

POLICY

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Non-Instructional/
Business Operations

SUBJECT: SAFETY AND SECURITY/SCHOOL SAFETY PLANS/CRISIS RESPONSE

The Board of Education of the Vestal Central School District hereby declares that it is school district policy to provide a safe and secure environment to all those persons (students, staff, and visitors) who lawfully enter upon District property or who travel in District vehicles for the purposes of the District. It shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent to establish and carry out written regulations that will:

1. Identify those staff members who will be responsible for the effective administration of the regulations;
2. Provide staff time and other necessary resources for the effective administration of the regulations;
3. Establish periodic written review of the activities of the staff to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
4. Provide an on-going mechanism for the effective review of safety and security concerns of the staff, students, and affected public;
5. Provide for reports to the Board of Education regarding the significant aspects of safety and security of the District.

The District has developed and will update a comprehensive District-wide school safety plan and building-level emergency response plans, as enumerated in Education Law and Commissioner's Regulations, in a form as prescribed by the Commissioner of Education, regarding crisis intervention, emergency response and management. These plans will be designed to prevent or minimize the effects of serious violent incidents and emergencies and to facilitate the coordination of schools and the school district with local and county resources in the event of such incidents or emergencies.

District-wide school safety plan means a comprehensive, multi-hazard school safety plan that covers all school buildings of the District, addresses crisis intervention, emergency response and management at the District level, and has the contents as prescribed in Education Law and Commissioner's Regulations.

The District-wide school safety plan will be developed by the District-wide school safety team appointed by the Board. The District-wide team will include, but not be limited to, representatives of the Board, teacher, administrator, school safety personnel, and other school personnel.

Building-level emergency response plans: building-specific school emergency response plans that address crisis intervention, emergency response and management at the building level, and has the contents as prescribed in Education Law and Commissioner's Regulations.

(Continued)

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SUBJECT: SAFETY AND SECURITY/SCHOOL SAFETY PLANS/CRISIS RESPONSE (Cont'd)

Training Requirement

The District must certify to the Commissioner of Education that all staff have undergone annual training on the emergency response plan and that this training will include components on violence prevention and mental health. New employees hired after the start of the school year shall receive such training within 30 days of hire, or as part of the District's existing new hire training program, whichever is sooner.

Filing/Disclosure Requirements

The District shall file a copy of its comprehensive District-wide school safety plan and any amendments thereto with the Commissioner of Education no later than thirty (30) days after their adoption. A copy of each building-level school emergency response plan and any amendments thereto shall be filed with the appropriate local law enforcement agency and with the state police within (30) days of adoption. Building-level emergency response plans shall be confidential and shall NOT be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Law or any other provision of law.

When a crisis arises, no school system is immune to the negative, physical or mental effects on its students, staff, and the local community. Immediate, effective, and responsible management and communication can address the crisis and maintain a District's integrity and credibility. Therefore, the District shall develop and maintain a unified position by identifying a media spokesperson who will be briefed on all details. This spokesperson shall be the Superintendent or his/her designee. Only this spokesperson shall talk to and maintain a timely flow of information to the media. The Superintendent/designee shall be responsible for informing staff of the crisis plan that is to be developed by both administration and the School Building-level Emergency Response Team.

Labor Law Section 27-a
12 New York Code of Rules and Regulations (NYCRR) Part 820, Article 28

Historical Notes: Former Policy 4.5 Operation of Plant; 1985
Amended 6/28/94
Amended 8/24/99
Adopted 6/8/10
Amended 12/20/16