

ROCHESTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT



DISTRICT-WIDE SCHOOL SAFETY PLAN

Updated 17 June 2021

Overview

The Rochester City School District is committed to the safety and preparedness of its students, staff and its visitors. Our District-Wide School Safety Plan is an all-hazards approach to crisis management and focuses on mitigation/prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery procedures.

The District-Wide School Safety Plan is decreed by the Superintendent and adopted by the Board of Education. This plan is implemented at the time of an emergency at the direction of the Superintendent and/or her staff. "Incident Commanders" (Principal/designee) implement Building-Level Emergency Response Plans (BLERP) when directed by their respective School Chief, Deputy Superintendent or the Chief of Operations. In the absence of direction from Senior Administration, each Building Incident Commander (Principal/designee) is authorized and directed to implement this plan, or take other action as may be, in her or his judgment, necessary to save lives and mitigate the effects of emergencies.

The District-Wide School Safety Plan is reviewed annually by the District-Wide Safety Team under the guidance of the Superintendent or designated Chief Emergency Officer. The District-Wide Safety Team is appointed by the Board of Education. The Plan is reviewed annually each spring and made available for a 30 day comment period and one public hearing after any revisions have been made. The Board of Education reviews and adopts the Plan annually and it is uploaded to the Rochester City School District website.

New York State Education Code 2801-a and Commissioner's regulation 8 NYCRR Section 155.17 require that each school district shall amend and adopt a comprehensive district-wide school safety plan and building-level safety plans in relation to emergency response and management, and crisis intervention. Plans are annually reviewed by the district-wide school safety team and building-level school safety teams.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has led to many challenges and new opportunities for school districts and communities. The Rochester City School District is committed to the health and safety for all its students, staff and families. Students and employees need to feel comfortable in returning to campuses for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year. Separate reopening plans are being developed and will be posted on the RCSD website and incorporates recommendations and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and the New York State Education Department (NYSED).

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Introduction

School safety is the job of the entire District community. This effort requires leadership and coordination by District and school administration with involvement and participation from all areas of the community. Coordination with local law enforcement, fire officials, emergency officials and the overall community in planning, conducting drills and other training exercises ensures a comprehensive and unified approach to safety and emergency planning. Relationship building and community engagement and partnerships are vital efforts in building and maintaining safety.

The purpose of the District-Wide School Safety Plan and each school's Building-Level Emergency Response Plan (BLERP) is to assist District and school officials in identifying and responding to potential emergencies and crises by assigning responsibilities and duties of District and school officials, students, families, and other community stakeholders. It is vital to develop, train, exercise, and maintain BLERPs to ensure an effective response before, during and after an incident. A well developed and rehearsed BLERP provides parents/guardians, students, District staff, and the community at large the reassurance that the school has established guidelines, policies and procedures to respond to threats and hazards effectively and efficiently. The Rochester City School District utilizes the New York State suggested planning format to assist the District and schools in meeting legislative mandates outlined in 8 NYCRR Section 155.17 and provides the use of best practices to improve outcomes following emergency situations.

The content, organization, and terminology provided in the New York State Guide to School Emergency Response Planning aligns with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's "Guide for Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operations Plans (2013)". The organization of this guide supports two key practices adopted in New York State. First, the guide provides standardized language that is consistent with current national emergency response protocols. Secondly, consistent formatting in each BLERP aligns critical information necessary to improve rapid response to emergencies together in the following sections:

- The Basic Plan
- Functional Annexes
- Threat/Hazard Specific Annexes

The Basic Plan standardizes language and provides a structured framework for school BLERPs statewide. Individualized policies and procedures have been developed by the Rochester City School District based upon potential circumstances and resources. The Rochester City School District uses the recommended New York State Functional Annexes in order to standardize the terminology used by District employees and emergency responders during an emergency.

Functional Annexes focus on critical operational functions and the courses of action developed to carry them out.

Courses of action and best practices are outlined in each of the District's Building-Level Emergency Response Plans Threat/Hazard Specific Annexes section. These annexes detail what to do in the event of various emergencies. These BLERP's provide current information about school response team members, students and staff with special needs; and any other critical information relative to each school building. The District has also identified appropriate staff to fill specific roles related to incident command and appropriate emergency response teams.

Building principals, assistant principals and other key members have been trained in the Incident Command System (ICS) and National Incident Management System (NIMS). The Superintendent or designated Chief Emergency Officer District is responsible coordinate and communicate between staff, law enforcement and first responders. The Chief Emergency Officer is also responsible for ensuring the completion and yearly update of the Building-Level Emergency Response Plans. All Building-Level Emergency Response Plans are confidential, but are submitted to New York State and local emergency responders for review. Appropriate training and exercises are required at the beginning of the school year to ensure that all District personnel and students understand the plan and their roles and responsibilities.

Administrators and key members of both building level and District emergency response teams are required to complete ICS 700: Introduction to NIMS and ICS 100: Introduction to the Incident Command System. Additional ICS and NIMS courses may be offered and encouraged for key staff members to complete based upon the designated position during an emergency situation.

