Single or limited points of entry

#### IMPROVING COMMUNICATION WITH STUDENTS

Each of the schools within the district provides a wealth of school safety-related initiatives aimed at improving communication among students, between students and staff, and between administration and parents or persons in parental relation.<sup>29</sup> These programs may include the establishment of youth-run programs, creating a forum or designating a mentor for students, peer mediation, bullying prevention, conflict resolution, social skills development, managing emotions and components of character education. Students are involved in a wide variety of safety activities through both their classes as well as through work with school counselors, social workers, and school psychologists. By October 1st of each school year, the superintendent and chief school administrator have provided written information to all students and staff about emergency procedures.<sup>30</sup>

Each building is establishing a mechanism for the anonymous reporting (Sandy Hook Promise) of school violence and harassment and has communicated this to students and parents.<sup>31</sup>

The school district's Code of Conduct is accessible to parents and students and reviewed with all students at the beginning of the school year. During the review with students, bullying, discrimination, harassment and violations of the Code of Conduct, along with consequences are discussed.

All staff members are trained in recognizing and effectively dealing with these behaviors, as outlined in the Code of Conduct.

In addition, each school has a wide range of programs and supports that impact school safety. These may include offering a variety of clubs, classroom lessons, small group lessons and/or individual counseling sessions, school-wide meetings, morning meetings in classrooms, assemblies, mindfulness rooms, yoga and movement breaks, and a variety of wellness opportunities.

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<sup>29</sup>155.17(c)(1)(xvi) strategies for improving communication among students, between students and staff and between administration and parents or persons in parental relation regarding reporting of potentially violent incidents, such as the establishment of youth-run programs, peer mediation, conflict resolution, creating a forum or designating a mentor for students concerned with bullying or violence and establishing anonymous reporting mechanisms for school violence;

<sup>30</sup>155.17(g) Instruction. Each public school superintendent and each chief school administrator of an educational agency other than a public school shall take action to provide written information, by October 1st of each school year, to all students and staff about emergency procedures.

<sup>31</sup>155.17(c)(1)(xvi) strategies for improving communication among students, between students and staff and between administration and parents or persons in parental relation regarding reporting of potentially violent incidents, such as the establishment of youth-run programs, peer mediation, conflict resolution, creating a forum or designating a mentor for students concerned with bullying or violence and establishing anonymous reporting mechanisms for school violence;

## REPORTING THREATS OR ACTS OF VIOLENCE

Students, staff, parents and others are informed annually about the importance of reporting threats or acts of violence and the procedures of reporting.

The District has developed a system for reporting threats and actual acts of violence. The procedure for reporting is as follows:

- Students are instructed to report threats and acts of violence to staff members.
- Each school has designated a reporting process, which can be done anonymously.
- Staff members are required to report all student referrals to the administration for investigation.
- Staff training programs meet S.A.V.E. requirements. Instruction on issues of school safety is provided to all employees each year.

## TRAINING, DRILLS AND EXERCISES

### DRILLS AND EXERCISES:<sup>32</sup>

#### General Guidelines for Drills

**Trauma-Informed Approach:** All drills conducted during the school day with students present will be conducted in a trauma-informed, developmentally, and age-appropriate manner. Props, actors, simulations, or tactics mimicking a school shooting, incident of violence, or other emergencies are strictly prohibited.<sup>33</sup> (Effective 7/31/24) The New York State Fire Code requires that the fire alarm be used in an evacuation (evacuate) drill, and it is not considered a prop.

**Annual Training:** Drills will be conducted only after annual training in emergency procedures has been provided to students and staff.

**Varied Scheduling:** Drills will be scheduled on different dates, days of the week, and during different times of the school day.<sup>34</sup>

**Exclusions for Unplanned Events:** Unplanned evacuations or false alarms do not count as a required drill. Evacuations made necessary by the unplanned activation of the fire alarm system or by any other emergency shall not be substituted for a required evacuation (evacuate) drill.<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>32</sup>155.17(c)(1)(xiv) procedures for review and the conduct of drills, tabletop exercises, and information about emergency procedures and drills, including information about procedures and timeframes for notification of parents or persons in parental relation regarding drills and other emergency response training(s) that include students. At their discretion, schools and districts may participate in full-scale exercises in coordination with local and county emergency responders and preparedness officials.

<sup>33</sup>155.17(c)(1)(xiv)(1) Drills conducted during the school day with students present shall be conducted in a trauma-informed, developmentally, and age-appropriate manner and shall not include props, actors, simulations, or other tactics intended to mimic a school shooting or other act of violence or emergency.

<sup>34</sup>155.17(c)(2)(vii)(c) be completed on different dates, days of the week, and during different times of the school day; and

<sup>35</sup>401.7 [New York State Fire code](#) (pg 59)

**Student/Staff Notification:** At the time that drills are conducted, students and staff shall be informed that the activities being conducted are a drill. Provided, however, that students and staff shall not be informed in advance of evacuation (evacuate) drills. (Effective 7/31/24)<sup>36</sup>

**Parental Notification:** Parents or persons in parental relation will be given advance notice of each drill being conducted within one week prior to the drill.<sup>37</sup> (Effective 7/31/24) Procedures for notifying parents or persons in parental relation will include:

1. **Official Letter or Email**
  - Timing: **Within one week** before the drill.
  - Include the following information:
    - General time frame of the drill
      - (e.g., Sometime the week of [month/date], [school name] will have a [drill type] drill
    - Type of drill (e.g., fire drill, lockdown drill)
    - Purpose of the drill
    - Importance of the drill for student safety
    - Contact information for questions or concerns
2. **Automated Phone Calls and Text Messages**
  - Timing: **Within one week** before the drill.
  - Use the school's automated messaging system to send a notification.
  - Include the following information:
    - General time frame of the drill
      - a. (e.g., Sometime the week of [month/date], [school name] will have a [drill type] drill
    - Type of drill (e.g., fire drill, lockdown drill)
    - Purpose of the drill
    - Importance of the drill for student safety
    - Contact information for questions or concerns
3. **Printed Notices**
  - Timing: **Within one week** before the drill.
  - General time frame of the drill
    - (e.g., Sometime the week of [month/date], [school name] will have a [drill type] drill
  - Send printed notices home with students.
  - Include the following information:
    - General timeframe of the drill
    - Type of drill (e.g., fire drill, lockdown drill)
    - Purpose of the drill
    - Importance of the drill for student safety
    - Contact information for questions or concerns
4. **Post-Drill Follow-Up**
  - Timing: Immediately after the drill.
  - Send a follow-up letter or email to parents/guardians summarizing the drill, what went well, and any areas for improvement.

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<sup>36</sup>155.1(c)(1)(xiv)(2) At the time that drills are conducted, students and staff shall be informed that the activities being conducted are a drill. Provided, however, that students and staff shall not be informed in advance of evacuation drills.

<sup>37</sup>155.17(c)(2)(vii)(d) parents or persons in parental relations shall be given advance notice of each drill being conducted within one week preceding any such drill.

- Reassure parents that the drill was conducted safely and effectively.

### Required Drills

**Evacuation (Evacuate) Drills:** Eight (8) evacuation (evacuate) drills will be conducted each year, with six (6) completed between September 1 and December 31. Four (4) of these drills must involve the use of fire escapes on buildings where fire escapes are provided or other secondary means of egress such as different corridors, hallways, stairways, and exit doors.<sup>38 39</sup> Students will be instructed in the procedure to be followed in the event that a fire occurs during the lunch period or assembly. This instruction may be waived if a drill is held during the regular school lunch period or assembly<sup>40</sup>

**Lockdown Drills:** Four (4) lockdown drills will be conducted annually, with two (2) completed between September 1 and December 31.

**Emergency Dismissal Drill:** One (1) emergency dismissal drill will be conducted to test early dismissal procedures, occurring no more than 15 minutes before the normal dismissal time. Parents will be notified of these drills at least one week prior. Transportation Officials and District staff may also take place in conducting an evaluation of this drill. This drill also allows the District to test the usefulness of the communications and transportation system during emergencies.<sup>41</sup>

### Additional Evacuation (Evacuate) Drill Requirements

**Summer School:** At least two (2) additional drills are required in buildings used for summer school, with one (1) drill held during the first week.

