

Operational Services

Administrative Procedure - Comprehensive Safety and Crisis Program

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A. Safety Team

The Superintendent appoints:

1. An administrator to be the District's Safety Program Coordinator, and
2. Representatives of all support and professional staff to be on the Superintendent's Safety Team.

The Safety Program Coordinator manages the District's safety and crisis efforts. The Safety Team: (1) advises and assists the Superintendent on safety and crisis issues, (2) monitors the District's safety control measures, (3) reviews and updates safety efforts based on accident or inspection reports, reports of unsafe conditions or practices, and complaints and suggestions, and (4) prepares the staff for a crisis through communication and training.

The Safety Program Coordinator chairs the Safety Team meetings. The meetings are held as determined by the Safety Program Coordinator. The following matters are suggested agenda items:

- Previous action items
- Review of accidents since previous meeting
- Prevention recommendations
- Recommendations from anonymous employees
- Staff member suggestions
- Recommended safety program revisions
- Recommendations from accident investigation reports
- Safety training recommendations
- Committee members input

B. Personal Injury Prevention

The Safety Program Coordinator and Safety Team shall supervise an on-going program for identifying and evaluating unreasonable risks, that includes monitoring whether:

1. Students are appropriately supervised.
2. Facilities and equipment that would pose an unreasonable risk to students (such as laboratory and climbing equipment) are kept locked.
3. Staff members are trained to recognize dangerous conditions.

4. Proper student behavior is maintained.
5. Substitute instructors are competent to teach an activity.
6. Teachers and coaches evaluate each student's capacity to do a specific activity without exposing the student to an unreasonable risk of injury.
7. Activities are appropriately demonstrated. Instructions are appropriate and clear and safety rules are emphasized. Proper teaching progressions are followed. Teachers and coaches reasonably match student competitors.
8. Students are warned of the specific dangers of incorrectly performing an activity and the warning is documented.
9. Appropriate behavior toward strangers is explained.
10. Facilities and equipment are properly maintained, well lit, and periodically inspected. Aisles, walkways, and stairs are kept clear and free of obstacles. Floors are kept dry. Unused or outdated equipment is removed. Repairs, routine maintenance, and inspections are documented.
11. Staff members are encouraged to report equipment or facilities that are inappropriate, in need of repair, or defective. As an example, equipment that fits improperly or fails to properly protect students is inappropriate.
12. Notices from staff members that equipment or facilities are inappropriate, in need of repair, or defective are properly investigated.
13. Warning signs or labels are properly displayed and safety rules are posted.
14. Protective eye devices are provided and worn by all students, teachers, and visitors when participating in or observing any activity that may be hazardous to unprotected eyes (105 ILCS 115/1, 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420(s)).

C. Site Based Safety Plan

Under the direction of the Safety Program Coordinator, each Building Principal or designee shall annually gather the following documents for a site based safety plan. If a document cannot be found or needs revision in order to comply with the District's Comprehensive Safety Plan, the Building Principal or designee shall confer with the Safety Program Coordinator to create or revise the document. The Principal or designee shall make the plan available in the building's main office.

Each plan shall include the following:

1. Building evacuation plans. The Principal or designee shall: (1) keep a comprehensive evacuation map - describing main and alternate routes - in the main office, (2) post signs containing main and alternative evacuation routes for each occupied area in a conspicuous place, preferably near the exit, (3) prepare evacuation plans for outdoor areas (playgrounds and stadiums), and (4) keep all staff informed of the evacuation plans.
2. Safety drills. The Principal shall schedule and execute evacuation drills as per the School Safety Drill Act (P.A. 94-600), Board policy 4:170, *Safety*, and this procedure.
3. Building information packet. This packet will include facts on the number and names of staff and students, as well as a building map. The Principal or designee shall give a copy of the map to local law enforcement, the fire department, and emergency medical services.
4. Tornado response plan, including a map showing tornado wall locations (105 ILCS 5/10-20.23).

5. A map giving the location of first aid kits, AEDs, and fire extinguishers.
6. The safety equipment's maintenance schedule and persons responsible for performing.
7. An emergency early dismissal plan.
8. A map or plan describing the areas to be used in the event of a crisis for triage, emergency helicopter landing, media center, non-victim students, and parents.
9. A plan for receiving tips, e.g., a hot line for students to call with anonymous tips.
10. A plan for student supervision.
11. A safety patrol plan (105 ILCS 5/10-22.28).
12. Bicycle use rules.
13. Roadway and parking rules.
14. Procedures on student illness and injuries (23 Ill.Admin.Code §530).
15. A plan for giving students instructions on safe school bus riding practices, including the operation and use of the emergency door and windows (as a means of escape), seat belts, and fire extinguisher (105 ILCS 5/10-20.14).
16. Safety-related administrative procedures and forms.