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RISK REDUCTION/PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

A. Prevention/Intervention Strategies

The administration of the Rochester City School District (RSCD) believes that improved communication among students, parents/guardians and school staff adds to the quality of life and sense of safety at all of our schools. Violence prevention and safe environment strategies require community-wide collaborative efforts that include students, families, teachers, administrators, staff, social and mental health professionals, law enforcement, emergency response personnel, security professionals, parents and the business community.

Student Support Services assist in the development of best practices and programs that will support the social and emotional health of all students. This is achieved through working cooperatively with school principals, central office staff and collaborating with community agencies to support student, staff and parent needs. Such communication allows for the reporting, intervention, and prevention of potentially violent incidents before they actually occur. The following is a brief list of programs and initiatives that are in place at some or all of the RSCD schools that promote open communication and have a positive impact on the quality of life in our schools:

- Primary Project - National evidence-based school program providing early screening of all children in targeted primary grades and intervention for those children identified with school adjustment difficulties in pre-kindergarten through second grade.
- PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports) – Elementary students are encouraged and rewarded for clearly identified positive behaviors through incentives.
- Youth Mental Health First Aid- Designed to teach parents, family members, caregivers, teachers, school staff, peers, health and human service workers how to help an adolescent (age 12-18) who is experiencing a mental health or addictions challenge or is in crisis.
- Restorative Practices – RSCD Restorative Team partners with schools, families and community organizations who commit to study and implement restorative practices by building relationships, coaching, applying research based tools and reflectively planning for change.
- RSCD RocRestorative Student Leaders - RocRestorative is committed to collaboration and partnership in all aspects of Restorative Practices. Empowered student voices guarantee we are working with each other to support a restorative community. Students are taught and trained in restorative language and mindset.
- Help Zones – Assist students to regroup using support and self-control, to reflect on choices and behaviors, to repair any damages their choices may have caused, to return to scheduled classes as quickly as possible. Help Zone staff are trained in Restorative Practices, de-escalation skills, and Crisis as an Opportunity.
- Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI) – Provides a crisis prevention and intervention model for residential child care organizations that will assist in: preventing crises from occurring, de-escalating potential crises, effectively managing acute crises, reducing potential and actual injury to children and staff and learning constructive ways to handle stressful situations.

- Nonviolent Crisis Intervention (CPI) – Crisis Prevention Institute trains Security Officers in non-violent crisis intervention.
- Trauma, Illness and Grief Team (TIG) – Responds to crisis situations in the District and provides education and support as needed.
- Alternative schools and programs – Alternative schools and programs provide students with alternatives to traditional educational settings. Examples are short-term in-school programs for students that serve as a consequence for a wide variety of conduct issues.
- Remote Support Teams are coordinated through the Department of Equity, Inclusion and Social Emotional Support. The teams are designed to assist students and staff in a culturally responsive manner, to cope with disruptive behaviors and critical incidents resulting from a school or community related crisis and return to normal routines as quickly and calmly as possible following a disruption of the educational process.
- Other program examples include Home Hospital Instruction, LyncX Academy, NorthSTAR, the Rochester International Academy and All City High.

B. Training, Drills and Exercises

Training

The District understands the importance of training and preparation. School staff, students and other identified individuals and groups will receive training during the school year to better prepare themselves for an incident. The annual training will include a review of district-wide school safety, individual building-level emergency response and Emergency Response Procedures. The staff are also briefed on their roles, responsibilities and communication procedures during an emergency. The District annually submits certification to NYSED that all District and school staff have undergone annual training components on violence prevention and mental health. New employees hired after the start of the school year receive training within 30 days of hire. All staff at the beginning of the school year receive this training by September 15th.

Multi-Hazard Training

The District will provide annual multi-hazard school safety training for staff and students. The components of this training will be consistent District-wide. Staff training will be routinely conducted at the school level to include drills with the entire school population. These drills will focus on our standard response procedures to a potentially threatening incident to include: early dismissal, hold-in-place procedures, shelter-in-place procedures, and evacuation, lockout, and lockdown procedures. The use of tabletop drills to compliment this training will be considered to increase the training needs and standards.

Drills and Exercises

At a minimum, each school will conduct the following exercises/drills annually:

- Section 807 of the New York State Education Law mandates twelve (12) emergency drills each school year to prepare students to be able to respond appropriately in the event of a sudden emergency. The statute requires that eight (8) of these drills be evacuation drills with the remaining four (4) as lockdown drills. Six (6) evacuations drills and two (2) of the lockdown drills are conducted between the start of the school year and December 31st. The remaining two evacuation and two lockdown drills are conducted between the end of the

Winter Recess and May 1st. Four of the evacuation drills must incorporate an alternate egress route. Two additional evacuations drills are conducted at school buildings which host summer programs.