**After-School Programs, Events, and Performances:** For after-school programs, events or performances conducted within a school building that include persons who do not regularly attend classes in the building, the principal or other person in charge of the building must require the teacher or person in charge of the after-school program, event or performance notify attendees of the procedures to be followed in an emergency.<sup>42</sup>

**Before- and After-School Safety Planning:** Consistent with guidance from the New York State Education Department, the District's emergency response planning applies to school buildings and grounds during before-school and after-school programs, extracurricular activities, and school-sponsored events. Safety planning for these periods considers differences in supervision, staffing, student movement, and building use that may occur outside of regular instructional hours. Procedures address communication, student accountability, coordination with transportation, and coordination with emergency responders, as appropriate. Detailed, site-specific procedures for before- and after-school activities are maintained within each school's confidential Building-Level Emergency Response Plan and are implemented in coordination with designated staff and program leaders.

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<sup>38</sup>155.17(h)(i) Four drills shall be through the use of the fire escapes on buildings where fire escapes are provided or through the use of identified secondary means of egress, such as through different corridors, hallways, stairways, and exit doors. Drills shall be conducted at different times of the school day

<sup>39</sup>EL §807.1 four of the required drills must be through use of the fire escapes on buildings where fire escapes are provided or through the use of identified secondary means of egress

<sup>40</sup>155.17(h)(ii) Pupils shall be instructed in the procedure to be followed if an emergency occurs during a lunch period or assembly, provided however, that such additional instruction may be waived where a drill is held during the regular school lunch period or assembly.

<sup>41</sup>155.17(h)(3) Emergency Dismissal drills shall test the usefulness of the communications and transportation system during emergencies.

<sup>42</sup>807.1-a for after-school programs, events or performances conducted within a school building and include persons who do not regularly attend classes in the building, the principal or other person in charge of the building must require the teacher or person in charge of the after-school program, event or performance notify attendees of the procedures to be followed in an emergency.

## Optional Drills

**Shelter-in-Place/Shelter and/or Secure Lockout Drills:** While not required, each school in the District may conduct Shelter-in-Place/Shelter and/or Secure Lockout drills in addition to those drills required by New York State regulation. The appropriate Police Department may, upon mutual agreement with the District, participate in some or all of the drills and offer feedback regarding the effectiveness of these drills.

**Full Scale Exercises:** The district may opt to conduct functional exercises with emergency response agencies to involve staff, students and parents in realistic drills. Exercises that include props, actors, simulations, or other tactics intended to mimic a school shooting or other act of violence or emergency may not be conducted on a regular school day and when school activities such as athletics are occurring on school grounds. Such exercises may not include students without written consent from parents or persons in parental relation.<sup>43</sup>

The district does not plan to conduct functional exercises with emergency response agencies that involve staff, students, and parents in drills using props, actors, simulations, or other tactics intended to mimic a school shooting or other act of violence or emergency. If this policy were to change in the future, any such exercises would not be conducted on a regular school day or when school activities such as athletics are occurring on school grounds. Additionally, no students would participate in these exercises without written consent from parents or persons in parental relation.

Procedures for obtaining written consent for students to participate in full-scale exercises from parents or persons in parental relation will include:<sup>44</sup>

**1. Distribution of Consent Forms:**

- Consent forms will be distributed to parents through the following methods:
  - **Mail:** Consent forms will be sent to parents' home addresses.
  - **Home with Students:** Students will bring consent forms home in their backpacks.
  - **Email:** Electronic consent forms will be sent to parents' registered email addresses.
  - **School Newsletter:** A detachable consent form will be included in the monthly school newsletter.
  - **Parent Portal:** Consent forms will be available on the school's parent portal.

**2. Content of Consent Forms:**

- The consent form will include:
  - A detailed description of the full-scale exercise, including date, time, and activities involved.
  - Potential risks and safety measures in place.
  - Instructions for completing and returning the form.

**3. Return of Consent Forms:**

- Parents can return signed consent forms through the following methods:
  - **Mail:** Forms can be mailed back to the school.

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<sup>43</sup>155.17(c)(1)(xiv)(4) Schools and districts that opt to participate in full-scale exercises in conjunction with local and county emergency responders and preparedness officials that include props, actors, simulations, or other tactics intended to mimic a school shooting or other act of violence or emergency shall not conduct such exercises on a regular school day or when school activities such as athletics are occurring on school grounds. Such exercises may not include students without written consent from parents or persons in parental relation.

<sup>44</sup>155.17(c)(1)(xiv)(4) ... Such exercises may not include students without written consent from parents or persons in parental relations.

- **Home with Students:** Students can return forms to their homeroom teachers.
  - **Email:** Scanned copies of signed forms can be emailed to the designated school email address.
  - **Parent Portal:** Digital consent forms can be submitted through the parent portal.
4. **Follow-Up and Reminders:**
    - The school will send reminders via email, text messages, and phone calls to ensure that all parents submit the consent forms in a timely manner.
  5. **Record Keeping:**
    - The school will maintain a digital record of all returned consent forms. This record will be securely stored and accessible to authorized school personnel.

### Training and Review Processes

**Training for Students:** Prior to the first annual drill, staff shall review emergency response procedures and drill requirements with students during class time, providing an opportunity for students to ask questions about any unclear procedures.

Age-appropriate student instruction shall also include awareness of Sudden Cardiac Arrest, including how to recognize a medical emergency, the importance of promptly notifying an adult, awareness of where automated external defibrillators (AEDs) are located within the building, and an understanding of which staff members are authorized to use AEDs.

**Building-level Emergency Response Planning Team and District Administration Team Training:** Each Building-level Emergency Response Planning Team and representatives of the District administration engage in tabletop exercises facilitated by the district’s emergency management consultant. Emergency response agencies are encouraged to participate in these exercises.<sup>45</sup>

**Drill Review and Protocol Updates:** In addition to post-drill debriefings conducted by each building-level emergency response planning team, each building will complete a drill evaluation form that will be submitted to the district-wide safety team for periodic review, which includes observations from the drill as well as any additional feedback obtained from building personnel. Changes to procedures are made as needed. The district-wide safety team should evaluate communications and transportation systems during emergencies.<sup>46</sup>

**Local Emergency Responder Involvement:** The appropriate Fire and Police Departments may, upon mutual agreement with the District, participate in some or all evacuation (evacuate) and lockdown drills, offering feedback on the effectiveness of building evacuation during a fire and the overall effectiveness of lockdown procedures.

**Sudden Cardiac Arrest:** Annual training provided to staff shall include how to recognize sudden cardiac arrest or similar life threatening health emergencies and the specific procedures outlined in the cardiac-emergency response plan, components of Sudden Cardiac Arrest, in alignment with state law

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<sup>45</sup>155.17(c)(1)(xiv)(3) Tabletop exercises may be utilized by school and district safety teams as a training resource and may include a discussion-based activity for staff in an informal classroom or meeting-type setting to discuss their roles during an emergency and their responses to a sample emergency situation.

<sup>46</sup>155.17(h)(3) Emergency Dismissal drills shall test the usefulness of the communications and transportation system during emergencies.

and nationally recognized evidence-based practices such as those recommended by the American Heart Association.

### Special Provisions

**Building Occupants with Special Needs:** Prior to the commencement of each school year, the Building-Level Emergency Response Planning Team shall conduct an inventory of any special needs students. Appropriate accommodations for the school year will be incorporated into each Building-Level Emergency Response Plan.

**Access and Functional Needs:** Building-specific procedures addressing the access and functional needs of students, staff, and visitors are maintained in each school’s confidential Building-Level Emergency Response Plan. These procedures are integrated into the applicable emergency response annexes and address considerations such as mobility limitations, medical needs, medication access, medical equipment, service animals, personal assistance requirements, and other access or functional needs that may impact response actions during evacuation, shelter-in-place, hold-in-place, secure lockout, lockdown, and other emergency conditions. Such procedures are developed, reviewed, and updated by the Building-Level Emergency Response Team in accordance with Commissioner’s Regulation §155.17, district policy, and applicable privacy and civil rights requirements.