D. School Safety Drill Program

The School Safety Drill Act (105 ILCS 128/1 et seq.) and any implementing State administrative rules contain the requirements for the District's safety drills and shall supersede this procedure in the event of a conflict.

During each academic year, each school building must conduct a minimum of:

1. Three school evacuation drills,
2. One bus evacuation drill, and
3. One severe weather and shelter-in-place drill.

A law enforcement drill is optional.

All drills must be conducted at each school building that houses school children. The Building Principal shall keep the Superintendent or designee informed as to the status of the drills. Each of these drills is described below:

School evacuation drills - These drills prepare students and personnel for situations that occur when conditions outside of a school building are safer than inside a school building. Evacuation may be necessary, depending on the circumstances, in the event of fire, presence of suspicious items, incidents involving hazardous materials, and bomb threats.

The appropriate local fire department or district participates in one school evacuation drill, unless waived as provided below. A date is selected according to the following timeline:

- No later than September 1 of each year, each local fire department or fire district must contact the Building Principal in order to make arrangements.
- No later than September 14 of each year, the Building Principal or designee and the local fire department or fire district may agree to waive the provisions concerning participation by the local fire department or district in a school evacuation drill.
- No later than September 15 of each year, each Building Principal or designee must contact the responding local fire official and propose to the local fire official 4 dates within the month of October, during at least 2 different weeks of October, on which

to hold the drill. The fire official may choose any of the 4 available dates, and if he or she does so, the drill occurs on that date.

- Alternatively, the Building Principal or designee and the local fire official may, by mutual agreement, set any other date for the drill, including a date outside of the month of October.
- If the fire official does not select one of the 4 offered dates in October or set another date by mutual agreement, the school does not need to include the local fire service in one of its mandatory school evacuation drills.

After a drill in which the local fire service participated, the Building Principal should request certification from the local fire service that the school evacuation drill was conducted. Additional school evacuation drills for fire incidents may involve the participation of the appropriate local fire department or district. In addition, schools may conduct additional school evacuation drills to account for other evacuation incidents, including without limitation suspicious items or bomb threats.

Bus evacuation drill - This drill prepares students and school personnel for situations that occur when conditions outside of the bus are safer than inside the bus. Evacuation may be necessary, depending on the circumstances, in the event of a fire, presence of suspicious items, and incidents involving hazardous materials.

This drill shall be accounted for in the curriculum in all public schools and in all other educational institutions in this State that are supported or maintained, in whole or in part, by public funds and that provide instruction in any of the grades kindergarten through 12. This curriculum shall also include instruction in safe bus riding practices for all students. Schools may conduct additional bus evacuation drills.

Severe weather and shelter-in-place drill - This drill prepares students for situations involving severe weather emergencies or the release of external gas or chemicals. Severe weather and shelter-in-place incidents shall be based on the needs and environment of particular communities, including severe weather (such as, tornadoes, shear winds, lightning, and earthquakes), incidents involving hazardous materials, and incidents involving weapons of mass destruction.

Law enforcement drill - This drill prepares students and school personnel for situations calling for the involvement of law enforcement when conditions inside a school building are safer than outside of a school building and it is necessary to protect building occupants from potential dangers in a school building. Law enforcement drills may involve situations that call for the reverse-evacuation or the lock-down of a school building. Incidents requiring a lock-down may include shooting incidents, bomb threats, suspicious persons, and incidents involving hazardous materials. After a drill in which the local law enforcement participated, the Building Principal should request certification from the local law enforcement that the law enforcement drill was conducted.

Annual Review. The School Board or its designee will annually review each school building's emergency and crisis response plans, protocols, and procedures, as well as each building's compliance with the school safety drill program.

E. Bomb Threat Plan

Any bomb threat is treated as a danger to all persons in a school building. Staff members shall follow these procedures when a bomb threat is made:

1. The secretary or any person taking the telephone call will attempt to gain as much information as possible from the caller, i.e., the bomb's location, type, when it will explode, and the caller's name, sex, age, and voice tone.

