

SCHOOL SAFETY TEAMS AND PLANS

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

Taken together, the District-wide and building level plans shall provide a comprehensive approach to addressing school safety and violence prevention, and provide the structure by which 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.

The Board of Education shall cooperate with appropriate state, county and town agencies in developing agreements for the use of school-owned facilities and vehicles during a disaster. The District is required to relinquish to the appropriate state or county agencies the control and use of school transportation vehicles and facilities in accordance with county emergency preparedness plans or directives.

The Superintendent of Schools, during a local or State emergency, shall act as the chief communication liaison for all buildings within the District.

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

Comprehensive District-wide school safety team and plan

The Board shall annually appoint a District-wide school safety team that includes, but is not limited to, a representative from the following constituencies: the Board, administrators, teachers, parent organizations, students, school safety personnel and other school personnel. This team shall be responsible for the development and annual review of the comprehensive District-wide school safety plan. The plan shall cover all District buildings and shall address violence prevention (taking into consideration a range of programs and approaches that are designed to create a positive school climate and culture), crisis intervention, emergency response and management including communication protocols, at the District level. It shall include all those elements required by law and regulation.

Building-level safety team and emergency response plans

Each building principal (or for buildings without a principal, administrator) shall be responsible for annually developing a school safety team that includes, where applicable, representation from teachers, administrators, parent organizations, students, school safety personnel, other school personnel and local emergency response agencies. Each school safety team shall be responsible for the development and review of a building-level emergency response plan for their building. The plan(s) shall address communication, emergency response (including insuring that local responders have access to floor plans, blueprints, and other appropriate maps of school property and the immediate surrounding area), and evacuation at the building level and shall include all components required by law and regulation.

Within each building, the school safety team shall designate:

- an emergency response team that includes appropriate school personnel and as needed, 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 and as needed, 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 (or for buildings without a principal, administrator) shall be responsible for conducting at least one test every school year of the emergency response procedures under this plan.

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.

All plans shall be reviewed each year, and updated, if necessary, by the appropriate safety team.

The Superintendent of Schools shall be responsible for filing the District-level school safety plan and any amendments to the plan with the Commissioner of Education.

Great Neck Public Schools

Adopted: 5/21/90

Amended: 9/16/13