### Communication

**Staff Information:** Information about drills will be included in the teacher’s manual or handbook as mandated by Education Law §807.2.

A summary of drill procedures are detailed in each of the Building-Level Emergency Response Plans.

### STAFF DEVELOPMENT TRAINING:

All general staff shall receive training on District-wide procedures as well as specific procedures contained within their respective Building-Level Emergency Response Plan. Beginning in the 2025–2026 school year, this training shall also include components of Sudden Cardiac Arrest, including how to recognize the signs of Sudden Cardiac Arrest, initiate appropriate emergency response actions, and understand the location of automated external defibrillators (AEDs), consistent with Education Law §2801-a(2), as amended by Chapter 189 of the Laws of 2025. This training shall occur prior to September 15 of each school year or within 30 days of joining the District and may be conducted during a staff development day in August, online, or through a combination of both.<sup>47</sup>

The District will provide advanced training for each Building-level Emergency Response Planning Team and District-wide Safety Team annually. Effective July 1, 2025, the training will include a description of the roles and responsibilities of the Building-level Emergency Response Planning Team, the building-level

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<sup>47</sup>155.17(c)(1)(xiii) policies and procedures for annual multi-hazard school safety training for staff and students, provided that the district must certify to the commissioner that all staff have undergone annual training by September 15, 2016 and each subsequent September 15th thereafter on the building-level emergency response plan which must include components on violence prevention and mental health, provided further that new employees hired after the start of the school year shall receive such training within 30 days of hire or as part of the district’s existing new hire training program, whichever is sooner;

\*\*Please note, the terminology in this paragraph has been pulled directly from the law language, and therefore the terminology remains shelter, hold, evacuate, secure lockout, and lockdown.

Incident Command System including the roles and responsibilities of designated staff, and the building level-emergency response plan procedures for implementing the following required emergency response terms: shelter, hold, evacuate, secure lockout, and lockdown. The required training shall also include the procedures for conducting drills, including whether classrooms will be released from lockdown by law enforcement or school or district administrators during drills, and the district and building policies, procedures, and programs related to safety including those which include components on violence prevention and mental health.<sup>48</sup>

Additional training may include but is not limited to:

- De-escalation training
- Warning signals for violence and mental health concerns
- Non-violent conflict resolution
- Student School Emergency Response Procedures Training

#### PROACTIVE BUILDING SECURITY MEASURES

1. The District buildings use limited points of entry. All doors are locked. Signs are in place directing visitors to sign-in at the reception desk at each school. Main doors are controlled by remote “buzzer” entry during normal school hours.
2. All schools have greeters or office staff members just inside the entrance to each school in the District. These individuals ensure visitor sign-in procedures and help supervise building traffic flow. The building principals are responsible for supervision of the greeters and other staff.
3. Staff members are required to wear visible identification badges.
4. Visitors are required to sign in and wear visitor identification.
5. Visitor access is limited to specific areas of the school building.

#### VITAL EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION<sup>49</sup>

Information on each building’s student and staff, transportation needs, and the telephone numbers of key officials are outlined in each Building-level Emergency Response Plan. The purpose of including such information in the Building-level plan is to ensure coordination or coverage in the event of a serious incident.

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<sup>48</sup>155.17(2)(xiii) <https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/424p12d2.pdf>

<sup>49</sup>155.17(2)(ix) Except in a school district in a city having a population of more than one million inhabitants, the chief executive officer of each educational agency located within a public school district shall provide to the superintendent of schools information about school population, number of staff, transportation needs and the business and home telephone numbers of key officials of such educational agencies.

This section contains the District policy and procedure for disseminating information regarding early detection of potentially dangerous behavior.

1. A “plain language” summary of the District’s Code of Conduct is provided to all students in the District at the start of every school year to ensure that all students understand acceptable behavior in the school setting. The Code of Conduct delineates, among other behavior, lack of tolerance for harassment, discrimination, bullying and violence.
2. A “plain language” summary of the District’s Code of Conduct is mailed or emailed to all parents/guardians of students in the District at the start of each school year, and is disseminated at the time of registration thereafter.
3. All new employees will be provided with a copy of the Code of Conduct at the time of hire. All teachers and other staff members will be provided with a copy of the Code of Conduct annually.
4. Efforts are made on the building level in each of the District’s schools to identify, prevent, and resolve potentially dangerous behavior at the earliest possible stage. Teams meet regularly in each building in order to work with classroom staff in identifying and preventing potentially dangerous behavior. School counselors, school psychologists, school social workers, nurses, outside agencies (when appropriate), administrators, teachers, bus drivers and monitors, parents/guardians and students may be involved in this process.
5. District students at all grade levels participate in instruction guided by evidence-based violence prevention/intervention programs. Elements of these programs support students in identifying potentially violent or problematic situations with peers and in developing strategies to address these such as reporting to an adult.
6. Secondary health curricula incorporate information regarding emotional health, the impact of drugs and alcohol on an individual’s behavior, and on responsible decision-making.
7. Each of the District’s school psychologists/social workers may facilitate counseling groups for identified students around issues related to poor social skills development, managing emotions, and good decision-making.
8. Certified and noncertified staff members working with students who have been identified by the Committee on Special Education as being at-risk for engaging in violent behaviors receive annual training in crisis prevention and intervention.

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<sup>50</sup>155.17(c)(1)(xii) policies and procedures for the dissemination of informative materials regarding the early detection of potentially violent behaviors, including but not limited to the identification of family, community, and environmental factors to teachers, administrators, school personnel including bus drivers and monitors, parents [and] or other persons in parental relation to students of the school district or board, students and other persons deemed appropriate to receive such information;

9. The District may work in collaboration with building-level and District-wide PTAs to offer parents/guardians information regarding early-warning signs of potentially dangerous and/or violent behavior, as well as a forum to discuss specific parental concerns.

#### POLICE AGENCIES

The District buildings fall within the jurisdiction of the following police departments:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
Village of Rye Brook Police	914-937-1020
Westchester County Police	914-741-4400
New York State Police	914-769-2600

#### HAZARD IDENTIFICATION

##### IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS OR HAZARDOUS SITES:

Each school will identify and locate areas of potential emergencies in and around its building. The Director of Facilities and building custodians will locate these sites.

1. These sites are to include electrical, gas, heating, ventilation, water supply and sewage systems locations and shut-off valves. Local fire department personnel have and will continue to participate in these efforts.
2. These sites of potential emergencies will be listed in each Building-level Emergency Response Plan supplied to police, fire, emergency management services, and District personnel.
3. Potentially dangerous sites indicated below that are contained within school property and under the jurisdiction of the school district, will be checked regularly and inspected by building safety personnel on a regular schedule, at least annually. They include but are not limited to:
  - Electrical panels/shut-offs
  - Gas lines/shut-off
  - Gas appliances
  - Heating plant
  - Sewage system
  - Structural failure
  - HVAC
  - Water supply/shut-off
  - Chemical storage and cleaning supplies
  - Paper supply storage
  - Industrial arts room
  - Science rooms and labs
  - Isolated areas near the school
  - Nearby aqueduct, streams, ponds, rivers (flooding)
  - Steep areas near school
  - Unprotected exterior gas/electric, air conditioning supplies or equipment
  - Playground equipment

## ALLOCATIONS

- A. At the elementary level, there is a single point of entry for visitors at each building and visitors to the school must be buzzed into the building, sign in and receive an identification badge issued by a safety greeter. Staff in the building all wear district-produced identification badges which must be worn at all times. Staff is trained to report to the main office any person they observe who is not wearing a badge.
- B. At the middle and high school level, there is a single point of entry for visitors, which is staffed during normal school hours by one of several staff members or safety personnel assigned to the High School. Visitors to the school must be buzzed into the building, sign in and receive an identification badge issued by a safety greeter. Staff in the building all wear district-produced identification badges, which must be worn at all times. In addition, safety personnel are assigned to areas throughout the building.

## HIRING

The interviewing and hiring of safety personnel follows the district’s practices for hiring of new staff. All new staff employed by the District must be fingerprinted in order to be employed.