2. The main office will immediately call 911.
3. The main office will immediately advise the Building Principal or designee of the situation. The Building Principal or designee shall announce a “**Code Yellow**” over the public address system to notify the staff a bomb threat was received. All two-way radios should be immediately shut off.
4. The Building Principal will sound the fire alarm and evacuate the building(s).
5. Staff members should note any “**strange**” boxes or packages. **Do not touch anything suspicious.** Report any such item to law enforcement after you have left the building.
6. The Building Principal or designee shall notify the Superintendent’s office; the Superintendent’s office shall notify the Safety Program Coordinator.
7. The Building Principal shall check to ensure everyone has left the building(s).
8. Staff members shall account for everyone by making a roll call check. Names of missing students or staff members will be relayed to the Building Principal.
9. Staff members shall escort the students to a predetermined waiting area that is a safe distance from the school and wait for further instructions.
10. The Building Principal shall assist the police, fire, and public safety officials as needed.
11. After a bomb search is completed, the Building Principal, Safety Program Coordinator, Superintendent, and local law enforcement will determine if the building should be re-entered.
12. If the school cannot be re-entered, the students will be moved to the closest available facility that can safely house them.
13. When a bomb threat is made before lunch, the Building Principal or designee shall coordinate with the food service department to arrange for an alternative lunch plan.
14. If the decision is made to move students to an alternate school, the Building Principal or designee shall so notify the transportation department. Buses will be used if the school is beyond walking distance or if there is inclement weather.
15. The transportation department will make arrangements to have the evacuated students picked up at the regular release time, at the alternate site, by the normal route school buses.
16. When a bomb threat is made during inclement weather, the Building Principal or designee shall notify the transportation department to supply buses for temporary shelters. This should not delay the school’s evacuation.
17. No one shall re-enter the building unless the “**All Clear**” is sounded by the Building Principal. No electronic devices shall be used to recall students into the building.

F. Fire Emergency Procedures

The following emergency actions shall be taken by the appropriate staff member:

1. Pull the fire alarm immediately if you have any reason to suspect a fire may be in the building. If possible, notify the main office, giving as many details as possible.
2. The main office will immediately call 911.
3. The main office will immediately advise the Building Principal or designee of the situation.
4. The Building Principal will sound the fire alarm and evacuate the building(s).

5. The Building Principal or designee shall notify the Superintendent's office; the Superintendent's office shall notify the Safety Program Coordinator.
6. Fire extinguishers should be used only after notifying the Fire Department and only if feasible. Fire extinguishers are intended for small fires only. In addition, the user should make sure the fire extinguisher is of the proper type for the fire before using it.
7. When the fire alarm is heard:
 - a. Teachers and supervisors shall be sure that all windows and doors are closed and lights are turned off in their rooms. They should pick-up their class register and grade book and then lead students out of the building according to the evacuation route.
 - b. Teachers and supervisors shall immediately check the class register to be sure all students are present. If a student is absent who was present before the evacuation, notify the Principal or fire official immediately.

G. Natural Disasters (Tornadoes, Thunderstorms, Severe Winds, Earthquakes)

A natural disaster includes severe weather situations, tornadoes, hazardous material accidents, floods, and earthquakes. The following emergency procedures should be taken:

1. The Building Principal or main office staff will alert staff - the signal is "**Tornado Tone.**"
2. Teachers shall step into the halls to immediately clear them by directing students to the classroom.
3. While in the room, all teachers and students are to maintain sheltered positions.
4. Call 911 if emergency responders are needed.
5. Render first aid, if necessary.
6. The Building Principal or designee will direct designated "couriers" to each classroom notifying the teacher/staff of the situation.
7. Unless the situation requires evacuation, all doors will remain locked and personnel and students will remain stationary until the "**All Clear**" is sounded by the Building Principal.