- 8 NYCRR Section 155.17 (3) states each Building-Level Emergency Response Plan shall be tested including sheltering and early dismissal (no earlier than 15 minutes before normal dismissal). The District will ensure that each school conducts drills and other exercises to test the components of their Building-Level Emergency Response Plan.
- Lockdown drills will be conducted internally to ensure that school staff have the ability to secure the facility and students against an immediate threat to life and safety. Such drills will cause minimal interruption to academic activities and will involve the clearance of hallways, locking of classrooms and positioning of students and staff in pre-designated “safe areas” within each room. Where possible, the school should seek out opportunities to conduct full-scale response exercises with law enforcement. Whenever a lockdown drill is conducted, school staff should ensure the students and other staff know that it is simply a drill and not a real life event. This will help to ensure that law enforcement and parents/guardians are not inadvertently alarmed that a real-life incident is occurring. School administration is encouraged to notify the Department of Safety and Security of planned drills and to include local emergency responders. Additionally, a sign or notice will be placed at all public entrances indicating that a drill is in progress and to wait for its conclusion. This will serve to notify any uninformed parents or visitors of the drill and prevent unwarranted panic.
- Mandatory evacuation and lockdown drills must continue along statutory schedules as established by NYSED. Social distancing must be considered during drills and are established by each school in accordance with established guidance.
- Principals are required to submit their evacuation and lock down drill tracking forms to Department of Educational Facilities, Office of Plant Operations quarterly.

C. Implementation of School Security

As described in the District’s Code of Conduct, all members of each school’s community share a responsibility in promoting and maintaining a safe and orderly school environment. Some of the more specific measures are expanded upon below.

Security Personnel – Hiring and Training

Rochester City School District School Safety Officers (SSOs) are hired consistent with the requirements and standards set forth by the Rochester City School District and New York State Department of Education. All SSOs are licensed by New York State consistent with the requirements set forth by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services. Annual and continual training is provided to maintain licensing and skills. The Rochester City School District is a licensed New York State Security Guard Training School and provides the annual NYS Security Guard refresher course to its SSOs. The SSO annual training includes, but not limited to, topics such as Restorative Practices, Therapeutic Crisis Intervention, Crisis Prevention Institute Non-Violent Intervention, youth mental health, CPR, first aid and x-rays scanners.

Security Personnel – Responsibilities and Authority

The District employs security personnel to assist the schools in dealing with all matters of security and safety issues. The principle role of our security personnel is to safeguard the District's students, staff and visitors from harm; to deter, detect, respond to, and report infractions of the District Code of Conduct and New York State Law; and to protect the District's assets from theft and damage. Security personnel employed by the District are authorized to carry out this role consistent with the Policies and Regulations of the District, applicable New York State Law and District training.

Visitor Access

School access will be controlled during the regular school day by securing the building and utilizing one point of entry with a buzzer/intercom/camera system to screen visitors prior to entrance into the building. Consistent with RCSD policy and Code of Conduct, an approved visitor to a school will present valid government issued photo identification and be given a pass prior to gaining access to the building. All visitors and non-District personnel will be screened upon entry into a District building utilizing the Raptor Visitor Management System. This system will assist in ensuring the safety of students, staff and other visitors by screening individuals against local and national sex offender databases. In the event of a confirmed offender, any allowance into the building will be determined by the building principal/administrator in coordination with RCSD Safety and Security, if necessary. All District employees are required to wear identification at all times.

Video Surveillance

All District buildings provide video surveillance to enhance the safety of our students and staff. The cameras may or may not be actively monitored, but the recordings are available for District officials and local law enforcement use.

Intrusion Detection

The District's buildings are protected by an intrusion detection alarm system that is linked to a central monitoring station.

D. Vital Educational Agency Information

The District maintains certain information about each school building within the District including, but not limited to: school populations, transportation needs, and phone numbers of key personnel. In addition, similar information on other District departments, as well as the assets that those departments could provide in the event of an emergency, is also maintained at the District level.

E. Early Detection of Potentially Violent Behaviors

The District acknowledges the importance of early recognition and intervention into conflicts and potentially violent behaviors.

- The District will ensure that appropriate school violence prevention and intervention training programs will be provided and incorporated into teacher conference days and provided to all staff during regularly scheduled staff training sessions. All threats of violence are taken seriously and thoroughly investigated.
- We recognize that despite our best efforts, students and parents may need additional assistance to respond to bullying. To ensure a quick response to parent and student concerns, the District has developed a bullying reporting process. Students and parents/guardians are encouraged to speak with school or District staff and report any suspected bullying incident. Each school annually designates a Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) Coordinator.
- Students and staff are encouraged to share information regarding any conflicts or potentially violent behaviors with an administrator (and law enforcement when appropriate) so an investigation can commence. The District has established an anonymous 24-hour “Safe School Helpline” to provide another means for such information to be brought to the attention of those who need to know so that the situation can be addressed in a timely manner.
- The District has developed guidelines and processes for contacting parents, guardians or persons in a parental relation to a student in the event of an implied or direct threat of violence by a student against themselves, including threat of suicide.
- District-wide intervention strategies and programs are listed in Section A. These strategies and programs are consistent with the District Code of Conduct.

F. Hazard Identification

The list of sites of potential emergencies include all District buildings, playground areas, properties adjacent to schools, on and off-site athletic fields, buses and off-site field trip locations. The potential identified hazards, and how to handle each, are documented in each Building-Level Emergency Response Plan. The list may be expanded as additional hazards are identified.

