



Book	Policy Manual
Section	BOARD POLICIES UNDER CONSIDERATION
Title	Copy of CONTINUITY OF ORGANIZATIONAL OPERATIONS PLAN
Code	po8300
Status	Second Reading
Adopted	June 26, 2017
Last Revised	May 24, 2023

8300 - **CONTINUITY OF ORGANIZATIONAL OPERATIONS PLAN**

The Board of Education shall develop and implement a Continuity of Organizational Operations Plan ("COOP") to enable it to conduct, if necessary, essential functions and critical services and operations (e.g., teaching and learning, transportation, business services, communication, computer/network systems support, facilities, maintenance, and safety and security) under all hazards/conditions. The District's COOP shall be consistent with the District's School Safety Emergency Management Plan (see Policy 8400 - School Safety). Having a plan to recover from any type of crisis/emergency/disaster, regardless of its severity or the consequences of the incident/event strengthens the District's resilience so it can operate with minimal impact on its primary mission/responsibility to educate the students enrolled in the District, involves teaching and learning, personnel, facilities, technology, transportation, food service, and other functional resources. The Continuity of Organizational Operations Plan (COOP) provides the District with the capability of conducting its essential operations under all threats and conditions, with or without warning. Having a plan to recover from any type of disaster regardless of the severity and consequences of the emergency is critical to recovery of operations and minimizing the impact on the District's teaching and learning, personnel, facilities, technology, transportation, food service, and other functional resources.

Scope of the Continuity Plan

The primary objective of the COOP is to restore the District's critical operational/business functions and the learning environment as quickly as possible after a crisis/emergency/disaster or threat event occurs. The COOP shall include strategies aimed at resuming instruction and crucial business functions within five (5) days of the disruption, along with procedures to implement secure remote work and instruction in a crisis/emergency/disaster, identify alternative sites and technology redundancy, and provide incident response integration with the District's cybersecurity incident management protocols.

The District will use the following process to achieve essential function resilience (i.e., business and learning continuity):

- A. identify essential functions;
- B. determine planning factors needed to accomplish the essential functions (e.g., staff and organization, equipment and systems, information and data sites);
- C. conduct risk assessments for each planning factor; and
- D. identify and implement continuity options.

Because the COOP contains sensitive information, by law, it ~~functions and the learning environment as quickly as possible after a crisis or threat event occurs. A COOP contains critical and sensitive information that is confidential and exempt from public disclosure.~~

Planning for the continuity of operations of a school system in the aftermath of a disaster is a complex task. The current threat environment and recent emergencies, including acts of nature, accidents, technological emergencies, cybersecurity incidents (including data breaches, ransomware, and denial of service attacks), and terrorist threats and attacks, ~~cyberattacks, and terrorist attacks and threats,~~ have increased the need for viable continuity capabilities and plans that enable the District to resume and continue the essential functions in an all-hazards environment across a full spectrum of ~~crises/emergencies/disasters. emergencies.~~ Such conditions have increased the importance of having continuity plans in place that provide stability of essential functions across the various levels of public government and private enterprises.

The planning and development of continuity of an organizational operations plan, as well as the ongoing review, testing, and revision of such a plan, is important for the overall District ~~as well as and also~~ for each school. ~~Each school and operational department (e.g., transportation, information technology ("IT"), food service, and student services) shall maintain a site/department-specific COOP aligned with the District-wide COOP. The site/department-specific COOPs are subject to annual submission to and review by the Superintendent.~~

The District-wide plan describes how the District will respond as a total organization to a given emergency and describes the centralized resources and how they will be organized to implement command and control necessary to function during the life cycle of the event. Individual school and department plans ~~shall contain the details related to the continuity plan for those specific sites and functional areas to prepare for an incident/event, communicate throughout the duration of the incident/event, assess the impact of the incident/event on essential functions in the school/department, respond to the incident/event, and detail what will be done to recover from the incident/event.~~ ~~contain the details related to the continuity plan for those specific sites and functional areas to prepare for an event, communicate throughout the duration of an event, assess the impact of an event on essential functions in the unit, respond to the event, and detail what will be done to recover from the event.~~

Preparation for, response to, and recovery from a disaster affecting administrative, educational, and support functions of the District's operations requires the cooperative efforts of external organizations, in partnership with the functional areas supporting the business of the District. This includes local government agencies, law enforcement, emergency management, medical services, and vendors necessary to District operations. The COOP outlines and coordinates all efforts by the District, in cooperation with other local and State agencies and businesses, to restore the essential functions of the District ~~post-incident/event. post-disaster.~~

The Superintendent shall provide that all relevant staff receive periodic training on their roles in the COOP.

Key components of the COOP shall be communicated to employees, students, and families as appropriate.

The Superintendent shall develop and recommend the COOP for Board of Education review and approval; however, the COOP shall be considered a confidential document not subject to release under State public records laws (i.e., O.R.C. 149.433) and accordingly no copies shall be provided for public review.

The Superintendent shall conduct an annual review and update, as necessary, to the COOP. Additionally, the Superintendent shall conduct annual table-top exercises to assess the expected effectiveness of the COOP and after-action reviews post-incident/event. See Policy 8400 – School Safety (which discusses the conduct of annual emergency management tests). ~~The Superintendent shall conduct periodic review of the COOP.~~

R.C. 9.65, 149.433

FEMA's Continuity Guidance Circular (2024 Update)

Guide for Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operation Plans

The Role of Districts in Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operation Plans: A Companion to the School Guide

Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS): Technical Assistance Center

Ohio School Safety Center (a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety)

National Incident Management System (NIMS)

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