

SCHOOL SAFETY PLANS/CRISIS MANAGEMENT

The District is committed to providing as safe of environment as reasonable possible for students, employees and citizens while they are present on school premises. With this goal in mind, a school safety plan shall be developed and in effect in each school in the District.

Each school safety plan shall be developed consistent with District policies and legal requirements, and shall include the following:

- Provide a safe school and work environment for students and employees
- Protect the students, employees and other persons present on District property or at school-sponsored events to the extent that is reasonably possible
- Comply with safety rules and regulations prescribed by state and federal agencies and by local agencies including the police, fire, civil defense and health departments
- Minimize mechanical hazards and unsafe conditions in school facilities and on school grounds so as to prevent accidents
- Inform students and employees of acceptable safety procedures and practices

The Building and Grounds Director shall coordinate all activities related to the safety program. Building principals shall be responsible for supervising the safety program in their assigned buildings and for keeping staff members informed of pertinent state and local regulations and recommendations relating to safety in the schools.

CRISIS MANAGEMENT

Schools must be prepared to respond to a crisis in an organized and timely manner. A crisis is an event that is extraordinary which cannot be predicted. Crisis situations are caused by specific events such as severe weather conditions, a fire, and the sudden death of a student or staff member, willful violence, a terrorist act, a serious bus accident or a bomb threat.

Advance planning and training is key to the successful management of any emergency or crisis that threatens the health and safety of students and staff at school or school-sponsored activities. Although school officials cannot plan or train for every possible emergency situation or prevent such situations from occurring, they are expected to respond to a crisis by providing the structure and organization that will help ensure swift and appropriate action when timing may be a critical factor. The goal is for all staff and students to return to teaching and learning as soon as possible without unnecessary trauma, stress or anxiety.

To effectively handle a crisis, a school crisis response plan shall be developed cooperatively by the principal and staff in each school. It is expected that the established crisis response team will assume leadership roles in developing, updating and evaluating these plans.

The District shall respond by protecting students and staff from harm's way in case of any threat to safety and by involving local and county law enforcement agencies, emergency medical teams, the fire departments and other agencies as appropriate.

School crisis response plans/drills shall be reviewed with all school staff at least annually in order to ensure maximum safety, stability, calmness and communication in the event of a crisis.

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