

School Safety and Security Plans

Presented by the
NJSBA Policy Unit



New Jersey School Boards Association

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School Safety and Security Plans

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.1 and the Memorandum of Agreement between Education and Law Enforcement Officials, Article 8:

“Each school district shall develop and implement comprehensive plans, procedures and mechanisms that provide for safety and security in the public elementary and secondary schools of the school district.”



School Safety and Security Plans

- The Plan shall be developed with the consultation of law enforcement agencies, health and social services provider agencies, emergency management planners and school and other community resources, as appropriate, in the development of the school district's plans, procedures and mechanisms for school safety and security; and
- Shall be consistent with the provisions of Administrative Code and the format and content established by the Domestic Security Preparedness Task Force, pursuant to N.J.S.A. App. A:9-64 et seq., and the Commissioner of Education.



School Safety and Security Plans

Other Requirements Include:

- The plans, procedures, in-service training and mechanisms shall be reviewed annually and updated, as appropriate.
- The district board of education shall disseminate a copy of the school safety and security plan to all district employees.
- The district shall develop and provide an in-service training program for all district employees to enable them to recognize and appropriately respond to safety and security concerns, including emergencies and crises, consistent with the district's plans, procedures and mechanisms for school safety and security.



Safety and Security Manual

- In 2004 the Dept. of Education and the Domestic Security Preparedness Task Force developed a model manual and best practice guide for districts to use.
- In 2007 this manual was updated to provide districts with additional guidance for addressing the priorities of the Governor' Domestic Security Task Force.



Safety and Security Manual

- The manual was designed to provide districts with the information needed to assist them in establishing comprehensive plans, procedures and mechanisms to address areas of concern.
- The manual is organized according to chapters that reflect the four stages of crisis management (Mitigation/Prevention, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery) as well as the equally important Long-Range Planning and Evaluation stage after a crisis has occurred.



Safety and Security Manual

- The manual realizes that because safety concerns of individual schools vary by factors such as size, location and available resources, some users may feel overwhelmed by the amount of information in this manual.
- All school districts should assess all of the information provided to determine how it applies to their current situations.



Administrative Response Procedures

- These procedures are models and should be individualized for schools after consideration of the best practices set forth in the *School Safety and Security Manual: Best Practices Guidelines*, and in consultation with local first responders.
- These procedures cover five areas:
 - Active Shooter
 - Bomb Threats
 - School Lockdowns
 - Evacuation
 - Public Information



Communication

- Both the Administrative Response Procedures and the Memorandum of Agreement note the importance for clear communications, chain of command and decision making protocols must be established between emergency responders and schools.
- Both documents reference the Incident Command System (ICS)



Summary

- School Districts are required to establish a comprehensive Safety and Security Plans, procedures and other mechanisms to provide for a safe and secure learning environment.
- The Dept. of Education and the Domestic Security Preparedness Task Force have developed a model manual and procedures for schools to use as a guideline.
- The Memorandum of Agreement and Administrative Code require schools to work with local first responders in the development of their plan and to provide law enforcement with a copy of the plan and updates annually.



Possible Recommendations from Committee

- School Districts have safety and security plans, procedures and mechanisms as required by N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.1.
- These plans must be developed with the consultation of law enforcement agencies, health and social services provider agencies, emergency management planners and school and other community resources, as appropriate.
- School districts be advised of the tools provided by the DOE to assist them in preparing their plans, procedures and mechanisms.
- That all plans and procedures be consistent with the municipalities' Emergency Management Plan.
- All plans, procedures and mechanisms be reviewed annually.
- Copies of the district's school safety and security plan along with any revisions be provided to law enforcement officials at least annually.



Possible Recommendations from Committee

- A copy of the school safety and security plan be disseminated to all district employees and when changes or updates are made to the plan employees be briefed in writing.
- Ensure that districts develop, provide and review annually an in-service training program for all employees to enable them to recognize and appropriately respond to safety and security concerns, including emergencies and crises, consistent with the district plans, procedures and mechanisms for school safety and security.



Questions?



Thank You