H. Weapons and Explosives on Campus

Any report of a person armed with a weapon or explosive on campus is a "**Code Red,**" i.e., all doors are locked in offices, classrooms, and halls. The following emergency actions shall be taken by the appropriate staff member:

1. Notify the main office immediately if you have any reason to believe that a weapon or explosive is on school grounds. Give the main office as many details as possible (where, who is involved, type of weapon, and if anyone is injured or is currently being threatened or being held hostage).
2. The main office will immediately call 911.
3. The main office will immediately advise the Building Principal or designee of the situation. The Building Principal or designee shall announce a "**Code Red**" over the public address system to notify staff members to lock all doors.
4. If possible, move students safely away from the armed person. Remain calm while sending people to safety. Do not panic students by telling them that the person is armed.
5. When a "**Code Red**" is called:

- a. Lock your classroom door, and, if it is your responsibility to do so, lock the hallway doors. Keep your students away from doors. If you hear a weapon fired, tell your students to immediately duck and cover. Remain this way until the Principal sounds the “**All Clear**” or until you are evacuated from your room by law enforcement.
 - b. If you are not in a classroom, move your students to the closest securable room and lock it down.
 - c. If you cannot get to a classroom before shots are fired, have all students duck and cover behind any available barrier or drop and cover if there is nothing to hide behind. Direct them to move to a protected area as soon as possible.
6. The Building Principal or designee shall notify the Superintendent’s office; the Superintendent’s office shall notify the Safety Program Coordinator.
 7. School nurses and/or other staff give first aid for victims until emergency medical services takes over. If possible, identify injured students by using name tags or markers on their wrists or ankles.
 8. **Note:** If any site becomes involved in a hostage situation, the primary concern is the safety of students and staff. Individuals who take hostages are frequently emotionally disturbed or in a state of panic, and the key to dealing with them is to make every attempt to avoid upsetting them any further. Communication must be handled in a non-threatening, non-joking manner. Always remember that it may take very little to cause such persons to become violent.
 9. **Note:** Drive-by-shootings usually happen very quickly. The perpetrators of drive-by-shootings usually leave the scene instantly. Staff members who witness such incidents should, without putting themselves into danger, attempt to get as precise a description of the vehicle as possible.

I. Emergency Aid

The Safety Program Coordinator shall supervise an on-going program for the provision of first-aid and emergency care (see 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.530), that includes at a minimum the following components:

1. First-aid and CPR courses are offered to staff members.
2. Staff members are told how to summon emergency medical care.
3. Adequate first-aid and emergency care equipment are readily accessible, conspicuously marked, and periodically inspected.
4. The District’s administrative procedure 4:170-AP6, *Plan for Responding to a Medical Emergency at an Indoor Physical Fitness Facility*, is fully implemented.
5. Each participant in an extracurricular sport must present a completed Certificate of Physical Fitness for Athletics. Parents/guardians are required to report any serious health problem their child might have experienced.
6. Written accident reports are completed by the person having supervision over the student at the time of the accident and shall be immediately sent to the Building Principal who will forward a copy to the Superintendent.
7. An injured student will take priority over everything else. The person having supervision over an injured student shall immediately notify the parents/guardians.

Emergency Phone Numbers:

Safety Coordinator _____
Poison Control _____
Hospital _____
Fire, Police, Ambulance 911

J. Managing a Crisis After the Earliest Stages Are Over

1. The Safety Program Coordinator and Safety Team shall:
 - a. Advise the Superintendent whether or not to maintain normal schedules or dismiss early. This decision will depend on the extent of the crisis and may vary from class to class, or school to school. Formulate plans if school is to be dismissed early.
 - b. Communicate with school counselors.
 - c. Help the designated spokesperson (see “Managing Communications About a Crisis,” below) prepare announcements to: (1) students and teachers, (2) telephone inquiries, (3) parents/guardians, and (4) the media.
 - d. Help the designated spokesperson (see “Managing Communications About a Crisis,” below) prepare a memo to all teachers giving the facts about the crisis and instructions on how to share the information with students, as well as suggestions for assisting students. This memo may also invite the staff to a meeting after school. Also, facilitate a way for the teachers to share their insights, concerns and other pertinent information.
 - e. Help the designated spokesperson (see “Managing Communications About a Crisis,” below) prepare a letter to parents/guardians. Include specific factual information about the event; information about how the District is handling the crisis, phone numbers for contact people; information about community resources, including phone numbers and titles of resource books. Some parents/guardians will need to be contacted by phone, particularly if their child’s reaction is severe.
 - f. Supervise pre-designated rooms for media, family, etc.
 - g. Arrange for responsible adults to ride buses in the vacant victims’ seats for the rest of the week.
2. The school counselor, school psychologist, and/or social worker shall:
 - a. Stay in close contact with the Safety Team and follow its requests.
 - b. Identify high-risk students, staff, and parents likely to be most affected by the news (e.g., due to relationship with victim, personal history with similar crisis, recent confrontations with affected students, staff member spouses). Target these individuals for extra support.
 - c. Gather and inform closest friends of the victims. Provide support and information to them before the general announcement is made. If certain close friends are absent, assure that a supportive adult gives the news to them. Try to make sure that students who are closest to the victims are picked up by parents at school.
 - d. Provide individual and group counseling as needed.
 - e. Contact parents of affected students with suggestions for support and further referrals. Keep records of affected students and provide follow-up services.
 - f. Establish a self-referral procedure. Make referral forms available.