## DUTIES AND TRAINING

### School Monitors

- contracted personnel at each building
- buildings are staffed during regular school hours as well as for special events in the evening/weekends
- actively monitor the building and support the staff with student safety and traffic
- guide the arrival and dismissal processes
- monitor security cameras
- perform perimeter patrols and ensure that doors are secured
- primarily responsible for enforcement of the visitor protocols
- provide escorts for parents and students when needed
- provide student supervision
- detection of hazards
- assist with safety drills
- deter and report unlawful activity
- members of building-level emergency response planning teams

### Required training includes:

- School violence prevention and intervention training

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<sup>51</sup>155.17(c)(1)(xvii) a description of the duties of hall monitors and any other school safety personnel, the training required of all personnel acting in a school security capacity, and the hiring and screening process for all personnel acting in a school security capacity;

- Site-specific training including review of all manuals (e.g., school district policies, Code of Conduct, District-wide School Safety Plan, School Handbook, etc).
- Right-to-know training
- Blood borne pathogen training

## SECTION III RESPONSE

### NOTIFICATION AND ACTIVATION - INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

#### INTERNAL

After receiving the information from the Incident Commander at the scene, an email will be sent from the Superintendent's office to all administrators and administrative offices alerting them to the nature and status of any incident in the district. The mass communication system may be used to provide information as deemed appropriate by the Incident Commander. Portable radios will also be used when possible.

#### EXTERNAL

Anyone with knowledge of an emergency event is encouraged to immediately call 911.

The District's mass communication system will be used to provide information to parents/guardians and emergency contacts. The District website may also be used to provide updated information throughout an incident as deemed appropriate by the Incident Commander. Schools may also use their websites, groups, and hotlines for announcements or updates as directed by the Incident Commander.

When an emergency requires notification of staff, the Superintendent or his designee will provide updated information to parents and students through the emergency notification system. Additional information may also be found on the District's website: <https://www.blindbrook.org/>

During an emergency, all contact with the media will be handled either by the Superintendent or their designee. The media and public will be informed and updated as soon as practicable on all developments in statements released by the Superintendent or their designee. Students, staff and parents should refer all questions and requests for information to the Superintendent in order to assure the release of factual and current information. The Superintendent may refer such requests to the Public Information Officer for response.

By definition, emergency events are unforeseen and unpredictable. The safety of students and staff is the primary focus of all activities surrounding an emergency event. Every effort will be made to contact parents and the general public once the situation has stabilized.

#### SITUATIONAL RESPONSES

#### MULTI-HAZARD RESPONSE

In the event of an emergency, a Command Center will be set up at a safe location in collaboration with emergency responders. Each building has specific plans for dealing with a wide range of hazards.

Specific response procedures are sensitive in nature and therefore are contained within each confidential building-level emergency response plan.

In each emergency, the building’s administrator will contact the District office for assistance. The District office will provide support as appropriate and deemed necessary by the Incident Commander on the scene (i.e. sending additional mental health resources). The Superintendent or their designee will be the sole contact person for releasing information to the media and for communicating the status of the emergency with other District schools, out-of-district schools, private schools, and outside agencies.

## RESPONSE PROTOCOLS

### SCHOOL CANCELLATION

- The Superintendent or their designee will monitor any situation that may warrant a school cancellation and will make the determination to do so.
- The Public Information Officer will activate use of the District’s mass communication system.
- The Public Information Officer will contact local media, post the information on the website and social media sites utilized by the District.

### EARLY DISMISSAL

- The Superintendent or their designee will monitor any situation that may warrant an early dismissal and will make the determination to do so.
- The Operations Chief will designate people to arrange transportation for students.
- The Public Information Officer will activate use of the District’s mass communication system.
- The Public Information Officer will contact local media, post the information on the website and social media sites utilized by the District.
- The Liaison Officer will notify each of the building principals.

### EVACUATION (EVACUATE)

- The Superintendent or their designee will determine the level of the threat.
- The Operations Chief will contact the transportation supervisor to arrange transportation. They will also arrange for student-parent reunification.
- The Safety Officer will clear all evacuation routes and sites prior to evacuation
- Principal(s) will evacuate all staff and students to prearranged evacuation sites as outlined in building plans. They will report to the superintendent or their designee any missing staff or students.

### SHELTER-IN-PLACE/SHELTER SITES (INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL)

- The Superintendent or their designee will determine the level of the threat and communicate with building principal(s) who are affected by the emergency.
- Principal(s) will move all staff and students to pre-arranged shelter-in-place/shelter sites as outlined in building plans. They will report to the superintendent or their designee any missing staff or students.

- The Logistics Chief will make appropriate arrangements for human needs in the event of a long-term situation.

PROTOCOLS FOR RESPONDING TO BOMB THREATS, HOSTAGE-TAKINGS, INTRUDERS, ABDUCTION, AND OTHER EMERGENCY SITUATIONS<sup>52</sup>

The District has procedures and provides training for emergencies. Specific response steps are confidential and contained within each Building-level Emergency Response Plan. Emergencies include but are not limited to the following situations.

- Abduction/Kidnapping
- Armed Intruders / Active Shooters
- Bomb Threats
- Cyber Security
- Early or Alternate Emergency Dismissal
- Earthquakes
- Explosions
- Fires
- Hazardous Material Incident
- Homeland Security Threats
- Hostage Situations
- Infectious Diseases
- Missing Child/Elopement
- Severe Weather
- Student-Made Threats
- Sudden Cardiac Arrest
- Suicidal Students
- Suspicious Package Protocol
- Suspicious Persons
- Swatting

RESPONSES TO IMPLIED OR DIRECT THREATS OF VIOLENCE<sup>53</sup>

1. Students are required to inform school staff about any direct or indirect threat of violence or actual act of violence to themselves, others or school property.

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<sup>52</sup>155.17(c)(1)(xv) the identification of appropriate responses to emergencies, including protocols for responding to bomb threats, hostage-takings, intrusions and kidnappings;

<sup>53</sup>155.17(c)(1)(i) policies and procedures for responding to implied or direct threats of violence by students, teachers, other school personnel including bus drivers and monitors, and visitors to the school, including threats by students against themselves, which for this subdivision shall include suicide;

2. Staff members are required to immediately inform the Principal or their designee of any direct or implied threat of violence or actual act of violence by students, teachers, or other school personnel including bus drivers and monitors as well as visitors to the school, including threats by students against themselves, which shall include suicide. The Principal or their designee decides whether to utilize the building's trained clinician(s) in an effort to de-escalate or defuse the situation.
3. The district disseminates educational material, including but not limited to emails and formal brochures, encouraging parents and visitors to tell school staff about any direct or implied threat of violence or actual acts of violence by students, teachers, other school personnel and visitors to the school, including threats by students against themselves.
4. After considering the specificity/generality of the threat or severity of the violent act, the Principal or their designee will determine whether to immediately contact the Superintendent of Schools or the Assistant Superintendent to advise them of the threat, obtain assistance to determine the severity of the threat or report the violent act. The Principal will have the discretion to report minor incidents to the Superintendent verbally and/or in memorandum form after the situation has been resolved.
5. Each building has the availability of a Threat Assessment Team. This is a multi-disciplinary team that uses a nationally recognized evidence-based model to evaluate threats and implement the necessary mitigation steps to help prevent a threat from escalation to an act of violence.
6. The building administrator will investigate reported threats of violence and will make the determination of disciplinary measures consistent with the District's Code of Conduct.

#### RESPONSES TO ACTS OF VIOLENCE<sup>54</sup>

1. The Principal or their designee will determine whether to contact law enforcement personnel. **Threats or actions placing students, staff and others in imminent danger require an immediate LOCKDOWN protocol followed by a call to the police and the District Superintendent (if safe to do so).** Violent offenses defined in the S.A.V.E. regulations will also require the involvement of the police.
2. The Principal, and/or their designee then determine the appropriateness of directing the Building-level Emergency Response Team to be activated.
3. The Building-level Emergency Response Planning Team consisting of trained staff and school personnel may assist with an Evacuation (Evacuate), Secure Lockout, Shelter-in-Place/Shelter, Hold-in-Place/Hold, or Early Dismissal and will follow the appropriate protocol (see appendices for further information). The Incident Command System (ICS) under the National Incident Management System (NIMS) should be followed as closely as possible to ensure good coordination between the building-level teams, District leadership, and responding agencies.
4. If the threat of violence or danger is imminent, a Lockdown may be utilized. A Lockdown is time sensitive and therefore may be requested by any school staff member based on the incident and timely need for the Lockdown. During the Lockdown, all school staff, students, and visitors

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<sup>54</sup>155.17(c)(1)(ii) policies and procedures for responding to acts of violence by students, teachers, other school personnel including bus drivers and monitors as well as visitors to the school, including consideration of zero-tolerance policies for school violence;

(including all BERT members) are required to Lockdown in the nearest lockable space and await further instruction, or in some situations, evacuate the campus.

