

Existing policy, adopted 5/20/14 while appropriate as written, a CABE sample follows for comparison and review.

Instruction

Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness

The Board of Education recognizes its obligation to students, staff and the community to be prepared to deal with various emergencies as they arise, ensuring to the greatest extent possible the safety of District students, staff and visitors.

All employees of the school system are responsible for doing everything in their power to promote the safety of all of the students at all times.

District staff shall be prepared to respond immediately and responsibly to any combination of events which threaten to result in a disaster when it occurs.

The Superintendent shall develop and maintain an emergency preparedness plan. The emergency plan shall be kept current. Governmental agencies and bodies vested with the responsibility for directing and coordinating emergency services on local and state levels shall be included in the preparation and implementation of the plan.

The plan shall specify procedures to be taken in the District in the event of an emergency. As appropriate, the Board shall enter into cooperative agreements with other governmental entities to assure proper coordination and support during emergencies.

The administration shall require the Building Principal to maintain procedures for fire, civil defense, and other emergencies, in accordance with the District's plan and to insure the maintenance of the fire alarm system and regular and emergency exits of all buildings.

(cf. 5141.6 – Crisis Prevention/Response)

(cf. 5142 – Student Safety)

(cf. 6114.1 – Fire Emergency/Drills)

(cf. 6114.3 – Bomb Threats)

(cf. 6114.6 – Emergency Closings)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules
10-231 Fire drills
52-557b Immunity from liability for emergency medical assistance, first aid or medication by injection. School personnel not required to administer or render.

Policy adopted: May 20, 2014

WOODBRIIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Woodbridge, Connecticut

A recommended sample policy to consider.

Instruction

Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness

The Board of Education recognizes that the health, welfare and safety of its students and employees are dependent upon sound emergency preparedness planning. All employees of the school system are responsible for doing everything in their power to promote the safety of all of the students at all times. District staff shall be prepared to respond immediately and responsibly to any combination of events which threaten to result in a disaster as well as to a disaster when it occurs.

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall use state-approved School Security and Safety Plan Standards and the accompanying School Security and Safety Plan Template to be compliant with the National Incident Management System (NIMS), and incorporate the National Incident Command System when updating District and site-level emergency and disaster preparedness plans. Each school in the District, each school year, will develop and implement a school security and safety plan. Such plan shall be based upon the standards issued by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection/Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DESPP/DEMHS) and the accompanying School Security and Safety Plan Template. In addition to preparedness and response, the plan shall provide guidance on recovery from any emergency incident.

Each school shall establish a school security and safety committee which will assist in developing and administering the school's security and safety plan. The members of the Committee shall include a local police officer, local first responder, teacher and administrator from the school, a mental health professional, a parent or guardian of a student at the school and any other person deemed necessary; (school nurse, custodian, local health director, transportation coordinator, etc.)

Alternative language:

The Board of Education recognizes its obligation to students, staff and the community to be prepared to deal with various emergencies as they arise, ensuring to the greatest extent possible the safety of District students, staff and visitors.

The administration shall require the Building Principal to maintain procedures for fire, civil defense, and other emergencies, in accordance with the District's plan and to insure the maintenance of the fire alarm system and regular and emergency exits of all buildings. All building security and safety plans must be compliant with the National Incident Management System (NIMS), incorporate the National Incident Command System and be based upon the standards issued by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, beginning with the 2014-2015 school year.

The District will cooperate with local law enforcement, fire department and civil defense authorities and other civic agencies in the event of a declared emergency situation.

Instruction

Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness (continued)

or (alternate paragraph to the previous paragraph)

The Superintendent shall develop and maintain an emergency preparedness plan which shall make provisions for handling a variety of foreseeable emergencies, all-hazard threats, including terroristic activity. The emergency plan shall be kept current. The Superintendent shall use state-approved Standardized Emergency Management System guidelines and the accompanying School Security and Safety Plan Template, be compliant with the National Incident Management System (NIMS), and incorporate the National Incident Command System when updating District and site-level emergency and disaster preparedness plans and be compliant with the standards issued by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection.

