

2020-2021

SEWANHAKA CENTRAL
HIGH SCHOOL
DISTRICT-WIDE

SCHOOL SAFETY PLAN

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SEWANHAKA CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Comprehensive Safety Plan

Policy Statement

The Sewanhaka Central High School **District-Wide School Safety Plan** (as required by the SAVE Law – Safe Schools Against Violence in Education – Commissioner of Education Regulation 155.17) has been established to provide for the safety, health and security of both students and staff and allows for input from the entire school community. This particular component of Project SAVE is a comprehensive planning effort that addresses risk reduction/prevention, response and recovery with respect to a variety of emergencies, which may occur in the school district and its component school buildings.

The Board of Education has appointed, under the direction of the Superintendent of Schools, a **District-Wide School Safety Team** to develop, implement and maintain all provisions of the Plan. After a public meeting, this plan was adopted by the School Board on August ___, 2020. This Plan incorporates all **Building-Level Emergency Response Plans** that have been developed by the **Building-Level Emergency Response Teams** appointed by the **Building Principals**. In the event of an emergency or violent incident, the initial response at an individual school building will be the responsibility of **the Building Level Emergency Response Team**. Upon activation of the School Building Emergency Response Team the Superintendent of Schools or designee and appropriate local emergency response officials will be notified. The nature of any given emergency will dictate the degree of interaction with both State and Local Emergency Response Agencies. The local BOCES Health & Safety Office will assist in development of protocols for accessing these services.

The District-Wide School Safety Plan was made available for public comment 30 days prior to its adoption and provided for participation of the entire school community. The District-Wide and Building-Level Plans were formally adopted by the School Board after at least one public hearing. As required by law, the District-Wide School Safety Plan is posted on the school district website by October 1st of each school year and will be reviewed annually by the District-Wide School Safety Team by October 1st of each school year. Building-Level Emergency Response Plans will be updated by September 15th of each school year by the Building-Level Emergency Response Team and filed with both State and Local Police by October 1st of each school year.

The Sewanhaka Central High School District refuses to tolerate violence or threats of violence on school grounds and by implementation of this Plan will make every effort to prevent violent incidents from occurring. We will provide the appropriate authority and budgetary resources in support of this effort. Violence prevention is the responsibility of the entire school community and we encourage participation of all individuals. Our Plan requires the prompt reporting of all violent incidents or threats and assures that victims or reporters of incidents of violence will not be discriminated against.

A copy of the Sewanhaka Central District-Wide Plan is available upon request and is available at Central Administration in the office of the Superintendent of Schools and on the District's website. Although the Building-Level Emergency Response Plans are linked to the District-Wide School Safety Plan, in accordance with Education Law Section 2801-a, the **Building-Level Emergency Response Plans will remain confidential and not be subject to disclosure**. This will further ensure safety at the building-level and reduce the potential for planned sabotage.

Elements of the Comprehensive School Safety Plan

- Identification of sites of potential emergencies.
- Plans for responses to emergencies including school cancellation, early dismissal, evacuation and sheltering.
- Responses to an implied or direct threat of violence.
- Responses to acts of violence including threats made by students against themselves including suicide.
- Prevention and intervention strategies including collaborative arrangements with law enforcement officials to ensure that school safety and security personnel are appropriately trained; non-violent conflict resolution training; peer mediation programs; extended day and other school safety programs.
- Plans to contact law enforcement officials in the event of a violent incident and arrangements for receiving assistance from emergency and local government agencies.
- Plans for identification of district resources and coordination of such resources and manpower available during an emergency.
- Designation of the Chain-of-Command (Incident Command)
- Plans to contact parents and guardians including when students make threats of violence against themselves
- School building security
- Dissemination of information regarding early detection of potentially violent behavior.
- Plans to exercise and conduct drills to test the Building-Level Emergency Response Plan including review of tests.
- Annual school safety training for staff and students.
- Protocols for bomb threats, hostage taking, intrusions and kidnapping.
- Strategies for improving communication and reporting of potentially violent incidents.
- A description of the duties of hall monitors and/or other school safety personnel with the requirements for training, hiring, and screening process for all personnel acting in a school safety capacity
- Information about the school district including population, staff, transportation needs and telephone numbers of key school officials.
- Documentation and record keeping

School District Chief Emergency Officer

The **Superintendent of Schools is the Chief Emergency Officer** and through designated personnel will provide:

- Coordination of communication between school staff/law enforcement/first responders.
- Assistance in the selection of security related technology and procedures for its use.
- Coordination of safety, security, and emergency training for school staff.
- Assistance in required evacuation and lock-down drills completion as required by law.
- Assurance that all school district staff understand the District-Wide School Safety Plan.
- Assurance that the District-Wide School Safety Plan and Building-Level Emergency Response Plans are completed, reviewed annually and updated as needed.