- g. Review and distribute open-ended questions to assist teachers with classroom discussion.
3. The Building Principal or designee shall:
 - a. Support response efforts, be available for consultation, and defer to the Safety Program Coordinator and/or Superintendent. Overall, the Building Principal should be visible, available, and supportive.
 - b. Notify feeder schools so they can prepare siblings and other students regarding the crisis.
 - c. Provide direction for teachers.
 - d. Contact family of the deceased and inform staff and students about funeral arrangements.
 4. Teachers shall:
 - a. Provide available information to students and lead classroom discussions, when warranted, that focus on coping. Answer questions without providing unnecessary details. Recognize and honor the various religious beliefs that may help students to cope. Be understanding and receptive to students' expressions of various emotions.
 - b. Be careful of TV broadcasts in the classroom. Live newscasts can be traumatizing, especially if the students are still at school.
 - c. Identify students who need counseling and refer them to counseling personnel.
 - d. Provide activities to reduce trauma, such as artwork, music, and writing.
 - e. Alter the curriculum as needed.
 - f. Discuss funeral procedures when appropriate.
 - g. Know how to get assistance from other professionals should the need arise.
 5. The school nurse shall, after all injured students are stabilized and being provided emergency medical services care:
 - a. Monitor reactions of traumatized children.
 - b. Inform teachers and children about physical manifestations of grief.
 6. Provision for on-going opportunities to deal with the crisis include:
 - a. Have additional support staff and outside professionals available.
 - b. Make resources available to teachers who will be dealing with students' reactions.
 - c. Provide a list of suggested readings to teachers, parents, and students.
 - d. Amend crisis response procedures as necessary.
 - e. Write thank-you notes to anyone who provided (or is still providing) support.
 - f. Be alert on crisis anniversaries and holidays. Often students will experience an "anniversary" grief reaction the following month or year on the date of the crisis, or when similar crises occur that remind them of the original crisis. Holidays are often difficult for students who have experienced loss.
 - g. Support and explain the hospital's visitation policy.
 - h. After one week, consider raising the flag back to full mast. Remove the flowers, cards, displays, etc. and get the building back to normal.

K. Managing Communications About a Crisis

The Safety Program Coordinator, with assistance from the Safety Team, is responsible for compiling information and preparing communications concerning a crisis. Staff members having information should provide it to the Safety Program Coordinator or a Safety Team member. **The Safety Program Coordinator or designee serves as the designated spokesperson.** All District communication should come from this source to ensure accuracy and creditability.

All staff members are requested to refrain from spreading information about a crisis unless the information is from the Safety Program Coordinator or designated spokesperson.

Office staff members are not to repeat or give any information within or outside the school unless specifically instructed to do so. They are to direct inquiries to the designated spokesperson.

The designated spokesperson shall make every effort to give the maximum amount of verified information to staff members, students' family members, and the media as quickly as possible. If the media makes reporting errors, the spokesperson should name the specific reporting agency in correcting the facts.

Everyone in the school community can positively affect a crisis situation by:

1. Staying calm and helping to bring the situation under control.
2. Avoid speculating as to the incident's cause.
3. Avoid allocating blame.
4. Helping school and law enforcement officials gather the facts - who, what, where, when, why, how, and what's next.
5. Being truthful.
6. Deferring all media requests to the designated spokesperson.
7. Comforting and supporting each other.

L. Required Notices

A school staff member shall immediately notify the office of the Building Principal if he or she: (1) observes any person in possession of a firearm on or around school grounds; however, such action may be delayed if immediate notice would endanger students under his or her supervision; (2) observes or has reason to suspect that any person on school grounds is or was involved in a drug-related incident; or (3) observes a battery committed against any staff member. Upon receiving such a report, the Building Principal or designee shall immediately notify the local law enforcement agency, State Police, and any involved student's parent/guardian. "School grounds" includes modes of transportation to school activities and any public way within 1000 feet of the school, as well as school property itself.

DATED: October 10, 2007