5. Procedures for contacting parents, guardians and persons in parental relation to students in the event of a violent incident or early dismissal or emergency closure are detailed in each building-level emergency plan. The use of the District's mass communication system is typically utilized.<sup>55</sup>
6. Aggressively dangerous and violent students, teachers, other school personnel, bus drivers and monitors, or visitors shall be managed as outlined by the procedures detailed in the district Code of Conduct.
7. The building administrator will investigate reported threats of violence and will make the determination of disciplinary measures consistent with the District's Code of Conduct.
8. School administrators must keep records of serious threats and acts of violence and report them annually to the state.
9. Prompt contact with appropriate law enforcement officials is essential in the event of a violent incident. These relationships have been established by participation of local response officials on Building-Level Emergency Response Planning Teams. These individuals and appropriate means of contact are documented in each Building-Level Emergency Response Plan.<sup>56</sup>
10. The district has a zero-tolerance policy for acts of school violence.

#### PROTOCOLS FOR A STATE DISASTER EMERGENCY INVOLVING A COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

*The following procedures provide a general overview of the District's response to a State Disaster Emergency and may require modification during an actual event based on a number of factors. The District will follow current guidance from the County Department of Health, State Department of Health and the State Education Department related to masking, distancing, quarantines, and other health-related requirements.*

#### BACKGROUND

In September 2020, Governor Cuomo signed legislation that requires all New York State public employers to adopt a plan for operations in the event of a declared state disaster emergency involving a communicable disease. The new legislation will constitute New York State Labor Law [Section 27-c](#), and served as a response to the effects of the sudden onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Spring of 2020. In addition to 27-C, the following section was added to [2801-a of the Education Law](#) that required additions to the District Plan.

*Education Law - 2801-a (m) - protocols for responding to a declared state disaster emergency involving a communicable disease that are substantially consistent with the provisions of section twenty-seven-c of the labor law.*

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<sup>55</sup>155.17(1)(ix) policies and procedures for contacting parents, guardians or persons in parental relation to the students of the district in the event of a violent incident or an early dismissal or emergency school closure

<sup>56</sup>155.17(c)(1)(iv) policies and procedures for contacting the appropriate law enforcement officials in the event of a violent incident;

PROTOCOLS

1. In the event of a state-ordered reduction of the District’s in-person workforce, the following is a list of **essential** employees.

Essential Position	Description
Superintendent of Schools	The Superintendent of Schools is the Board of Education’s executive officer and District’s educational leader.
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment	The Asst. Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment is responsible for creating and monitoring the curriculum for all the schools in the district and development of instructional strategies, coordinates staff development programs for instructional support, and student equity.
Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Facilities	The Asst. Superintendent of Finance & Facilities is responsible for all financial management, maintenance of liability insurance, compliance with State reporting requirements, payroll, accounting tasks, and purchasing.
Director of Facilities	Director of Facilities is responsible for the maintenance of infrastructure of the District’s buildings and grounds. Supervises maintenance staff and oversees and coordinates with outside contractors.
Director of Technology	Director of Technology is responsible for instructional technology, network security, hardware procurement and distribution.
Custodial/Transportation staff	Maintains building essential systems and functions and provide necessary transportation of students
Food Service Staff	All applicable staff for food distribution, as needed.
Principal	Principals are responsible for oversight of their buildings as well as the day-to-day management of essential workers in their building
Associate/Assistant Principal	Associate/Assistant Principals are responsible for assisting with oversight of their buildings as well as the day-to-day management of essential workers in their building
Teachers	Teachers are responsible for providing daily instruction for students in the school district
Related Service Providers	Related service providers provide essential educational services to students including physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, counseling and mental health services
Director and Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel Services	Pupil Personnel Services Administration are responsible for the organization and delivery of mandated services as well as all functions of the Committee on Special Education and Section 504 Committee including procedural and business operations.

Nursing Staff	Provide nursing services to staff/students as needed
Business Office Staff	Essential to process payroll, pay bills and provide supplies as needed
Security Monitors	Provide security for buildings while occupied
Secretarial Staff	Provide assistance to administrators, faculty and staff in the building, perform clerical tasks, and contact families.
Teaching Assistants/Teacher Aides	Teaching assistants/teacher aides provide additional learning support for students based on needs established on a student's IEP or 504 Accommodation Plan.

2. To enable all non-essential employees to telecommute, the following process will be followed. All teachers of Middle School and High School students as well as many support service providers, have been issued a district device that can be used for remote instruction. Any faculty or staff member who does not have a district-issued device and can show a need for one will be issued a device. Requests for devices must go through the Director of Technology.

Staff members who are required to work remotely may have insufficient internet access to perform their duties. Individuals in this situation must submit a request for assistance with internet access with evidence of connection issues. Some staff members may be designated as essential and be required or permitted to work from school buildings. Other individuals will be supported as appropriate based on the determination of the Technology Department. Remote access to all critical software applications has been made available by the Technology Department. Individuals in need of such access are responsible for periodically checking their connections and reporting any issues to the Director of Technology to ensure access as needed on an ongoing basis.

3. In an effort to reduce overcrowding at worksites:
  - Class schedules may be staggered to a morning and afternoon cohort, if necessary.
  - In-person days may be staggered by cohort groups, if necessary.
  - Staff and students may walk or drive a personal vehicle to campus.
  - Staff may be required to arrive on campus prior to students in a staggered work shift or staggered assigned day of work, if necessary.
  - Employees may be permitted to work remotely, as per guidance of the Department of Health and / or the New York State Department of Education.
  - Visitors may be permitted on campus during school hours after they have been preapproved and only after health screenings as per the District policy.
  
4. A quantity of personal protective equipment (PPE), sufficient to provide to all essential employees, will be procured, stored, and managed as follows:
  - The Facilities Department will maintain an inventory of PPE in accordance with NYS Education Department guidelines, and continually restock and maintain a six month supply. The District maintains a minimum of four PPE vendors to ensure a steady path of supplies.
  - The District maintains secure bulk storage locations that comply with the manufacturer’s storage recommendations for each item.

- PPE equipment will be readily available, if needed.
5. The Blind Brook School District is committed to creating a learning environment that protects student and staff health, safety and privacy. The District will operate under a standard procedure for addressing situations in the event an employee or student is exposed to a known communicable disease that is subject to a public health emergency, exhibits symptoms of such disease or tests positive for such disease. The Blind Brook School District staff will respond as per the District Reopening Plan.
  6. All essential employees will have their hours and work locations documented, including off-site visits, by:
    - The location of employees either working remotely or on-site will be maintained via daily attendance records and schedules.
    - All entrances will be locked and monitored by security greeters.
    - All employees will use their access cards and sign in/sign out for entrance which documents their arrival on premises.
    - All employees must complete the Health Attestation Google Form as per District policy.
    - Non-essential visitors may be permitted on campus during school hours after they have been preapproved and only after health screenings as per the District policy. Pre Approved visitors will sign in with the security guards/greeters, and their presence registered in the visitor log book. or visitor management system.
  7. A rolling needs assessment based on DOH data specific to the Blind Brook school district will be used to determine the degree to which emergency housing may be required.

The District will collaborate with Village and Town authorities to identify locations that can be used for emergency housing should the need arise.

8. OTHER: Any other requirements determined by the Department of Health such as contract tracing or testing, physical distancing, hygiene, and disinfectant, or mask-wearing.