District-Wide School Safety Team (Threat Assessment Team)

The District-Wide School Safety Team is appointed by the School District Board of Education and will always include the representation noted below at a minimum. The major function of the District-Wide School Safety Team is to create the District-Wide School Safety Plan and update as necessary.

- School Board Member – James Redden
- Teacher Representative – Chris Mayer
- Administrator – Jennifer Alaimo, Brian Burke, Frank Geritano, Sharon Flynn, Marc Isseks,
- Parent/Teacher Organizations – Helen Hoffman
- School Safety Personnel – Kevin O’Brien, Regina Agrusa, Scott Greene, Matt Castelluzzo, Matt McLees, Dan Espina, Dr. Taryn Johnson
- Buildings – Kevin Dougherty, Maria Hecht, Christopher Fiore, Dr. Richard Faccio, Nichole Allen

Responsibilities of the District-Wide School Safety Team

The Sewanhaka Central High School District-Wide Safety Team will act as a Threat Assessment Team with the responsibility to assess the vulnerability of the school district to violence and recommend to the Superintendent and School Board preventive actions that they feel are necessary. The Team will meet a minimum of four times a year and minutes of each meeting will be kept. An agenda will be established prior to each meeting. The Team will maintain responsibility for auditing the District-Wide School Safety Plan to determine its success in violence prevention. Some of the team’s primary responsibilities will include:

- 1) Recommending training programs for students and staff in violence prevention and mental health. Annual training will be completed by September 15th and may be included in existing professional development. New employees will receive training within 30 days of hire.
- 2) Dissemination of information regarding early detection of potentially violent behavior.

- 3) Developing response plans to acts of violence and address threats made by students against themselves, including suicide. We will also address methods for contacting parents/guardians when students make threats of violence against themselves.
- 4) Communicating the Plan to students and staff.
- 5) Reviewing previous incidents of violence and examining existing records to identify patterns and trends that may indicate causes of violence (OSHA 200 Logs; Incident Logs; Worker Compensation Reports; Police Reports; Accident Investigations; Grievances, etc.).
- 6) Making recommendations necessary for change.
- 7) Arranging for annual security analysis including the inspection of all buildings to evaluate the potential for violence. Possible evaluators include County and Local Police Departments, consultants or District-Wide Safety Team Sub-Committee or Building-Level Team.
- 8) Recommending improved security measures based on school building inspection results.
- 9) Conducting annual school building survey of students and staff to identify the potential for violent incidents.
- 10) Reviewing survey results and recommending actions that are necessary.

District-Wide Security Team

The District-Wide Security Team is an annex to the District-Wide Safety Team. The District-Wide Security Team is comprised of the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, members of the Nassau County Police Department, Homeland Security, Floral Park Police Department, School Board President and a parent from the Sewanhaka Central High School District.

Responsibilities of the District-Wide Security Team

The Sewanhaka Central High School District-Wide Security Team will utilize the expertise of our local law enforcement agencies to consult with the district on the effectiveness of our security measures, make suggestions on ways to improve our security measures, and keep the district informed on current events happening in the districts four communities. Following each District-Wide Security Team meeting, all information will be reported to the District-Wide Safety Team.

