

SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Springfield, New Jersey 07081

POLICY: EMERGENCIES AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

The Chief School Administrator shall direct the development of plans, procedures and mechanisms for responding to emergencies and crises in the schools that threaten human life and property. He/she shall consult with law enforcement agencies, health and social services agencies and emergency management planners in developing these plans and shall ensure that they provide for the protection of the health, safety and welfare of the school population as well as supportive services for staff, students and their families.

Plans and procedures shall include these elements:

- A. Cooperation with local government agencies in developing and carrying out a school/community disaster plan that includes procedures for building lockdowns when necessary;
- B. Mechanisms for the orderly evacuation of buildings in case of fire or other emergencies;
- C. Means to provide as much protection as possible for children at school and on their way to and from school;
- D. Training in individual self-protection and survival techniques for pupils and staff;
- E. Communicating specific instructions to pupils and staff so that the school emergency plan may be carried out with the greatest possible speed and safety.

The Chief School Administrator shall develop and provide an in-service training program for school staff to enable them to recognize and appropriately respond to crises, consistent with the district's plans, procedures and mechanisms for managing crises. The in-service program shall be reviewed and updated annually.

Fire Drills

Fire drills shall be held at least twice each month for all pupils. The Chief School Administrator may order a modification of the fire drills so that they may take the form of indoor drills or of rapid dismissals with outdoor clothing when low temperatures prevail.

A written statement of procedures and instructions for fire drills shall be formulated by the Chief School Administrator and disseminated to all staff.

Instruction in fire prevention shall be given and emphasized in appropriate courses in the curriculum of the school.

Emergency Closings/Delayed Openings

The Chief School Administrator is authorized by the Board to close the schools, open them late or dismiss them early in hazardous weather or in other extraordinary circumstances which might endanger the health or safety of pupils or school employees.

Each year, parents/guardians, pupils, and staff members shall be informed in advance of how they shall be notified in the event of emergency closings. Parents/guardians shall be required to make alternative arrangements for their children in case no one is home to receive a child after an unscheduled early closing.

Bomb Scares

The buildings shall be evacuated as for a fire drill. Staff shall follow the procedures established by the Chief School Administrator to deal with such emergencies.

Legal References:

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-2 Instruction in accident and fire prevention
N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1 General mandatory powers and duties
N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12 Closing schools during epidemic
N.J.S.A. 18A:41-1 et seq. Fire drills and fire protection
N.J.S.A. 18A:54-20 Powers of board (county vocational schools)
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.4(a)14 District policies and procedures
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.1 et seq. School Safety and Security
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.3 Reporting students or staff members to law enforcement agencies
N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.2 Policies and procedures for school facility operation
N.J.A.C. 8:57-1.7 Reporting of diseases occurring in schools

A Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement between Education and Law Enforcement Officials (1999 Revisions)

Cross References:

1410 Local units
2210 Administrative leeway in absence of board policy
3541.33 Transportation safety
4131/4131.1 Staff development; in-service education/visitations/conferences
4231/4231.1 Staff development; in-service education/visitations/conferences
5141.6 Crisis intervention

6111 School calendar
6112 School day

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