DISTRICT RESOURCES AND CONTACTS

A. District Emergency Response Team (DERT)

During an emergency, the District Emergency Response Team shall function under the command of the Superintendent or Chief Emergency Officer. This team is responsible for resource assistance and management during emergencies as necessary.

B. Superintendent’s Executive Cabinet

The Superintendent’s Executive Cabinet includes Deputy Superintendent’s, all District Chiefs and any other specially designated individuals. This group may be activated to provide assistance to any building or crisis situation.

C. Chief Emergency Officer

The designated Chief Emergency Officer, or Superintendent, in coordination with the Director of Safety and Security and the District Emergency Response Planning Coordinator are responsible for numerous duties and responsibilities surrounding emergency planning and response. They are responsible to coordinate communication between school staff, law enforcement and other first responders. The Chief Emergency Officer leads the efforts of the District-Wide School Safety Team in its annual review and update of the District-Wide School Safety Plan. The Department of Safety and Security coordinates safety, security and emergency training for District and school staff to include the annual emergency response plan overview. The Emergency Response Planning Coordinator assists all schools with annual updates and completion of Building-Level Emergency Response Plans. The designated Chief Emergency Officer coordinates with multiple departments to include Safety and Security, Transportation and Information Technology to evaluate and select appropriate security related technology and any corresponding procedures.

D. Command Post

During an emergency, the Superintendent or Chief Emergency Officer may activate the District Emergency Response Team, when necessary. If relevant, a Command Post location will be designated and established. In addition to the District Emergency Response Team, the Superintendent or Chief Emergency Officer may summon additional cabinet members and resources to report to this location. The Command Post location may vary depending on the type and extent of the incident.

E. District Data and Contacts

Routine updates to District data and contacts is available to key personnel (including all building principals), but is not available to the general public.

F. District-Wide School Safety Team

The District-Wide School Safety Team will meet quarterly to discuss school safety issues under the direction of the Chief Emergency Officer/Director of School Safety and Security. Additional meetings may be scheduled if a serious incident occurs, the District-Wide School Safety Plan needs to be updated, or any other identified special need. The team will consist of staff members from across the District who consult with emergency responders and community members and include members from District Operations, Board of Education, Safety and Security, Student Services, Teacher, Administrator, Rochester Association of Paraprofessionals, Board of Education Non-Teaching Employees and Parent Organizations, Transportation, Facilities, and the Auditor General office. This team will make recommendations to the Superintendent and Chief Emergency Officer regarding school safety issues. The team will also be responsible for annual updates to the District-Wide School Safety Plan for submission to the Board of Education for annual adoption.

GENERAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROCEDURES

Subsequent sections of this District-Wide School Safety Plan outline specific response actions for individual and specific emergency situations. If an emergency situation occurs at the building-level, it is the responsibility of each and every District employee to take those actions which are geared toward preserving the health and safety of all students and staff.

At the conclusion of a critical incident or emergency, the Incident Commander should ensure an incident report or summary of events is written for reporting to the Superintendent or Chief Emergency Officer. The extent of the report will be determined by the scope of the event, or as directed by the Superintendent or Chief Emergency Officer.

A. Concept of Operations

The overall strategy of the District-Wide School Safety Plan and Building-Level Emergency Response Plans is to execute effective and timely decisions and actions that prevent harm, protect lives and property, mitigate damages, restore order, and aid recovery. These plans are based upon the concept that the incident management functions that must be performed by the school staff generally parallel some of their daily routine functions. To the extent possible, the same personnel and material resources used for daily activities will be employed during incidents. Personnel and equipment resources are limited, so some routine functions that do not contribute directly to the incident may be suspended. The personnel, equipment, and supplies that would typically be required from those routine functions will be redirected to accomplish assigned incident management tasks.

Implementation of the Incident Command System (ICS)

The Incident Command System (ICS) will be used to manage all incidents and major planned events and drills. In general, the initial Incident Commander at the school will be the building principal and is delegated the authority to direct all incident activities within the school's jurisdiction. The Incident Commander will establish an Incident Command Post (ICP) and provide an assessment of the situation to the emergency responders, identify incident management resources required, and direct the on-scene incident management activities from the ICP. If no Incident Commander is present at the onset of the incident, the most qualified individual will assume command until relieved by a more qualified Incident Commander. A defined chain of command is included within each Building-Level Emergency Response Plan.

Initial Response

School personnel are most likely to be the first on the scene of an incident in a school setting. Staff and faculty are expected to respond as appropriate and notify the principal, or designee. Command may be transferred to someone more qualified and/or to an emergency response agency with legal authority to assume responsibility (Police, Fire or EMS, dependent upon the nature of the incident) upon their arrival at the school. Staff will seek guidance and direction from the school, District and emergency responders. Any school or District staff member in a building that sees or is aware of an emergency shall activate the Building-Level Emergency Response Plan.

B. Building-Level Emergency Response Plans (BLERPs)

Each Rochester City School District Building-Level Emergency Response Plan will be developed by the Building-Level Emergency Response Team under the guidance of the Chief Emergency Officer. [8 NYCRR Section 155.17 \(b\) and 155.17 \(c\) \(2\)](#) - requires that each school shall have a Building-Level Emergency Response Team that consists of representatives from the following groups: teacher, administrator, parent organizations, school safety personnel, other school personnel, community members, local law enforcement officials, local ambulance or other emergency response agencies, and any other representatives the Board of Education or other governing body deems appropriate. A Building-Level Emergency Response Team and Post Incident Response Team will also be appointed by the principal or administrator annually.