Building-Level Emergency Response Team

The Building-Level Emergency Response Team is **appointed by the School Building Principal**. The major focus of this team is to create, monitor, and update the Building-Level Emergency Response Plan that is sent to Central Administration for review, certification and submitted to the New York State Education Department by October 1. The Building-Level Emergency Response Team will meet throughout the school year to plan and coordinate building safety and security efforts and report their results to the District-Wide School Safety Team. This team, at a minimum will include the following representation:

- Teacher
- Administrator
- Parent Organization
- School Safety Personnel

- Community Members
- Law Enforcement
- Fire Officials
- Ambulance
- Others

The **Building-Level Emergency Response Team** is responsible for selecting the following:

- **Emergency Response Team** (Core group of actual responders not to be confused with the Building-Level Emergency Response Team which is a larger team for the purposes of planning and monitoring) which has the following representation:
 - School Personnel
 - Law Enforcement Officials
 - Fire Officials
 - Emergency Response Agencies
- **Post-Incident Response Team** (Individuals who can assist in the medical and psychological aftermath of a violent incident or emergency) which has the following representation:
 - Appropriate School Personnel
 - Medical Personnel
 - Mental Health Counselors
 - Others (Psychologists, Social Workers, etc.)

Risk Reduction/Prevention and Intervention

Prevention/Intervention Strategies:

Program Initiatives

1. Non-violent conflict resolution training programs
2. Peer mediation programs
3. Extended day and other school safety programs
4. Youth-run programs
5. Creating a forum or designating a mentor for students concerned with bullying/violence
6. Establishing anonymous reporting mechanisms for school violence
7. Professional Development for district and building staff.

Training, Drills and Exercises

The best way to train students and staff on emergency response procedures is through annual drills and exercises in each school building. Based on the determination of the District-wide School Safety Team and the Building-Level School Safety Team, at a minimum, the following methods may be used:

- ✓ Early Go-home drill

- ✓ Live drills including sheltering, evacuation and lock-down
- ✓ Live drills for specific responses (hostage taking, bomb-threat, etc.)
- ✓ Table-top exercises by local law enforcement and Nassau County Boces
- ✓ Emergency Response Team exercises
- ✓ Building pre-clearance searches
- ✓ Situation Drill

The Sewanhaka Central High School District recognizes that critical evaluation of drills and exercises is the best learning experience and results in improved response procedures. As a result, the district invites local agencies to participate in and to help evaluate all exercises. These agencies may include but not be limited to local Police and Fire Departments, Rescue and Ambulance Services, Local Emergency Management Offices and the local BOCES Health & Safety Office. Following each drill, the building and law enforcement team will conduct a review of the drill to discuss any improvements needed. Each building will prepare a drill summary for the District-Wide Safety Team.

Implementation of School Security

School Security Aide personnel will help carry out the Sewanhaka Central High School District Comprehensive Safety Plan and may include anyone in the school community. These individuals will receive appropriate annual training as required under the Regulation. These individuals are not to be confused with school security guards that are specifically regulated under the New York State Security Guard Act that requires specific training, fingerprinting and background checks. Each year, all security aides will meet with the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent to review policies and procedures set forth by the Sewanhaka Central High School District. In addition, discussions are held regarding professionalism and sexual harassment.

Appropriate school building security measures and procedures will be determined by the Sewanhaka Central High School District-Wide School Safety Team and Building-Level School Safety Team after review of school building procedures and practices, emergency response plan and Code of Conduct. Based on these findings security measures may include:

- ✓ Electronic Visitor Management System: ALL VISITORS are screened entering the building. All visitors will need to provide identification will be screened electronically. A thermal badge will be provided and will be escorted to their destination by school personnel.
- ✓ Ensuring that ALL DOORS remain locked at all times
- ✓ Video surveillance
- ✓ NYS certified security aides
- ✓ Regular security audits
- ✓ Random searches may be conducted if deemed necessary
- ✓ We will employ any other methods deemed necessary and constantly review our current practices

Vital School Information

Each Building Response Plan contains vital information such as school population, number of staff, transportation needs and telephone numbers of key educational officials.

Early Detection of Potentially Violent Behavior

The Sewanhaka Central High School District-Wide School Safety Team makes recommendations for appropriate annual training for students and staff in violence prevention and mental health (online training may be utilized). Training includes early warning signs of potentially violent behavior and early intervention/prevention strategies. Training is conducted by in-house staff, local agencies or others as deemed appropriate. Training for students and staff will be conducted annually and include:

- An explanation of what constitutes school violence and a description of the school Code of Conduct. Written information on early detection of potentially violent behavior and a summary of the Code of Conduct.
- Dissemination of the New York State Office of Mental Health one-page handout *What Every Teacher Needs to Know – Recognizing Suicide Risk in Students* and review of the “FACTS” warning signs.
- The district will utilize any resources available for violence prevention and mental health training including those found at the following websites:
<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/documents/MentalHealthResourcesforEducators.pdf> and
<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/documents/SVPIRequiredComponents.pdf>.
- A description of the school district’s Violence Prevention Program and Safety Plan.
- Information on how to report incidents of violence including threats and verbal abuse.
- How to recognize and respond to school security hazards.
- Review of measures implemented to prevent school violence such as use of security equipment and safety procedures and how to defuse hostile situations.
- How to summon assistance in the event of an emergency.
- Special procedures for bomb threats, hostage-taking, intrusions and kidnapping.
- Post-incident procedures including medical follow-up and the availability of counseling and referral.
- Student training will include post-drill or actual event review by classroom teachers.

Other methods for informing parents and students include:

- Gang awareness programs with parental involvement.
- Operation Pride through Nassau County.
- Youth Pride.
- School social worker outreach.
- School counselor involvement. (SEE-SAW Program)
- First and Second Step programs.
- Anger Management programs.
- Mailings twice a year to parents on violence prevention and early recognition.
- 21st Century program.

- Conflict resolution programs.

Records will be maintained of all participants along with their evaluation of the training program. Trainers will be knowledgeable and familiar with our District-Wide School Safety Plan.

Hazard Identification

As part of each Building-Level Emergency Response Plan, each Building-Level Emergency Response Team will determine sites of potential emergencies that may impact the individual school building. Such sites may include but not be limited to all school buildings, properties adjacent to schools, off-site athletic fields, buses and off-site field trips, and specifically defined areas of current concern as identified by Building-Level Staff. Each school is required to submit a floor by floor map of the building as part of each buildings Emergency Response Plan that is submitted on the New York State Education Portal, in addition to be submitted to the local law enforcement precincts.

Responses to Violence

(Incident reporting, Investigation, Follow –Up, Evaluation, and Disciplinary Measures)

All incidents of violence, whether or not physical injury has occurred (verbal abuse, threats of violence, etc.), should be reported immediately and documented on the **Individual Incident Report (IIR)**. With the realization that employees and students may otherwise be reluctant to come forward, we will maintain confidentiality. Individuals will be assured that there will be no reprisal for reporting their concerns. Incidents will be reported as follows:

The School Building Principal/Administrator or Designee will be responsible for receiving and responding to all incident reports including anonymous reports. Information on the reporting process for students and staff will be provided as part of the violence prevention training program. Each incident will be reported to and evaluated by the District-Wide School Safety Team (Threat Assessment Team) for the purpose of compiling data and evaluating the Violence Prevention Program.

Relationships have been established with local law enforcement officials and emergency response agencies at the building level. Representatives from these agencies are asked to participate on Building-Level School Safety Teams.

Reporting

Once an incident has been reported, and depending on its severity, the School Building Principal/Administrator or Designee will assume responsibility as the Incident Commander.

- Report it to the local Police Department.

- Secure the area where the disturbance has occurred.
- Ensure the physical safety/medical management of students/staff remaining in the area as soon as possible.
- Ensure that while responding to the incident, the remainder of the building remains appropriately supervised.
- Quickly assess the area of the incident to determine damage as a result of the incident and if it is safe to remain. If necessary, evacuate or shelter as per Building-Level Emergency Response Plans.
- Provide incident debriefing to students/staff as needed. Notify parents.

Investigation

After an incident has occurred the Threat Assessment Team will conduct a detailed investigation. It is the purpose of the Team to focus on facts that may prevent recurrence, not find fault. The Team conducting the investigation will:

- Collect facts on how the incident occurred.
- Record information.
- Identify contributing causes.
- Recommend corrective action.
- Encourage appropriate follow-up.
- Consider changes in controls, policy and procedures.

Follow-up

The Sewanhaka Central High School District recognizes the importance of responding quickly and appropriately to the medical and psychological needs of students/staff following exposure to a violent incident. All individuals affected by a violent act in the school district will be provided with appropriate medical and psychological treatment and follow-up. Provisions for medical confidentiality and protection from discrimination will be included to prevent the victims of violent incidents from suffering further loss.