#### IDENTIFICATION OF DISTRICT RESOURCES WHICH MAY BE AVAILABLE FOR USE DURING AN EMERGENCY<sup>57</sup>

District resources are available in each building and stored in a central location. Each building will designate a Command Post. The list, which is not meant to be inclusive, requires the following items:

- Copy of District-Wide School Safety Plan
- Building-level Emergency Plan
- Quick reference Emergency Management Procedures
- List of emergency telephone numbers
- Building floor plans
- Telephones
- Radio communications
- Weather radio
- Flashlights
- Photocopier
- Computer
- Student rosters

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<sup>57</sup>155.17(c)(1)(vii) except in a school district in a city having a population of more than one million inhabitants, the identification of district resources which may be available for use during an emergency;

- List of individuals with special needs and specific evacuation plans
- Telephone numbers for parents/guardians Information about emergency needs (e.g. students/staff that require medications, vehicular transportation issues, etc.)
- School and staff census information

## COORDINATION AND SCHOOL DISTRICT RESOURCES AND MANPOWER DURING EMERGENCIES<sup>58</sup>

The District will, as appropriate, utilize all available manpower during an emergency. Within each building, schools may use the Staff All Call response protocol that quickly summons all available staff members to a staging area for assignments. Coordination of available employees is typically performed by the Principal or their designee. Specific job duties will be assigned based on the type of emergency and in compliance with the appropriate district and building emergency response procedure. Additional district resources may be requested by any building administrator or designee as needed. The Superintendent or their designee will call in all available maintenance and custodial staff to provide support during an emergency as needed. Assistance from outside government agencies may also be requested. A specific list of available resources may be found in Appendix 4 of this plan.

## PARTICIPATING IN UNIFIED COMMAND UNDER ICS PRINCIPLES

### ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

A chain of command consistent with the National Interagency Incident Management System (NIMS)/Incident Command System (ICS) will be used in response to an emergency. Members of the School, Emergency Response Team, will be part of this system. In the event of an emergency, the response team will adopt NIMS/ICS principles based on the size, scope, and character of the emergency.

1. All administrators and Building-level Emergency Response Planning Teams members shall complete the incident command training level one.
2. All District Emergency Response Team members shall complete incident command training level one and level two.

### ICS POSITIONS

The number of ICS positions filled will be dependent upon the scope of the incident.

- **Incident Commander** – Responsible for the direction of the building response in a building-level emergency (Building Administrator/designee).
- **Public Information Officer** – Compiles and releases information to the news media.

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<sup>58</sup>155.17(c)(1)(viii) except in a school district in a city having a population of more than one million inhabitants, a description of procedures to coordinate the use of school district resources and manpower during emergencies, including identification of the officials authorized to make decisions and of the staff members assigned to provide assistance during emergencies;

- **Safety Officer** – Monitors the response to prevent injuries from occurring to both those involved in the incident and those trying to resolve it.
- **Liaison** – Represents the District by working with responding agencies (law enforcement, fire department, EMS, utilities, etc.) and other school districts that may be involved in the incident.
- **Incident Log** – Keeps a written log of all incident events and updates appropriate command post personnel on significant developments.
- **Operations** – responsible for directing the implementation of action plans and strategies for incident resolution.
- **Logistics** – Responsible for providing all resources (personnel, equipment, facilities and services) required for incident resolution.
- **Planning/Intelligence** – Responsible for collecting, evaluating, and disseminating the information needed to measure the size, scope and seriousness of an incident and to plan a response.
- **Administration/Finance** – Responsible for all cost and financial matters related to the incident.

## EMERGENCY REMOTE INSTRUCTION

### OVERVIEW

The District may offer remote instruction days to students in the event-of-an-emergency condition, including, but not limited to, extraordinary adverse weather conditions, impairment of heating facilities, insufficiency of water supply, shortage of fuel, destruction of a school building, or a communicable disease outbreak.

When making decisions about remote instruction, the District will consult with students, parents, teachers, administrators, community members, and other stakeholders as appropriate. When implementing remote instruction, the District will ensure that it is complying with applicable teaching and learning requirements as well as any contractual agreements regarding remote learning expectations.

### DEFINITIONS

- A. "Asynchronous instruction" means instruction where students engage in learning without the direct presence (remote or in-person) of a teacher.
- B. "Non-digital and/or audio-based instruction" means instruction accessed synchronously and/or asynchronously through paper-based materials where the student to teacher interaction occurs via telephone or other audio platforms.
- C. "Remote instruction" means instruction provided by an appropriately certified teacher who is not in the same in-person physical location as the student(s) receiving the instruction, where there is regular and substantive daily interaction between the student and teacher.
  1. Remote instruction will encompass synchronous instruction provided through digital video- based technology and may also include asynchronous instruction intended to

complement synchronous instruction. Digital video-based technology includes online technology and videoconferencing technology.

2. Remote instruction may encompass non-digital and audio-based asynchronous and/or synchronous instruction where this instruction is more appropriate for a student's educational needs.

- D. "Synchronous instruction" means instruction where students engage in learning in the direct presence (remote or in-person) of a teacher in real time.

#### FORMATS AND METHODS OF REMOTE INSTRUCTION

Remote instruction may be delivered through a variety of formats and methods. Determinations about how to best deliver remote instruction will take into account a variety of factors including, but not limited to, the number of students involved, the subject matter, the students' grade levels, and technological resources of both the District and students. Consideration will also be given to whether accommodations need to be made for students with disabilities or English language learners. Each school's Building-level Emergency Response Plan will contain this confidential information in the Continuity of Instruction Plan (COIP) section.

#### INSTRUCTIONAL OPTIONS

The District may engage students in synchronous and asynchronous learning on days of remote instruction under emergency conditions with an expectation that asynchronous instruction is supplementary to synchronous instruction.<sup>59</sup> When remote instruction by digital technology is unavailable, the District will find an appropriate location where students can attend and be instructed by certified teachers.<sup>60</sup>

#### COMPUTER AND CONNECTIVITY ACCESS FOR STUDENTS

The District will ensure that students have the necessary equipment at home to participate in remote instruction.<sup>61</sup> No later than June 30th of each school year, the Superintendent will report to the Commissioner of Education the results of the survey on student access to computing devices and access to Internet connectivity on a form and format prescribed by the Commissioner.<sup>62</sup> The information received from the survey will aid in the development/updates to the detailed Continuity of Instruction Plan in each school's Building-level Emergency Response Plan.

#### MINIMUM INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS

Remote instruction provided on days when the District would have otherwise closed due to an emergency condition may be counted toward the annual hourly requirement for the purpose of state aid. The Superintendent will certify to the New York State Education Department, on a form prescribed by the Commissioner, that an emergency condition existed on a previously scheduled school day and that the District was in session and provided remote instruction on that day and indicate how many instructional hours were provided on that day and certify that remote instruction was provided in accordance with the

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<sup>59</sup>155.17(c)(1)(xxi)(b) Expectations for school staff as to the proportion of time spent in synchronous and asynchronous instruction of students on days of remote instruction under emergency conditions with an expectation that asynchronous instruction is supplementary to synchronous instruction.

<sup>60</sup>155.17(c)(1)(xxi)(c) A description of how instruction will occur for those students for whom remote instruction by digital technology is not available or appropriate.

<sup>61</sup>155.17(xxi)(a) ensure computing devices will be made available to students

<sup>62</sup>155.17(f)(2) Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, each chief executive officer shall report to the Commissioner, no later than June 30 of each school year, on a form and format prescribed by the Commissioner, the results of the survey on student access to computing devices and access to internet connectivity

District's emergency remote instruction plan.

#### REMOTE INSTRUCTION SUPPORT

As necessary, the District will provide instruction on using remote instruction technology and IT support for students, teachers, and families. The District will also work to ensure that teachers and administrators are provided with professional development opportunities related to designing an effective remote instruction experience.

#### COMPLIANCE WITH DISTRICT POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND THE CODE OF CONDUCT

Teachers and students are required to comply with any and all applicable District policies, procedures, and other related documents as they normally would for in-person instruction. Examples include, but are not limited to, the District's policies and procedures on non-discrimination and anti-harassment, acceptable use, and copyright. Students will also be required to abide by the rules contained within the *Code of Conduct* at all times while engaged in remote instruction. Violations of the *Code of Conduct* and/or engaging in prohibited conduct may result in disciplinary action as warranted.

