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8400 - **SCHOOL SAFETY**

The Board of Education is committed to maintaining a safe and drug-free environment in all of the District's schools. The Board believes that school crime and violence are multifaceted problems that need to be addressed in a manner that utilizes all available resources in the community through a coordinated effort of School District personnel, law enforcement agencies, and families. The Board further believes that all school employees (including administrators, professional staff, and support staff) and local law enforcement officials must work together to provide for the safety and welfare of students while they are at school or a school-related event or are on their way to and from school. The Board also believes that the first step in addressing school crime and violence is to assess the extent and nature of the problem(s) or threat, and then plan and implement strategies that promote school safety and minimize the likelihood of school crime and violence.

Emergency Management Plan (EMP)

To that end, the Superintendent shall develop and adopt a comprehensive Emergency Management Plan ("EMP") for each building in the District. The EMP shall be submitted on standard forms developed and made available by the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS). In developing the EMP for each building, the Superintendent shall involve community law enforcement and safety officials (including, but not limited to, law enforcement, fire, emergency medical personnel, mental health providers, local health departments, school safety and security contacts, and any local divisions having county-wide emergency management), parents/guardians of students who are assigned to the building, and teachers and nonteaching employees assigned to the building (hereinafter, collectively referred to as 'stakeholders'). Each EMP shall contain the name, title (if applicable), contact information, and signature of each stakeholder (i.e., person involved in development of the EMP); the signature shall affirm the stakeholder was offered the opportunity to provide feedback (it does not mean or require that the stakeholder approve the EMP).

In developing the EMP, the Superintendent shall examine the environmental conditions and operations of each building to determine potential hazards to student and staff safety. The Superintendent shall further propose operating changes to promote the prevention of potentially dangerous problems and circumstances. The Superintendent shall incorporate remediation strategies into the EMP for any building where documented safety problems have occurred.

The EMP for each school building shall include a protocol that addresses student use of cellular telephones during an active threat or emergency

Each EMP will consist of six (6) parts:

- A. The emergency operations plan shall consist of a single document to address all hazards that may negatively impact the school including, but not limited to, active shooter, hostage, bomb threat, act of terrorism, infectious diseases or pandemic, severe weather, bullying, threats of violence or threats to life, and any other natural, technological, or human-caused events that the Superintendent knew or should have reasonably known about that compromise the health or safety of students, employees, administrators, or property. The document will include:
 1. a hazard identification and risk analysis (i.e., a process to identify hazards and assess the vulnerability associated with each);
 2. an all-hazards emergency operations plan organized around five (5) mission areas: prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery;

The plan shall be with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) principles.

3. the access and functional needs of the students, teachers, and staff;
4. education for students, staff, and administrators to avoid, deter, or stop an imminent crime or safety issue, threatened or actual;
5. procedures for notifying law enforcement, fire, EMS, emergency management, mental health providers, public health officials,, and other outside experts who could assist in responding to and recovering from an emergency;
6. a threat assessment plan developed as prescribed by Ohio Revised Code Section 5502.263, including a protocol for school threat assessment teams established pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 3313.669;

The plan shall be updated and revised at least every three (3) years from the previous date of compliance to reflect lessons learned and best practices to continually improve the plan. The areas of improvement identified in the emergency management test and actual emergencies at the school buildings will be a source for lessons learned.

B. A floor plan unique to each floor of the building.

C. A site plan that includes all building property and surrounding property.

D. An emergency contact information sheet.

E. Stakeholder signatures.

F. Proof of completion of an approved threat assessment training program for each member of the building's threat assessment team.

The Superintendent shall submit an electronic copy of each building's EMP to the Director of Public Safety not less than once every three (3) years, whenever a major modification to the building requires changes to the procedures outlined in the EMP, and whenever the information on the emergency contact information sheet changes. The Superintendent shall also file a copy of the current, updated EMP with the following:

A. each law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction over the school building; and

B. upon request, the local fire department, emergency medical service organization, and county emergency management agency serving the area in which the building is located.

The Superintendent will also file copies of updated EMPs with the Director of Public Safety and the above agencies within ten (10) calendar days after adoption of the revised EMPs.

The District's EMPs are security records and not public records. The Superintendent shall keep a copy of the District's EMPs in a secure location.

The Superintendent shall annually review the District's previously developed and adopted EMPs and certify that the plan, emergency contact information sheet, floor plan, and site plan are current and accurate. The certification shall be completed through the School Safety Plan Portal between January 1 and July 1 of each year.

The Superintendent shall prepare and conduct at least one (1) emergency management test each year during the three (3) year annual review cycle, in accordance with rules adopted pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 5502.262(F). The Emergency Management tests must meet the following requirements: (1) be a scheduled event at least two (2) of the years; one (1) actual emergency may be used during the three (3) year plan cycle if an after-action report is produced with the involvement of stakeholders (i.e., at least one (1) representative from law enforcement, fire, EMA, EMS, and a mental health provider and public health official); (2) the type of test shall be a tabletop, functional or full-scale, as defined in O.A.C. 4501:5-1, and each type shall be used once every three (3) years; and (3) the test must include at least one (1) hazard from the hazard analysis identified in the emergency operations plan and at least one (1) functional content area. The test should include at least one (1) representative from law enforcement, fire, EMA, EMS, and a mental health provider and public health official.

