



SCHOOL CRISIS PREVENTION & RESPONSE

Policy

It is the policy of the Mountain Views School District to maintain a safe, orderly, civil, and positive learning environment, and to be prepared, in so far as possible, to prevent and respond to unexpected crises quickly and appropriately. While the very unexpected nature of a crisis may make preparation difficult, the Board believes that staff and students should be ready to respond quickly and appropriately to emergency situations.

Definition

Examples of school crises include but are not limited to fire, power outage, bomb threat, active shooter, hazardous materials release, flooding, and other emergencies.

Administrative Responsibilities

To help prevent the occurrence of some individually caused crises, the Superintendent shall research and share information about educational programs and practices designed to create and sustain a safe learning environment.

The Superintendent is directed to create a School Emergency Operations Plan that identifies how the students and staff shall respond to emergency situations, and the role that local emergency service providers shall play in crisis preparedness and incident management. This shall include the establishment of a School Crisis Team in each school in accordance with the School Emergency Operations Plan. The Superintendent will create a districtwide School Public Safety Team in consultation and cooperation with emergency management, law enforcement, the fire department, rescue squads, transportation providers, Vermont Department of Health Emergency Preparedness Specialist, and Designated Mental Health Agency.

The School Emergency Operations Plan shall be aligned with and follow the recommended practices outlined in the Vermont School Crisis Guide and related resources.

Generally, the Principal or his/her designee will organize and oversee the planning and operation of the School Crisis Team and will serve as the incident commander, according to the School Emergency Operations Plan. The plan shall be reviewed annually and routinely practiced during regular drills.

Fire and emergency preparedness drills shall be conducted and recorded by the Principal in accord with the requirements of Section 1481 of Title 16 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated. At a minimum, the pupils shall be drilled at least once a month during the school year so that they may leave the school building in the shortest possible time and without panic or confusion. In addition, pupils shall be drilled at sufficient intervals on other procedures described in the School Emergency Operations Plan. A record of each drill together with the time consumed in completing the procedure, shall be kept in the official school register, and such register shall be open at all times for inspection by representatives from the Division of Fire Safety and the Agency of Education.

Following a major incident, the School Crisis Team and/or the School Public Safety Team shall debrief and review the effectiveness of the crisis response and present a report and any recommendations for School Emergency Operations Plan updates to the superintendent.

Staff Responsibilities

The staff shall follow all guidelines outlined in the School Emergency Operations Plan and staff handbook when practicing routine drills and when responding to actual emergency situations.

Student Responsibilities

Students shall follow all guidelines outlined in the School Emergency Operations Plan and student handbook when practicing routine drills and when responding to actual emergency situations.

Students who cause school crises will be held accountable in accordance with the school discipline policy and state/federal law. Incidents that disrupt the education process or endanger the safety of other students and staff shall be referred to law enforcement for possible criminal charges or to pursue civil litigation.

Lost instructional time resulting from response to a school crisis or emergency situation shall be made up at the discretion of the School Board.

Notification and Community Communications

It is the policy that the School Crisis Team and/or the School Public Safety Team will communicate to the community in a timely fashion (through the superintendent or her/his designee) the status of the crisis, consistent with the guidelines outlined in the Emergency Operations Plan.

All incidents involving use of deadly weapons, whether a threat or an actual act, must be communicated to community members as soon as it is safe to do so. Weapon means a device, instrument, material or substance whether animate or inanimate, which, when used as it is intended to be used, is known to be capable of producing death or serious bodily injury.

Date Warned: April 3, 2023

Date Adopted: May 1, 2023