Governmental agencies and bodies vested with the responsibility for directing and coordinating emergency services on local and state levels shall be included in the preparation and implementation of the plan.

The plan shall specify procedures to be taken in the District in the event of an emergency. As appropriate, the Board shall enter into cooperative agreements with other governmental entities to assure proper coordination and support during emergencies. At the beginning of each school year, parents and staff of each school shall receive a written summary of relevant sections of the plan relevant to that school.

The Board will conduct a security and vulnerability assessment for each of its schools every two years and develop a school security and safety plan for each such school in compliance with Section 87 of P.A. 13-3. By November 1 of each year the District must submit to the DEMHS Regional Coordinator one of the following: (1) those plan pages that have been updated; (2) the DEMHS provided form that the plan has not changed; or (3) a revised plan if the current plan has undergone a major revision.

First Aid

At least one person at each school site should hold current first aid and/or CPR certification.

(cf. 5141.6 – Crisis Prevention/Response)

(cf. 5142 – Student Safety)

(cf. 6114.1 – Fire Emergency/Crisis Response Drills)

(cf. 6114.3 – Bomb Threats)

(cf. 6114.6 – Emergency Closings)

(cf. 6114.7 – Safe Schools)

Instruction

Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness (continued)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

- 10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules
- 10-231 Fire drills
- 52-557b Immunity from liability for emergency medical assistance, first aid or medication by injection. School personnel not required to administer or render.
- P.A. 13-3 An Act Concerning Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety (Section 86, 87, 88)
- 10-222m – School security and safety plans. School security and safety committees
- 10-222n – School security and safety plan standards

Policy adopted:

rev 2/13
rev 7/13
rev 3/16

This sample letter contains some issues on which parents/guardians are deeply concerned. The purpose of this sample letter is to generate ideas for a similar letter designed to meet a district's specific circumstances and plans.

Letter to Parents Regarding Student Safety

_____ **PUBLIC SCHOOLS**
_____, **Connecticut**

Date

Re: Student Safety

Dear Parents:

The District's top priority is student safety. In addition to physical safety, the District is concerned with the emotional well-being of students and will help students cope with an emergency or disaster and its aftermath. Our emergency and disaster response plans are as follows:

Safety Plans

The District has plans for the four phases of emergency and disaster management:

1. **Preparedness** – planning for an emergency or disaster event;
2. **Response** – planned response to an emergency or disaster event;
3. **Recovery** – the process of returning to normal operations; and
4. **Mitigation** – steps taken to minimize the effects of an emergency or disaster.

These plans are covered in each school's site-based safety plan. In addition, the District has a Safety Program Coordinator. Each school also has a Crisis Management Team.

Communications

The District monitors the Homeland Security Office and other emergency preparedness resources. The District will disseminate emergency information via its website, information hotline, through the media and by telephone contact.

Emergency Responses

Emergency responses will depend on the circumstances and may include evacuation, shelter-in-place or lockdown. For evacuation purposes, each school has at least one off-campus site where students and staff assemble. If the threat is chemical or biological in nature, to avoid contamination, we ask that no one enter or leave the building until it is safe to do so.

In the event your child's school is evacuated, the school will attempt to notify you as soon as possible at the home and/or emergency numbers provided previously to the school. The news media will also be notified.

All students at _____ School will go to _____. You may pick-up your child at this location after notifying the school official in charge. Additional instructions will be given in the event of an evacuation, including alternative methods to return your child home.

Cooperation and Assistance Request

During any emergency or potential disaster and for the safety of all students and staff, we request that you follow the instructions of the District's Safety Program Coordinator as well as the Building Principal. These instructions will be widely disseminated.

Defamatory or disruptive behavior will only lessen our response effectiveness.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the District office or your child's Principal.

Thank you for your understanding, cooperation and support.

Website Address: _____

Information Hotline Number: _____

Sincerely,

Superintendent of Schools