Evaluation

The Sewanhaka Central High School District-Wide School Safety Team (Threat Assessment Team) is responsible for ensuring that an initial school building security analysis is conducted and periodically re-evaluated. These physical evaluations will focus on the identification and assessment of school building security hazards and address necessary changes in building practices. These evaluations will review the potential for different types of violent incidents including bomb threats, hostage-taking, intrusions, and kidnapping. Professionals will be utilized from local law enforcement and private consultants as necessary.

Disciplinary Measures

The Sewanhaka Central High School District Code of Conduct will be the basis for determining the appropriate disciplinary measures that may be necessary.

Code of Conduct

The Sewanhaka Central High School District has created a detailed Code of Conduct to describe the expected behavior of students, staff and visitors to school buildings and the disciplinary actions resulting for violations of the Code. The Code, which is communicated to all students/staff and parents, serves as a major component of our violence prevention program. The Code is evaluated annually and revised as necessary to reflect changes in school policies and procedures. A copy of the Code of Conduct will be posted to the District Website and made available to students, parents, staff and community members.

Emergency Response Protocols

Notification and Activation (Internal and External Communication)

Quick and accurate contact with appropriate law enforcement officials is essential in the event of a violent incident. These relationships will be established by participation of local response officials on Building-Level Emergency Response Teams. These individuals and appropriate means of contact will be documented in the Building-Level Emergency Response Plan.

Internal communication is also of prime importance and is specifically defined in the Building-Level Emergency Response Plan. Depending on the nature of the emergency, some of the communication methods include telephone, fax/e-mail, district radio system, NOAA weather radio, intercom, local media, emergency alert system, cellular phones, and others as deemed necessary. Appropriate notifications and methods are determined by the Sewanhaka Central High School District-Wide School Safety Team.

The Superintendent of Schools recognizes his responsibility to notify all educational agencies within the school district of a disaster and has established the following notification list.

School	Principal	Phone	Fax
Elmont	Mr. Kevin Dougherty	488-9210	488-9213
Floral Park	Ms. Maria Hecht	488-9300	488-9214
H. Frank Carey	Mr. Christopher Fiore	539-9400	538-1791
New Hyde Park	Dr. Richard Faccio	488-9500	488-9506
Sewanhaka	Mrs. Nichole Allen	488-9683	488-9215

School	Superintendent	Phone	Fax
Elmont	Kenneth Rosner	326-5500	326-5574
FP Bellerose	Dr. Kathleen Sottile	434-2725	327-9304
Franklin Square	Dr. Jared Bloom	505-6975	505-6972
New Hyde Park-GCP	Dr. Jennifer Morrison	434-2305	352-6282

School	Principal	Phone	Fax
Notre Dame	Ms. Caryn Durkin	354-5618	354-5373
Our Lady of Victory	Ms. Peg Augello	352-4466	352-2998

In general, parent/guardian notification will be conducted by means of the ConnectEd phone tree of emergency contacts established in each school building. However, in some cases it may be necessary to use other means such as local media. Prior arrangements will be established with the appropriate media.

The Sewanhaka Central High School District recognizes that many different types of emergency situations may arise resulting in emergency specific responses. A detailed listing of emergency responses are included in each School Building Emergency Response Plan specifically addressing Criminal Offenses, Fire and Explosion, Medical Emergencies, Natural Hazards, System Failure and Technological Hazards. Each Building-Level Emergency Response Team will be responsible for reviewing and updating these responses and communicating them to students and staff. The following emergency situations are of prime importance.

Active Shooter (RAVE Application)

In an event of an Active Shooter or any event of an emergency, Building Principals, Assistant Principals and Deans have the ability with a push of a button on their cell phone to bypass all 911 calls and induce an emergency response by local law enforcement. Local law enforcement has a map of the building as well as rights to all of the school's security cameras in order to identify any possible threat in the building. The Nassau County Police Department tests the application each year with each building

Bomb Threats

All Sewanhaka Central High School District administrators are familiar with the Bomb Threat Standards outlined in the Building-Level Emergency Response Plan so that appropriate decisions may be made depending on the exact nature of the situation. Issues such as searches, pre-clearance, weather conditions, evacuation, sheltering, notification, returning to the building and false bomb threat prevention are addressed in the Building Plans. The FBI Bomb Threat Call Checklists are available at phone reception areas as part of the School Building Training Plan which will be distributed in each school building.