#### PRIVACY AND SECURITY OF STUDENT AND TEACHER DATA

The District will take measures to protect the personally identifiable information of students and teachers from unauthorized disclosure or access when using remote instruction technologies in compliance with law, regulation, and District policy. Examples of these measures include, but are not limited to, minimizing the amount of data shared to only that which is necessary, de-identifying data, and using encryption or an equivalent technical control that renders personally identifiable information unusable, unreadable, or indecipherable to unauthorized persons when transmitted electronically.

## SECTION IV COMMUNICATION WITH OTHERS

### OBTAINING ASSISTANCE DURING EMERGENCIES FROM EMERGENCY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY 63

1. The district continues to work closely with local police, fire, EMS, and governmental agencies to obtain assistance during emergencies. Representatives helped in the development of this plan, have assisted in emergency drills, and provided technical assistance. Providers have given approval to the district to rely on local personnel, resources, and facilities in emergency situations.
2. The district maintains an updated list of local, county, and state agencies and personnel to contact to obtain assistance. The superintendent or their designee will initiate the contact when needed.

### 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<sup>64</sup>

1. The district maintains an updated list of local and county emergency organizations, agencies, and government officials responsible for implementation of Article 2-B of the Executive Law. The superintendent and their designee will initiate the contact when needed.
2. The key officials in local government that can help to develop plans and assist in emergency situations as listed in emergency situations are listed in Appendix 4. Key government agencies are listed below:
  1. Rye Brook Police Department
  2. Rye Brook Fire Department/Port Chester Fire Department
  3. Westchester County Office of Emergency Preparedness
  4. Port Chester Ambulance Corps
  5. Village of Rye Brook Village Board
  6. New York State Police
  7. Westchester County OEM
  8. Westchester County Police Department

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<sup>63</sup>155.17(c)(1)(v) except in a school district in a city having a population of more than one million inhabitants, a description of the arrangements for obtaining assistance during emergencies from emergency services organizations and local governmental agencies;

<sup>64</sup>155.17(c)(1)(vi) except in a school district in a city having a population of more than one million inhabitants, the 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;

CONTACTING PARENTS, GUARDIANS OR PERSONS IN PARENTAL RELATION TO THE STUDENTS OF THE DISTRICT IN THE EVENT OF A VIOLENT INCIDENT OR AN EARLY DISMISSAL<sup>65</sup>

In the event of violent incidents or crises, or an early dismissal of students, every effort will be made to notify parents. As soon as practical, the Superintendent or their designee shall activate the emergency notification system that will provide relevant information. Parental notification procedures for a student involved in disciplinary situations shall be consistent with the Code of Conduct and New York State law, and shall be presented clearly and concisely to staff and students each year.

When a student is involved in any violent situation, or an implied or direct threat of violence by such student against themselves, including suicide, parent or guardian shall be contacted as soon as practicable.<sup>66</sup> Administration shall utilize school mental health resources when necessary.

It is the responsibility of all parents and guardians to ensure that emergency contact information for students is always up-to-date and complete.

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<sup>65</sup>155.17(c)(1)(ix) policies and procedures for contacting parents, guardians or persons in parental relation to the students of the district in the event of a violent incident or an early dismissal or emergency school closure;

<sup>66</sup>155.17(c)(1)(x) policies and procedures for contacting parents, guardians or persons in parental relation to an individual student of the district in the event of an implied or direct threat of violence by such student against themselves, which for the purposes of this subdivision shall include suicide;

## SECTION V RECOVERY

### CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS

This district maintains continuity of operations at both the district and building-level to ensure that essential functions continue during an emergency and its immediate aftermath. Essential functions include business services (payroll and purchasing), communication (internal and external), computer and systems support, facilities maintenance, safety and security, and continuity of instruction. Specific continuity plans are contained within each Building-level Emergency Response Plan.

### CONTINUITY OF INSTRUCTION

The District offers a suite of online instructional tools that can be used to support remote instruction and communication. General instructional tools for communicating with students include online services including:

- Google Drive with shared folders
- GSuite (Docs, Sheets, Slides, Forms, Classroom, Sites)
- Gmail
- Zoom

Detailed grade-specific remote instructional procedures are contained within each building-level emergency plan.

*Note: The local public Library online resources are available remotely and can be accessed by students who have a library card.*

### DISTRICT SUPPORT FOR BUILDINGS

When the Chief Emergency Officer is notified that an emergency exists, he/she will respond accordingly.

Members of the District Safety Team will assist as needed either at their respective Building Command Posts or by responding where directed by the Incident Commander(s). The District Safety Team will assign such other personnel as deemed necessary to meet the needs of the situation.

The District Safety Team members will remain at their assigned posts until the Incident Commander(s) has determined that the emergency is over, or it is unsafe, or no longer necessary to remain, or need to relocate.

Should the incident involve a single building, at the discretion of the District Safety Team leader in consultation with that building's administrators and Building-level Emergency Response Planning Team, other school buildings may be called to support the Building-level Emergency Response Planning Team in that building.

Should the incident involve multiple buildings, at the discretion of the District Safety Team leader, in consultation with building administrators, additional mental health support from the County Crisis Team and local area hospitals may be solicited to support the Emergency Response Teams in the affected building(s).

In any case, a “debriefing”, or post-incident analysis, will be facilitated by the District Safety Team. This process will include a review of the actual incident, the Team’s response to the incident, and post-traumatic incident debriefing.

District clinicians (or, mental health professionals from outside agencies if they have been involved) will provide ongoing as-needed support to the Team members, and will monitor post-traumatic stress symptoms in team members. As appropriate, team members may be provided with a referral to EAP and/or with information regarding private mental health providers in the area.

Principal(s) are expected to consult with the District Public Information Officer in composing letters to parents following any emergency. The District’s Public Information Officer will assist in sending mass communication messages to affected groups. The District’s Liaison Officer will communicate with outside agencies, such as the County Health Department, to provide necessary services following any emergency.

#### DISASTER MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The District Liaison Officer will communicate with outside agencies, such as the County Health Department, to provide necessary mental health services following any emergency. District mental health providers may be temporarily reassigned to assist in the recovery process.

## APPENDIX 1 - LISTING OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS

### DISTRICT OFFICE

390 North Ridge Street  
Rye Brook, NY 10573  
Phone: 914-937-3600 x1001

### BLIND BROOK HIGH SCHOOL

840 King Street  
Rye Brook, NY 10573  
Phone: 914-937-3600 x4099

### B.M.P. RIDGE STREET SCHOOL

390 North Ridge Street  
Rye Brook, NY 10537  
Phone: 914-937-3600 x2099

### BLIND BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL

840 King Street  
Rye Brook, NY 10573  
914-937-3600 x3099

## APPENDIX 2 – BUILDING-LEVEL EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANS

Due to the sensitive safety and security information contained in each Building-level Emergency Response Plan, these plans are confidential and not available for public dissemination. Copies of plans are maintained at each school building and the District office.