The Building-Level Emergency Response Team is responsible for the overall development, maintenance, and revision of the Building-Level Emergency Response Plan (BLERP) and for coordinating training and exercising the school BLERP. Team members are expected to work closely together to make recommendations for revising and enhancing the plan.

Building-Level Emergency Response Plans will be on file and updated annually with the City of Rochester Police Department and the New York State Police. BLERPs will remain confidential, including but not limited to the floor plans, blueprints, schematics or other maps of the immediate surrounding area. The plans are not be subject to disclosure under Article Six of the Public Officers Law or any other provision of law and shall not be disclosed except to authorized department or school staff, and law enforcement officers.

Building-Level Emergency Response Plans will include detailed guidance and directions for the following situations:

Response Annexes

- Shelter in Place - Response
- Hold in Place - Response
- Evacuation - Response
- Lockout - Response
- Lockdown - Response

Functional Annexes

- Accounting for All Persons
- Communications
- Continuity of Operations
- Recovery
- Reunification
- Security

Threat Specific Annexes

- Abuse Recognition and Prevention
- Active Shooter/Terrorist
- After-hours

Animal
Anthrax
Assaults/Fights
Bomb Threats
Building Events
Bus Incident/Accident
Cold Emergencies
Common Childhood Illnesses
Crime Scene Management
Cyber Threat
Field Trip
Fire
Food Defense
Functional Needs
Gas
General Emergency
HAZMAT
Heat Emergencies
Intruder/Hostage
MCI
Mechanical Emergencies
Medical and Mental Health
Missing/Lost Child
Pandemic
Opioid Crisis
Radiologic Event
Safe Room/Area of Refuge
Serious Injury/Death
Student Unrest
Sudden Cardiac Arrest
Suicide/Threat of Suicide
Threat of Violence
Weapons
Weather/Natural Disaster

C. Organization and Assignment of Responsibilities

The Incident Commander is not expected to manage all of the aspects associated with an incident without assistance. The school relies on other key school personnel to perform tasks that will help manage the incident and ensure the safety of students and staff during a crisis or incident. The Incident Command System (ICS) uses a team approach to manage incidents. It is difficult to form a team while a crisis or incident is unfolding. Roles should be pre-assigned based on training and qualifications. Each staff member and volunteer must be familiar with his or her role and responsibilities before an incident occurs. The Building-Level Emergency Response Team and Post-Incident Response Team will be used to fill these roles.

D. Direction, Control, and Coordination

Coordination with Responders

Building-Level Emergency Response Plans identify emergency response agencies and the means to contact them for emergency and non-emergency situations. The District maintains a positive working relationship with all emergency response agencies within the District and have regular communication with their leadership. The Department of Safety and Security will coordinate monthly safety meetings with the Rochester Police and Fire Departments. Each school may maintain additional school specific agreements with outside agencies as necessary for its students. These agreements will specify the means of communication and services to be provided. In the event of an incident involving outside responders, a transfer of command from the school Incident Commander should occur and the establishment of unified command with the responding agencies.

Use of Resources

The school will use its own resources and equipment to respond to incidents until emergency responders arrive. The District will assist the schools in securing necessary resources.

E. Administration, Finance and Logistics

Agreements and Contracts

If school resources prove to be inadequate during an incident, the school may request assistance from the District. Additional assistance may be requested from local emergency agencies, or other agencies, in accordance with an existing Memoranda of Understanding. Such assistance includes equipment, supplies and personnel. All agreements entered into are authorized by District and school officials.

F. Communications During Emergencies

The school and District will maintain communications with parents, the media and emergency responders during an incident. The School Incident Commander or Chief Emergency Officer will work with the District's Chief Communications Officer/Public Information Officer and emergency responders to coordinate the release of information ensuring that information is consistent, accurate and timely. Communication procedures are detailed further in the Building Level Emergency Response Plans and include but are not limited to individual phone calls, Robo calls, emails and letters home to parents and guardians. During an emergency, access to a school building or classroom by parents or guardians may be limited and will be determined by the Incident Commander.

G. Multi-Hazard Response

There are many variables that could impact the manner in which the School and/or District Emergency Response Team responds to a particular occurrence. These variables could include

but are not limited to: time of year, time of day, weather, and age of student involved, location of student, anticipated delay from emergency responders, availability of support personnel, and availability of transportation. General Incident Command procedures are followed for every incident. Specific decisions are made based on the particular incident. Incident Commanders focus on critical decisions that need to be made in every emergency pursuant to our primary goal of preventing the loss of life and injury of students and school staff.

The building principal or their designee is designated as the Incident Commander of their school during a crisis situation until relieved by a higher authority. The principal or designee will provide leadership, organize activities and disseminate information with the assistance of the Building-Level Emergency Response Team or District Chief Emergency Officer.