Hostage Taking

The Building-Level Emergency Response Plan (Hazard Specific Response Guide) procedures will be followed in the event of a hostage situation. In general the following response actions will be taken:

- The first person aware of the situation will immediately notify the principal's office and call 911.
- The school principal or designee will issue the appropriate alert if necessary and isolate the area.
- The school principal or designee will notify the School Superintendent. No response to the media will be given at this time.
- The school principal or designee will turn over authority to the police upon their arrival and assist as requested.

Intrusions

The Building-Level Emergency Response Plan (Hazard Specific Response Guide) procedures will be followed in the event of an intrusion. In general, the following response action will be taken:

- The first person becoming aware of an intruder or suspicious person will immediately report this information to the principal's office.
- The principal or designee will approach the intruder to determine the nature of their presence and ask them for identification.
- The principal or designee will accompany the individual(s) to the proper office or if no acceptable purpose can be ascertained, ask the individual(s) to leave. The principal or designee should ensure that the individual(s) has exited the building and alert staff to prevent unrecognized re-entry.
- If the individual(s) refuse to leave, inform them that they are in violation of the law and that the police will be notified. Notify building security if available and Dial 911 or other appropriate emergency notification.
- **If the situation escalates, plain language** will be utilized to notify all teachers to lock doors. Once lockdown is announced, administrators will evacuate students who have been locked out of their classroom or are in public areas. Students will be evacuated to a safe area outside the building as per normal evacuation procedures.
- The School Superintendent's office will be notified so appropriate resources can be made available to the school district.
- The building principal should be prepared to relinquish authority and assist the first emergency responder from the police or emergency services.

Kidnapping

The Building-Level Emergency Response Plan (Hazard Specific Response Guide) procedures will be followed in the event of a kidnapping. In general, the following response action will be taken:

- During school hours, **when a student has already been documented as present**, the first person aware of a kidnapping or missing student will immediately notify the principal's office who will obtain student information and photo I.D. School building staff and security personnel will search the building and also utilize the public announcement system.
- Parent/guardian will be notified. If student is not found, police will be notified.
- The school principal will turn over the investigation to the police upon arrival and assist as requested. No information is to be released to the media.
- Parents will be notified immediately if the student is located.
- During school hours, **when a student has not arrived at school**, parent or guardian will immediately be contacted. Parents should be asked to contact the school if the student is located.
- If a student is not legally absent he/she could be lost, a runaway or truant (determine if any friends are also missing).
- The student's means of transportation to school should be reviewed. If a student is not located, the police should be notified. Student information and photo I.D. will be obtained.
- The school Superintendent will be notified.
- The school principal will turn over the investigation to the police upon arrival and assist as requested. No information is to be released to the media.
- Parents will be notified immediately if the student is located.
- After school hours, **when a student has not arrived at home**, the school may be notified by a concerned parent/guardian.
- Gather any information available on the student and their departure from school.
- Advise parents/guardians to contact friends.
- Advise parent/guardian to contact police if a student is not located. School principal or designee should be available for police investigation.
- Ask the parent/guardian to re-contact the school if the student is located.

Responses to Acts of Violence (Implied or Direct Threats)

Response actions in individual buildings will include:

- Implementation of the Incident Command System.
- Use of staff trained in de-escalation techniques
- Inform building Principal
- Determine level of threat with Superintendent
- Contact law enforcement agency, if necessary
- Monitor situation, adjust response as appropriate, utilize Building Emergency Response Team if necessary

Responses to Acts of Violence (Actual)

The following procedures will be followed when responding to actual acts of violence:

- Implementation of the Incident Command System.
- Determine the level of threat
- If necessary, isolate the immediate area through a Hold-In Place, and evacuate if necessary
- Inform building Principal/Superintendent
- If necessary, initiate lockdown procedure and contact appropriate law enforcement agency
- Monitor situation, adjust response as appropriate, if necessary, initiate early dismissal, sheltering or evacuation procedures

Response Protocols

Response protocols to specific emergencies will vary but usually will include the following:

- Implementation of the Incident Command System.
- Identification of decision makers
- Plans to safeguard students and staff
- Procedures to provide and notify transportation, if necessary
- Procedures to notify parents (Connect Ed calls, email, website updates)
- Procedures to notify media
- Debriefing procedures

