

SCHOOL SAFETY PLANS AND TEAMS

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

Taken together, the district and building plans shall provide a comprehensive approach to addressing school safety and violence prevention, and provide the structure where all individuals can fully understand their roles and responsibilities for promoting the safety of the entire school community. The plans shall be designed to prevent or minimize the effects of serious violent incidents and emergencies and to facilitate the district's coordination with local and county resources. The plans shall also address risk reduction/prevention, response and recovery with respect to a variety of emergencies and violent incidents in district schools.

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

Comprehensive district-wide school safety team and plan

The Board will appoint a district-wide school safety team that includes, but is not limited to, a representative from the Board, student, teacher, administrator, and parent organization, school safety personnel and other school personnel. This team shall be responsible for the development and review of a comprehensive district-wide school safety plan. The plan shall cover all district school buildings and shall address crisis intervention, emergency response and management at the district level. It shall include all those elements required by law and regulation.

A copy of the plan shall be available in the district offices for inspection by the public.

Building-level emergency response teams and plans

Each building principal shall be responsible for appointing a school safety team that includes representation from teachers, administrators, parent organizations, school safety personnel, other school personnel, local law enforcement officials, local ambulance and other emergency response agencies. The school safety team shall be responsible for the development and review of a building-level emergency response plan for each district building. The plan(s) shall address communication, emergency response, and evacuation at the building level and shall include all procedures required by law and regulation.

Within each building, the school safety team shall designate:

- an emergency response team that includes appropriate school personnel, local law enforcement officials and representatives from local, regional and/or state emergency response agencies to assist the school community in responding to a serious violent incident or emergency; and

- a post-incident response team that includes appropriate school personnel, medical personnel, mental health counselors and other related personnel to assist the community in coping with the aftermath of a serious violent incident or emergency.

The building principal shall be responsible for conducting at least one test every school year of the emergency response procedures under this plan including procedures for sheltering and early dismissal.

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

Team Appointments

The members of all district and building-level teams shall be appointed on an annual basis. In appointing team members, the board and the building principal will make an effort to include other persons beyond those groups identified in law and policy who can contribute to ensuring continuity among the plans.

Annual Review and Report

Each plan shall be reviewed by the appropriate school safety team by July 1st every year and updated as needed. Each team shall submit a report to the board annually stating that it has reviewed the plans and setting forth its recommendations for revisions, if any, to the plan. In conducting the review, the building-level teams shall consider any changes in personnel, local conditions and other factors including an evaluation of the results of the annual test of the emergency response procedures which may necessitate updating of plans.

The Superintendent of Schools shall be responsible for filing the district-level school safety plan and any amendments to the plan with the Commissioner within 30 days after their adoption. Each building principal shall be responsible for filing the building-level safety plan for his or her building and any amendments to the plan with the appropriate local law enforcement agency and the state police within 30 days after their adoption.

Ref: Education Law 2801-a (school safety plans)
Executive Law 2B (state and local natural and manmade disaster preparedness)
8 NYCRR Part 155 (Educational Facilities)
Project SAVE Guidance Document for School Safety Plans, New York State
Education Department, April 2001

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