In most instances where a school level response is warranted, the school may seek assistance from other emergency responders in resolving the situation. As such, the immediate objective is to contain the incident and successfully manage the situation until the emergency personnel arrive.

H. Emergency Notifications

Notification of significant events or events that required a call to 9-1-1 shall be made to the appropriate Chief of Schools, Chief Emergency Officer or Director of Safety and Security in accordance with the District's Emergency Incident Report Framework. Further notifications to the Superintendent, District Emergency Response Team, Executive Cabinet and/or Board of Education will be conducted in accordance with District guidance. These notifications shall occur at the earliest and safest possible time during the response phase. Additional resources may be requested in order to more efficiently and effectively deal with an incident.

I. Responses to Acts of Violence: Implied or Direct Threats

The recognition and early intervention into potentially violent situations is critical, it shall be the practice of the District to handle all threats and potentially threatening situations or circumstances in a serious and deliberate manner. In addition to reporting and investigating direct threats, all staff are responsible for relaying to their school administration information about any student behaviors or communications that suggest a threatening situation is possible.

Depending on the imminent nature of the threat, the following procedures may be used by the District:

- Use of staff trained in de-escalation or other strategies to diffuse the situation.
- Inform building principal or designee of implied or direct threat or concerning behaviors or communications.
- Contact 9-1-1 if the threat may be imminent. Direct threats to personal safety may necessitate an immediate response by law enforcement.
- The building principal or designee may initiate a threat assessment inquiry to attempt to determine the level and credibility of a threat.
- As time permits, this inquiry will involve interviewing potential witnesses as well as the individuals involved. Some factors to consider when evaluating the level of threat include, but are not limited to, specificity of threat to a person or persons, mention of specific means or access to weapons, specific reason or justification and history of the student.

- Monitor situation, adjust response as appropriate, and include the possible use of the counseling and social work staff.
- Follow up with the appropriate procedures as outlined in the District's Code of Conduct.
- Additional response guidelines are outlined in the Building-Level Emergency Response Plan.

J. Acts of Violence

When an act of violence has occurred involving school students or staff, the principal or designee must quickly obtain all essential information to determine the degree of threat or danger and decide on what actions might mitigate further risk. General non-specific actions may include:

- Call 9-1-1 and notify Chief of Schools, Chief Emergency Officer or Director of Safety and Security.
- Isolate the immediate area and initiate appropriate Functional and/or Threat Specific Annexes (e.g. Lockdown, Lockout, Crime Scene Management, etc.) if necessary.
- Identify and separate the involved persons if possible.
- Monitor situation; adjust response as necessary. Initiate additional Functional or Threat Specific Annexes as appropriate.
- Follow the District's designated notification process.
- Additional response guidelines are outlined in the Building-Level Emergency Response Plan.

K. Threat and Hazard Specific Response

The District has established appropriate response annexes to a variety of emergency situations. The response guidelines are detailed in each Building-Level Emergency Response Plan as recommended by the NYSED Safe Schools Template. Acknowledging that some responses may be managed at the District level, these larger and more encompassing emergencies will involve all schools to some degree. Building-Level Emergency Response Plans will continue to include these annexes to ensure consistency and knowledge of responses at the school level. The Rochester City School District Department of Transportation maintains transportation safety guidelines and procedures.

L. Obtaining Advice and Assistance from the Local Government

In the event of an emergency where additional advice, assistance or assets not readily available to the District, the Superintendent, Chief of Schools or Chief Emergency Officer will activate the District Emergency Response Team to help provide needed assistance. The Rochester City School District is partnered with the City of Rochester and its subdivisions (police, fire etc.) for specific circumstances. In the event of a major disaster, NYS Executive Law, Article 2.B., section 24 may apply. The City or County Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) may be activated for incidents impacting the community, to which the Rochester City School District may be part of. The activities of the EOCs will be coordinated by the Office of Emergency Management.

M. District Resources Available for Use in an Emergency

The District has identified District-based resources which may be available during an emergency. These resources are available through the District Emergency Response Team and District leadership. Resources requested will be dependent upon the nature and extent of the incident or crisis and may include transportation or student support services or student counselors.

N. Response and Functional Annexes

Response and functional Annexes focus on the critical operational functions and courses of action designed to carry them out. In New York State, to ensure consistency, schools are provided with standardized definitions. These annexes are defined in detail in the Building-Level Emergency Response Plans.

O. Threat and Hazard Specific Annexes

Threat and Hazard Specific Annexes focus on the critical operational functions and courses of action designed to carry them out. These annexes identify a variety of potential incidents that a school may face and provide guidance to school and District staff on how to manage the incidents. Annexes are updated and added as identified and needed. Threat and Hazard Specific Annexes are defined in detail in the Building-Level Emergency Response Plans.

P. Crime Scene Management

Evidence is critical to the investigation and prosecution of criminal cases. Therefore, only trained professionals should do the collection and preservation of evidence. Before those professionals arrive, it is important that the crime scene remain as uncontaminated as possible. There are things that can be done by people who arrive at the scene first to help protect the evidence. Specific crime scene management procedures are outlined in the Building-Level Emergency Response Plans.