Students may participate in the emergency management test at the discretion of the Principal. In deciding whether, and to what extent, to involve students in an emergency management test, the Superintendent and Principal should consider what benefit student inclusion in the emergency management test may have on the student population's preparation for an

emergency and to enhance the safety of students in the building. The Principal shall also consider age-appropriate participation, guidance, trauma-informed best practice, and training in preparation for students' participation in the test.

The Superintendent shall submit an after-action report to the Department of Public Safety no later than thirty (30) days after the emergency management test documenting the following: 1) date/time/weather/length of exercise; 2) the type of discussion/operations based exercise; 3) the scenario utilized; 4) the hazard(s) utilized (including providing safety data sheets, as appropriate); 5) the functional content area(s) utilized; and 6) identification of at least three (3) strengths and at least three (3) improvement areas of the EMP discovered as a result of the emergency management test. The after-action report shall be submitted on standardized forms developed and made available by the Department of Public Safety.

The Superintendent shall grant access to each school building under his/her control to law enforcement personnel and any local fire department, emergency medical service organization, and/or county emergency management agency that has requested a copy of the EMP, to enable such personnel and entities to conduct training sessions for responding to threats and emergency events affecting the school building. Such access shall be provided outside of student instructional hours and the Superintendent or designee shall be present in the building during the training sessions.

Prior to the opening day of each school year, the Superintendent shall inform each enrolled student and the student's parent/legal guardian of the procedures to be used to notify parents in the event of an emergency or a serious threat to safety. Any student that enrolls in the school after the annual notification, along with their parent/guardian, shall be provided with the requisite notification upon enrollment. ~~enrolled in the school after the annual notification, and their parent/legal guardian shall be notified upon enrollment.~~ Also, see Policy 8420 - Emergency Situations at Schools.

Threat Assessment

Behavioral threat assessment is a fact-based, systematic process designed to identify, assess, and manage potentially dangerous or violent situations. The threat assessment process shall be embedded within a comprehensive multitiered system of supports (MTSS) that involves interdisciplinary, collaborative partnerships focusing on prevention. The District will use a behavioral threat assessment model, including threat assessment teams, to address in a proactive manner the prevention of targeted violence by identifying areas of concern, gathering information, assessing the likelihood of violence, initiating appropriate interventions and violence mitigation strategies and provide ongoing evaluation to increase positive outcomes for individuals and enhance overall school safety. The aim of the process is to emphasize the provision of interventions and supports, and not just punishment. Ultimately, the primary purpose of a threat assessment is to address concerning behavior (including prohibited behaviors), respond to concerning communications, and minimize the risk of targeted violence at school.

As dictated by the Safety and Violence Education Students (SAVE Students) Act, the District will use a multidisciplinary decision-making process to conduct threat assessments and develop and implement interventions for students whose behavior indicates they may pose a risk of harm to the school community and/or themselves (see Policy 5350 - Student Health, Well-Being and Suicide Prevention). Specifically, the Board directs the Superintendent to create a threat assessment team for each school building in the District serving grades six (6) through twelve (12). Each team shall be multidisciplinary, when possible; the Principal will ordinarily serve as the team's leader and the team may include school administrators, mental health professionals (e.g., school psychologists, school counselors, social workers), school resource officers (where appropriate), and other relevant personnel (e.g., instructional staff). Each member of a threat assessment team is required to complete an approved threat assessment training program upon appointment and once every three (3) years thereafter. As noted above, the District shall include proof of completion of the approved training by each team member in the EMPs and annual certifications submitted to the Director of Public Safety. Per State law, threat assessment team members are not liable for damages in a civil action for injury, death, or loss to person or property allegedly arising from a team member's execution of duties related to school safety unless the team member's act or omission constitutes willful or wanton misconduct.

The Ohio School Safety Center (OSSC), which is part of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, has developed the Ohio School Behavioral Threat Assessment Model Policy and Protocol: A Guide for School Personnel and Law Enforcement. This protocol, as an alternative evidence-based behavioral threat assessment model, shall serve as the foundation of the District's efforts to identify students of concern so that their behaviors can be mitigated to the point that they no longer pose a threat.

The following individuals may be subject to a behavioral threat assessment:

- A. Students: current, former, and prospective
- B. Employees: current, former, and prospective
- C. Parents/guardians of students/non-custodial parents or relatives

- D. Persons who are (or have been) in a relationship with faculty, staff, or students
- E. Contractors, vendors, or other visitors
- F. Unaffiliated persons

Research shows that individuals who plan to commit violent acts against schools often share their plans with someone. Consequently, the District has ~~registered with the SaferOH tip line operated by the Department of Public Safety to facilitate the receipt of anonymous reports of concerning behavior and/or communications.~~

has entered into an agreement with an anonymous reporting program that meets the following requirements:

- A. operates twenty-four (24) hours per day, seven (7) days per week;
- B. forwards reported information to and coordinates with the appropriate school threat assessment teams and law enforcement and public safety agencies as required under the District's EMPs;
- C. will be promoted in each District school to inform students about the reporting program and its reporting methods; and
- D. complies with Ohio Revised Code Sections 149.433 and 3319.321 and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, 20 U.S.C. 1232g.

