

SCHOOL SAFETY PLANS AND TEAMS

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

Taken together, the district-wide and building level plans 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 types 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 violence prevention, crisis intervention and emergency response and management:

Comprehensive district-wide school safety team and plan

The Board will annually appoint a district-wide school safety team that includes, but is not be limited to, a representative from the following constituencies: the Board, students, teachers, administrators, parent organizations, school safety personnel and other school personnel, as well as other individuals as may be determined by the Board. This team is responsible for the development and annual review of the comprehensive district-wide school safety plan. The plan shall cover all district school buildings and shall address violence prevention, crisis intervention, emergency response and management including communication protocols, at the district level. It shall include all those elements required by law and regulation.

Building-level emergency response teams and plans

Each Building Principal shall be responsible for appointing a school safety team annually 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 plans 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 plans shall be confidential and shall not be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Law or any other law.

Annual Review and Report

Each plan shall be reviewed by the appropriate safety team and approved by the Board of Education by July 1st every year and updated as needed. Each team shall submit the plan to the Board by June 1st to ensure that the plan is approved in a timely manner. In conducting the review, the teams shall consider any changes in organization, local conditions and other factors including an evaluation of the results of the annual test of the emergency response procedures which may necessitate updating of plans.

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.

Cross-ref: 0115, Bullying and Harassment Prevention and Intervention
5300, Code of Conduct
9700, Staff Development

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)
New York State School Safety Plans Guidance, issued jointly by the New York State Education Department, New York State Police, New York State Office of Homeland Security and New York State Emergency Management Office, September 2007