Q. Emergency Evacuation of Non-Ambulatory, Disabled or Individuals with Disabilities

Each building principal is responsible for identifying non-ambulatory, disabled staff or students and any individual with a disability. The principal is responsible for assigning an area of rescue for such persons unable to evacuate the building in close proximity to an evacuation stairwell, as possible. A staff member should be assigned to assist the individuals that are located there. This information will be a part of the Building-Level Emergency Response Plan and available to local emergency responders for use during an emergency.

R. Accounting for All Persons

The safety and security of our students is of paramount importance. This includes knowing the location of all students whom have been entrusted to the District and schools during the school day. This includes the time from bus pick-up or arrival at schools through the time students are

dropped off at home by the District or have left the campus under normal circumstances. The District emphasizes the importance of timely and accurate attendance taken for each classroom and throughout the school day. The Building-Level Emergency Response Plan has procedures in place to:

- Report to the principal or administration when a student, staff member or guest cannot be located.
- Take attendance and report to the Incident Commander when class relocates inside the building or an evacuation takes place.
- Detailed guidelines are outlined in the Building-Level Emergency Response Plan and is in line with the District's Wandering and Elopement policy.

S. Family Reunification Plans

Any incident has the potential for students and staff to have to leave the school building to an identified alternate location. Due to this potential, it is important for each school to have a family reunification plan. Families should be reunified at each building's evacuation site and will require assigned personnel and plans. The District Emergency Response Team will assist with any family reunification situation. Detailed guidelines are included in each Building-Level Emergency Response Plan.

T. Crisis Occurring Outside of Normal School Hours

There are many groups and programs that utilize District facilities during non-school hours. Every reasonable effort should be made to ensure the leadership of the after-hours groups understand the District and school emergency procedures and evacuation locations. The individual responsible for the school-based activity at the building is considered the Incident Commander and will activate the Emergency Response Plan.

If there is a community-based organization hosting a program then it is the principal's responsibility to brief the leader on the emergency plan.

For official after-school programs such those conducted through the City of Rochester Department of Recreation, the program does have an emergency response plan, however, the principal is responsible for reviewing the building plan with the program coordinator to insure that appropriate contacts and follow-up reports are completed for RCSD. Once an incident is identified to have occurred, notifications should follow normal District policies.

For after-school programs conducted through the City of Rochester Department of Recreation, the program follows their emergency response plan protocol. However the program is responsible for communicating the outcome to the principal to insure that appropriate follow-up and reports are completed for RCSD if applicable. Once an incident is identified to have occurred, notifications should follow normal District policies.

U. Pandemic Response Plan

The District Pandemic Response Plan is an all-encompassing preventative pandemic response framework that addresses precautions to prevent, mitigate, prepare, and recover from a pandemic

or epidemic emergency or situation within the Rochester City School District and surrounding community. The Pandemic Response Plan is maintained by Student Health Services. The District will work closely with the Commissioner of Health to contain, prevent and respond to infectious diseases in the school district as well as the community in general. While preparing and responding to infectious disease, the District will seek out and adhere to all guidance received from local, state and federal public health authorities as it pertains to continuity of operations, social distancing and personal protective equipment guidelines.

V. Opioid Crisis

The opioid public health emergency is a nationwide crisis that affects all aspects of every community. In preparation for emergency opioid situations, all District health offices are equipped with nasal naloxone. School health staff as well as the District School Safety Officers have been trained in naloxone use and will continue to receive annual training. Student and staff support, mental health and addiction resources are available if and when any drug or alcohol abuse or addiction situations are identified. Drug use emergencies will be managed under the Medical and Mental Health Annex.

W. Procedures for Informing Other Educational Agencies of an Emergency

The Chief Emergency Officer and Director of Safety and Security will evaluate the impact of an emergency on other educational agencies within the School District. If the impact is evident, the Chief Emergency Officer or Director of Safety and Security will coordinate communication with the contact person at each affected educational agency and inform them of the status of the emergency. If contact with other educational agencies cannot be made, the Chief Emergency Officer or Director of Safety and Security will contact the Rochester Police Department and RCSD Mobile Units or Road Patrol for assistance in communicating information to these educational facilities. If transportation, sheltering and other types of assistance are to be provided to other educational agencies, the Chief Emergency Officer and/or Director of Safety and Security will make arrangements to implement this assistance.

X. Procedures for Sheltering Students, Staff and Visitors

In the event that it becomes necessary to shelter students, staff, visitors, or other individuals, the building principal or their designee will contact their Chief of Schools, Chief Emergency Office or Director of Safety and Security in accordance with District guidelines. Internal District notifications will take place in accordance with District guidelines. If it becomes apparent that students will not be able to leave the facility, the school principal will make arrangements for adequate supervision of the students under their direction and to make provisions for building maintenance (custodial) and food services. It shall be the responsibility of the Chief Emergency Officer to inform appropriate police, Red Cross, and emergency preparedness officials. District resources will be requested and provided in accordance with District guidelines. The District has also partnered with different local and state agencies to provide shelter to the community during certain disasters or emergencies. The District is part of the City of Rochester Emergency Plan for sheltering and additional resources, as needed. The Chief Emergency Officer is the contact for those agencies during the crisis and will take appropriate actions during such incidents.