### APPENDIX 3 – DISTRICT RESOURCES – CONTACT INFORMATION

TITLE	NAME	OFFICE PHONE
Superintendent of Schools / Chief Emergency Officer	Dr. Brian Alm	914-937-3600 x1002
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment	Dr. Michael Curtin	914-937-3600 x1004
Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Facilities	Laurie Baum	914-937-3600 x1003
Director of Technology	Charles Von Hollen	914-937-3600 x1005
District Clerk	Vivian Groccia	914-937-3600 x1001
Bus Dispatch Office /Transportation	Juan Zhindon	914-937-3600 x2441
Director of Facilities	Luis Rodriguez	914-937-3600 x4450
Custodial Team Leader	Luis Marin-Martinez	914-937-3600 x2450
Director of Health, Physical Education, and Interscholastic Athletics	Gregory Warren	914-937-3600 x4500
Cafeteria Services	Aramark Food Service	914-937-3600 x4800
School Physician	Dr. Eric Small	914-937-3600 x1001
Rye Brook Mayor	Jason Klein	914-939-1121
Rye Brook Police Department	Chief Eric Dengler	914-937-1020
Port Chester Fire Department	Chief Angelo Sposta	914-939-1661
Port Chester-Rye-Rye Brook EMS	Ken Barton	914-939-8112
Village of Rye Brook Village Board	Christopher Bradbury	914-939-1121
<b>Westchester County</b>		
County Executive	Kenneth W. Jenkins	914-995-2000
Emergency Management	Susan Spear	914-231-1696
Public Safety Acting Commissioner	Terrance Raynor	914-864-7900
County Health Department	Dr. Sherlita Amler	914-864-7292
Red Cross Emergency Services	203-869-8444	

- **155.17(b)(14)** District-wide school safety team means a district-wide team appointed by the board of education, the chancellor in the case of New York City, or other governing board. The district-wide team shall include, but not be limited to, representatives of the school board, teacher, administrator, parent organizations, school safety personnel, and other school personnel including bus drivers and monitors. At the discretion of the board of education, or the chancellor in the case of the City of New York, a student may be allowed to participate on the safety team, provided however, that no portion of a confidential building-level emergency response plan shall be shared with such student nor shall such student be present where details of a confidential building-level emergency response plan or confidential portions of a district-wide emergency response strategy are discussed.
- **155.17(c)(1)(i)** policies and procedures for responding to implied or direct threats of violence by students, teachers, other school personnel including bus drivers and monitors, and visitors to the school, including threats by students against themselves, which for this subdivision shall include suicide;
- **155.17(c)(1)(ii)** policies and procedures for responding to acts of violence by students, teachers, other school personnel and visitors to the school, including consideration of zero-tolerance policies for school violence;
- **155.17(c)(1)(iii)** appropriate prevention and intervention strategies, such as: (a) collaborative arrangements with State and local law enforcement officials, designed to ensure that school safety officers and other security personnel are adequately trained, including being trained to de-escalate potentially violent situations, and are effectively and fairly recruited; (b) nonviolent conflict resolution training programs; (c) peer mediation programs and youth courts; and (d) extended day and other school safety programs;
- **155.17(c)(1)(iv)** policies and procedures for contacting the appropriate law enforcement officials in the event of a violent incident;
- **155.17(c)(1)(v)** except in a school district in a city having a population of more than one million inhabitants, a description of the arrangements for obtaining assistance during emergencies from emergency services organizations and local governmental agencies;
- **155.17(c)(1)(vi)** except in a school district in a city having a population of more than one million inhabitants, the 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;
- **155.17(c)(1)(viii)** except in a school district in a city having a population of more than one million inhabitants, a description of procedures to coordinate the use of school district resources and manpower during emergencies, including identification of the officials authorized to make decisions and of the staff members assigned to provide assistance during emergencies;
- **155.17(c)(1)(ix)** policies and procedures for contacting parents, guardians or persons in parental relation to the students of the district in the event of a violent incident or an early dismissal;
- **155.17(c)(1)(x)** policies and procedures for contacting parents, guardians or persons in parental relation to an individual student of the district in the event of an implied or direct threat of violence by such student against themselves, which for the purposes of this subdivision shall include suicide;
- **155.17(c)(1)(xi)** policies and procedures relating to school building security, including, where appropriate: (a) the use of school safety or security officers and/or school resource officers. Beginning with the 2019-20 school year, and every school year thereafter, every school shall define the areas of responsibility of school personnel, security personnel and law enforcement in response to student misconduct that violates the code of conduct. A school district or charter

school that employs, contracts with, or otherwise retains law enforcement or public or private security personnel, including school resource officers, shall establish a written contract or memorandum of understanding 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 define the relationship between a school district or charter school, school 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; and (b) security devices or procedures. District-wide school safety teams shall consider, as part of their review of the comprehensive district-wide safety plan, the installation of a panic alarm system;

- **155.17(c)(1)(xii)** policies and procedures for the dissemination of informative materials regarding the early detection of potentially violent behaviors, including but not limited to the identification of family, community, and environmental factors to teachers, administrators, school personnel including bus drivers and monitors, parents or other persons in parental relation to students of the school district or board, students and other persons deemed appropriate to receive such information;
- **155.17(c)(1)(xiii)** policies and procedures for annual multi-hazard school safety training for staff and students, provided that the district must certify to the commissioner that all staff have undergone annual training by September 15, 2016 and each subsequent September 15th thereafter on the building-level emergency response plan which must include components on violence prevention and mental health, provided further that new employees hired after the start of the school year shall receive such training within 30 days of hire or as part of the district's existing new hire training program, whichever is sooner;
- **155.17(c)(1)(xiv)** procedures for review and the conduct of drills, [and other exercises to test components of the emergency response plan, including the use of] tabletop exercises, and information about emergency procedures and drills, including information about procedures and timeframes for notification of parents or persons in parental relation regarding drills and other emergency response training(s) that include students. At their discretion, schools and districts may participate in full-scale exercises in coordination with local and county emergency responders and preparedness officials;
- **155.17(c)(1)(xv)** the identification of appropriate responses to emergencies, including protocols for responding to bomb threats, hostage-takings, intrusions and kidnappings;
- **155.17(c)(1)(xvi)** strategies for improving communication among students and between students and staff and reporting of potentially violent incidents, such as the establishment of youth-run programs, peer mediation, conflict resolution, creating a forum or designating a mentor for students concerned with bullying or violence and establishing anonymous reporting mechanisms for school violence;
- **155.17(c)(1)(xvii)** a description of the duties of hall monitors and any other school safety personnel, the training required of all personnel acting in a school security capacity, and the hiring and screening process for all personnel acting in a school security capacity;
- **155.17(c)(1)(xviii)** in the case of a school district, except in a school district in a city having more than one million inhabitants, a system for informing all educational agencies within such school district of a disaster or emergency school closure;
- **155.17(c)(1)(xix)** the designation of the superintendent, or superintendent's designee, as the district chief emergency officer whose duties shall 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 school safety team in the completion and yearly update of the district-wide school safety plan 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; (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 districtwide school safety plan and building-level emergency response plan(s) (g) ensure the conduct of required evacuation and lock-down drills in a trauma informed, developmentally, and age-appropriate manner that does not include props, actors, simulations, or other tactics intended to mimic a school shooting or other act of violence or emergency in all district buildings as required by section 807 of the Education Law; and (h) ensure the completion and yearly update of building-level emergency response plans by the dates designated by the commissioner.

- **155.17(h)(1)(3)** One Emergency Dismissal drill shall be conducted to test emergency response procedures that require early dismissal, at a time not to occur more than 15 minutes earlier than the normal dismissal time.
- **155.17(c)(1)(xx)** ensure the development of protocols for responding to a declared state disaster emergency involving a communicable disease that are substantially consistent with the provisions of section 27-c of the Labor Law; and
- **155.17(c)(1)(xii)** beginning with the 2023-2024 school year and every school year thereafter, an emergency remote instruction plan. For purposes of this subparagraph remote instruction shall have the same meaning as defined in section 100.1(u) of this Chapter. Emergency remote instruction plans shall include: (a) policies and procedures to ensure computing devices will be made available to students or other means by which students will participate in synchronous instruction and policies and procedures to ensure students receiving remote instruction under emergency conditions will access internet connectivity. Each chief executive officer of each educational agency located within a public school district shall survey students and parents and persons in parental relation to such students to obtain information on student access to computing devices and access to internet connectivity to inform the emergency remote instruction plan; (b) expectations for school staff as to the proportion of time spent in synchronous and asynchronous instruction of students on days of remote instruction under emergency conditions with an expectation that asynchronous instruction is supplementary to synchronous instruction; (c) a description of how instruction will occur for those students for whom remote instruction by digital technology is not available or appropriate; (d) a description of how special education and related services will be provided to students with disabilities, as defined in section 200.1(zz) of this Chapter, and preschool students with disabilities, as defined in section 200.1(mm) of this Chapter, as applicable, in accordance with their individualized education programs to ensure the continued provision of a free appropriate public education; and (e) for school districts that receive foundation aid, the estimated number of instructional hours the school district intends to claim for State aid purposes for each day spent in remote instruction due to emergency conditions pursuant to section 175.5 of this Chapter.