The Superintendent shall comply with all reporting requirements set forth in R.C. 3313.669 related to the District's ~~participation in the SaferOH tip line~~ use of an anonymous reporting program.

The threat assessment process is centered upon an analysis of the facts and evidence of behavior in a given situation. The appraisal of risk in a threat assessment focuses on actions, communications, and specific circumstances that might suggest that an individual intends to cause physical harm and is engaged in planning or preparing for that event.

The Team will meet when the Principal learns a student has made a threat of violence or engages in concerning communications or behaviors that suggest the likelihood of a threatening situation.

The Team is empowered to gather information, evaluate facts, and make a determination as to whether a given student poses a threat of self-harm or violence to others. If an inquiry indicates that there is a risk of self-harm or violence in a specific situation, the Team may collaborate with others to develop and implement a written plan to manage or reduce the threat.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to create guidelines for the purpose of:

- A. identifying team participants by position and role;
- B. requiring team participants to undergo appropriate training;
- C. defining the nature and extent of behavior or communication that would trigger a threat assessment and/or action pursuant to a threat assessment, including the threshold for law enforcement;
- D. establishing assessment procedures that include practices for maintaining documentation, identifying sources of information, reviewing records, and conducting interviews;
- E. stating when and how parents/guardians of the student making the threat shall be notified and involved;
- F. designating the individuals (by position) who are responsible for gathering and investigating information;
- G. identifying the steps and procedures to be followed from initiation to conclusion of the threat assessment inquiry or investigation;
- H. identifying risk management options (e.g., interventions and supports, and the imposition of disciplinary consequences, as appropriate) to enact once an assessment is complete, including creating an individualized management plan to mitigate identified risks;
- I. creating and promoting a safe school climate built on a culture of safety, respect, trust, and emotional support, and one that encourages communication and empowers students to share their concerns;

- J. providing training for all stakeholders, including school personnel, students, parents, and law enforcement (as applicable).

Board employees, volunteers, and other school community members, including students and parents, shall immediately report to the Superintendent or Principal any expression of intent to harm another person or other statements or behaviors that suggest a student may intend to commit an act of violence.

Nothing in this policy overrides or replaces an individual's responsibility to contact 911 in an emergency.

Regardless of threat assessment activities or protocols, disciplinary action and referral to law enforcement shall occur as required by State law and Board policy.

Threat assessment team members shall maintain student confidentiality at all times as required by Board Policy 8330 - Student Records, and State and Federal law.

Safe and Drug-Free Schools

As a part of the EMP, the Board shall verify that it has procedures in place for keeping schools safe and drug-free that include (see also, Form 8330 F15 entitled Checklist of Policies and Guidelines Addressing Safe and Drug-Free Schools):

- A. appropriate and effective school discipline policies that prohibit disorderly conduct, the illegal possession of weapons and the illegal use, possession, distribution, and sale of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs by students;
- B. security procedures at school and while students are on the way to and from school;
- C. prevention activities that are designed to maintain safe, disciplined, and drug-free environments;
- D. a code of conduct or policy for all students that clearly states the responsibilities of students, teachers, and administrators in maintaining a classroom environment that:
 - 1. allows a teacher to communicate effectively to all students in the class;
 - 2. allows all students in the class the opportunity to learn;
 - 3. has consequences that are fair, and developmentally appropriate;
 - 4. considers the student and the circumstances of the situation; and
 - 5. is enforced accordingly.

Victims of Violent Crime

The Board further recognizes that, despite the diligent efforts of school administrators and staff to provide a safe school environment, an individual student may be a victim of a violent crime in a school, on school grounds, on a school conveyance, or at a school-sponsored activity. In accordance with Federal and State law the parents of the eligible student shall have the choice options provided by Policy 5113.02 and AG 5113.02.

A.C. 4501:5-1-01

R.C. 9.65, 149.433

R.C. 3313.669, 3313.6610, 3313.6611, 5502.262, 5502.263

20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.

Ohio Department of Public Safety - Model Threat Assessment Plan

Public Law 107-110

Title IX, Section 9532 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended

Ohio Department of Public Safety – Ohio School Behavioral Threat Assessment Model Plan: A Guide for School Personnel and Law Enforcement Officers

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A.C. 4501:5-1-01

R.C. 3313.669, 3313.6610, 3313.6611, 5502.262, 5502.263

Ohio Department of Public Safety - Model Threat Assessment Plan

Title IX, Section 9532 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended

20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.

Public Law 107-110

Cross References

Ohio Department of Public Safety - Model Threat Assessment Plan

Last Modified by Regina Jutz on September 26, 2025