Y. Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)

The COVID-19 Pandemic Crisis emphasized the importance of a comprehensive Continuity of Operations Plan. During any crisis event, the Superintendent, or designee, shall appoint a Leadership Team, Taskforce or Working Groups to assist in the management of the crisis as needed. Plans and documents developed in response to a crisis will be maintained by the appointed group and be made available as needed. For example, the RCSD COVID response and safety plans, as well as reopening plans, are maintained by the RCSD COVID Taskforce and the Superintendent's office. Plans available to the public may be posted on the RCSD website under the relevant department such as Safety and Security or Student Health Services. The Rochester City School District will help ensure that essential functions will continue during an emergency and its immediate aftermath. Essential functions include business services (payroll and purchasing), communication (internal and external), computer and systems support, facilities maintenance, safety and security, and continuity of teaching and learning. Each department and school will maintain and ensure the District's overall ability to continue with teaching and learning of our students as well as District business operations for the duration of any crisis situation. COOP plans are fluid and will follow all local, state and federal guidelines as required and necessary. Detailed COOP plans are located in the Building-Level Emergency Response Plan.

As part of the COOP, The District will use resources to:

- Identify primary and secondary relocation sites for each building that meet the needs of school;
- Allow the COOP to be activated at any time and sustained for the duration of the crisis;
- Continuing or re-establishing essential functions, such as restoration of school and District operations, teaching and learning, food service, and maintaining the health and safety of our students, staff and the RCSD community as a whole;
- Ensuring students receive applicable related services in the event of a prolonged closure;
- Protect vital documents and make them available at alternate sites;
- Identify personnel to assist in developing and operating the COOP.

Z. Recovery

District Support for Buildings

The District will use all resources at its disposal to support the District Emergency Response Team, Building-Level Emergency Response Teams and the Post-Incident Response Teams in the affected school(s) after the incident has been resolved to the point where normal operations can resume. Additional support includes but is not limited to mental health services, building security and facility restoration.

Disaster Mental Health Services

The District Department of Student Support Services maintains a detailed list of resources that can be made available throughout the District as needed. Each school maintains a Post-Incident

Response Team at the building level and this is detailed in the Building-Level Emergency Response Plan. Additional support and resources will be identified through the District Emergency Response Team as the crisis dictates. This may take the form of seeking additional local support or accessing federal and state mental health resources, as needed.

Post-Incident Response

Each RCSD school maintains a Building-Level Post-Incident Response Team. After the safety and status of students, staff and visitors has been assured and emergency conditions have resolved following an incident, staff, teachers and school officials will assemble to support the restoration of the school's educational programs. Defining mission-critical operations and staffing this effort is the starting point for the recovery process. Collecting and disseminating information will also facilitate the recovery process.

Trauma, Illness and Grief Team (TIG)

The District TIG team is a group of counselors, psychologists, social workers, nurses and other staff members who have received specialized training in responding to the emotional needs of students, teachers and other school personnel, which arise from trauma, violence, illness, grief or loss. The TIG team is responsible for coordinating District crisis team activities. This team will also oversee the initial and on-going training program for all building crisis teams and maintain records.

Rochester City School District

The Rochester City School District, represented by the Superintendent, and the Board of Education, supports the following authorities in the compliance for Rochester City School District emergency planning and management:

- Rochester City School District Code of Conduct <http://www.rcsdk12.org/domain/16>
- RCSD Human Capital Initiatives-Harassment, Intimidation & Bully Reporting Process and Form <http://www.rcsdk12.org/report>
- 34 CFR 104.4 - Discrimination prohibited http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=1ba9a94cba024d10c834ef0a659cba20&node=se34.1.104_14&rgn=div8
- 8 NYCRR Section 155.17 (New York State Project SAVE-Safe Schools Against Violence in Education) http://www.p12.nysed.gov/facplan/Laws_Reqs/8NYCRR155.htm
- NYSED Code 2801-a – Chapter 16, Title II, Article 55 – School Safety Plans <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/lawsregs/2801a.html>
- NYSED Law 807 – Fire and Emergency Drills http://www.p12.nysed.gov/facplan/FireSafety/FireDrillFreq_120309.htm
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) <http://www.ada.gov>
- City of Rochester Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and County of Monroe Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan <http://www2.monroecounty.gov/safety-oep.php>
- Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5) <http://www.dhs.gov/publication/homeland-security-presidential-directive-5>
- Homeland Security Presidential Directive 8 (HSPD-8) <https://www.dhs.gov/presidential-policy-directive-8-national-preparedness>
- National Incident Management System (NIMS) <http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/icsresource/index.htm>
- New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code-Title 19 NYCRR 1220-1226, 1240 <http://www.dos.ny.gov/dcea/>
- New York State Article 2-B <http://www.dhss.ny.gov/laws-policies/documents/Exec-Law-Art-2-B-2018.pdf>
- Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/15271?fromSearch=fromsearch&id=3564>
- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 <http://www.justice.gov/crt/about/cor/coord/titlevi.php>
- Rochester City School District Policies <https://www.rcsdk12.org/domain/22>



Every child is a work of art.
Create a masterpiece.

