



Oak Park Elementary School District 97

970 Madison ▪ Oak Park ▪ Illinois ▪ 60302 ▪ ph: 708.524.3000 ▪ fax: 708.524.3019 ▪ www.op97.org

TO: Dr. Carol Kelley, Superintendent

FROM: Felicia Starks Turner, Senior Director of Administrative Services

RE: Safety Planning Update

DATE: November 15, 2016

Type of Report: Informational

Purpose of the Report: The purpose of this report is to provide the Board of Education with an update on safety planning, training and implementation for the 2016-17 school year.

Background Information:

District 97 has had a long standing relationship with the Oak Park police and fire departments to ensure our schools are safe learning environments for students. This is accomplished via monthly meetings at each school and quarterly meetings at the district level. Additionally, each school building's emergency and crisis response plans, protocols, procedures and school safety drill programs and drill compliance are reviewed and updated annually with documentation of these required activities sent to the Regional Office of Education.

Safety Teams:

Although the official reviews are conducted annually, each school has a building-based safety team comprised of administrators as well as certified and non-certified staff and the Resident Beat Officer who meet monthly to discuss building safety related topics and procedures.

The district's safety team maintains consistency and oversight of the various building plans and new initiatives as well as the safety of the district as a whole. This team includes one member from each school's safety team, Cabinet members, and representatives of the Oak Park police and fire departments. Its main goal for the 2016-17 school year is to facilitate revisions and updates of school safety plans, incorporating material and resources from training sessions. The district team will meet November 11, January 19, March 16 and May 18.

To begin examining current safety plans through a critical lens, all safety team members to participate in two safety trainings: Creating an Action Plan: Forming a Critical Incident Response Team and Student Behavioral Threat Assessment.

Creating an Action Plan: Forming a Critical Incident Response Team – October 25, 2016

This highly interactive training session features small group activities designed to help school districts build an effective school-based emergency management organization to respond and manage a wide-range of critical incidents until local emergency responders arrive. D97 participants learned who should be involved in the school's emergency response and how to form a school-based emergency organization modeled on the Incident Command System (ICS) structure used by emergency responder agencies. The School Safety Drill Act requirements and guidelines were addressed, and members of the school and district safety teams were provided training materials to aid in forming Critical Incident Response Teams for all buildings in the district.

Student Behavioral Threat Assessment – Date: TBD 2017

The purpose of this one day seminar is to provide increased understanding of the framework and application of student behavioral threat assessment in elementary and secondary schools. The student threat assessment process is a multi-disciplinary team approach comprised of school administration, key faculty, psychological services, counselors, local law enforcement, school resource officers, local community services, mental health agencies and school legal counsel.

Participants will gain an enhanced understanding and ability to identify persons exhibiting threatening or aberrant behaviors, evaluate the risk of the threat, and provide appropriate interventions and case management to reduce the risk of violence. The content for this seminar was formulated by nationally recognized experts in the field of threat assessment and embeds research from the U.S. Secret Service and U.S. Department of Education, the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime and best practices from schools.

The training targets actions based on behavioral assessments and focuses attention to school and public safety concerns as well as legal issues involved in the process of managing potentially dangerous student behavior. The curricular training materials provide in-depth information, model policies and sample operational guidelines, protocols for law enforcement interviews of students at school, threat assessment team models, and related research studies. The course consists of five modules which include classroom instruction, guided discussions and practical activities involving case studies. The training will be scheduled for February or March 2017.

On-Going Safety Planning

Safety planning is dynamic by nature with its need to respond to evolving issues. Therefore the district's training efforts will be on-going as current responses must be revised and new school safety risks and/or solutions emerge. Our continued partnerships with the Oak Park police and fire departments will guide us as we continue to strengthen our safety practices each year.