Emergency Assistance from Local Government

Depending on the nature of the emergency, school districts may need to obtain assistance from local government agencies. During an emergency school districts will contact 911 to obtain emergency services. Other agencies that may be contacted to obtain assistance may include the Red Cross, Fire Department, Local Police, Nassau County Office of Emergency (Commissioner), Nassau County Department of Mental Health, Nassau BOCES District Superintendent, Private Industry Groups, Religious Organizations, among others. For specific assistance beyond the scope of the School District's resources, the Nassau County Office of Emergency Management will coordinate with State and Federal agencies and assist in all post-incident response. These contacts will be clearly delineated in the Building-Level Emergency Response Plans.

District Resources Use and Coordination

Building-level Emergency Response Plans will address the identification, availability, and use of resources. This will include procedures for coordination of these resources including manpower and Chain-Of-Command.

Protective Action Options

School Building-Level Emergency Response Plans, which are confidential, address the following response actions as determined by the nature of the emergency. Specific response actions are explained in detail in each building plan:

School Cancellation

(Conditions warrant making a decision not to open schools)

1. Monitor any situation that may warrant a school cancellation
2. Make determination
3. Contact local media

Early Dismissal

(Conditions warrant returning students to their homes)

1. Monitor situation
2. If conditions warrant, close school
3. Contact Transportation Supervisor to arrange for transportation
4. Contact local media to inform parents
5. Set up information center for parent inquiries
6. Retain appropriate district personnel until all students have been returned home

Evacuation

(Conditions in the building are unsafe warranting relocation)

1. Determine the level of threat
2. Contact Transportation Supervisor to arrange transportation
3. Clear all evacuation routes and sites prior to evacuation
4. Evacuate all staff and students to pre-arranged evacuation sites
5. Account for all student and staff population; report any missing students or staff to building Principal
6. Make determination regarding early dismissal
7. If dismissing early, contact local media to inform parents
8. Ensure adult supervision or continued school supervision/security
9. Set up information center for parent inquiries
10. Retain appropriate district personnel until all students have been returned home

Sheltering (internal and external)

1. Determine the level of threat
2. Determine the location of sheltering depending on the nature of the incident
3. Account for all students and staff. Report any missing staff or students to building Principal
4. Determine other occupants in building
5. Make appropriate arrangements for human needs
6. Take appropriate safety precautions
7. Establish a public information office to respond to inquiries
8. Retain appropriate district personnel until all students have been returned home

Hold-In-Place

(Conditions warrant isolation of a specific area of the building – usually short-term)

Lockdown

(The most serious situation for a school – a threat is in the building)

Lockout

(A threat exists outside the school building or in the vicinity)

National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS)

NTAS advisories – whether they be Alerts or Bulletins – encourage individuals to follow the guidance provided by state and local officials and to report suspicious activity. Where possible and applicable, NTAS advisories will include steps that individuals and communities can take to protect themselves from the threat as well as help detect or prevent an attack before it happens. Individuals should review the information contained in the Alert or Bulletin, and based upon the circumstances, take the recommended precautionary or preparedness measures for themselves and their families.

Bulletin:

Describes current developments or general trends regarding threats of terrorism.

Elevated Threat Alert:

Warns of a credible terrorism threat against the United States.

Imminent Threat Alert:

Warns of a credible, specific, and impending terrorism threat against the United States.

Individuals should report suspicious activity to local law enforcement authorities. Often, local law enforcement and public safety officials will be best positioned to provide specific details on what

indicators to look for and how to report suspicious activity. The *If You See Something, Say Something*[™] campaign across the United States encourages the public and leaders of communities to be vigilant for indicators of potential terrorist activity, and to follow the guidance provided by the advisory and/or state and local officials for information about threats in specific places or for identifying specific types of suspicious activity.

Recovery

School District Support for Buildings:

The Building Emergency Response Teams and the Post-Incident Response Teams will be supported in their efforts by all available in-district resources and personnel as required by the nature of the emergency. County and State resources and personnel will be obtained as dictated by the nature of the emergency.

A School District Support Team would be available when necessary to assist all school buildings in their response effort. This Team will be composed of:

- Superintendent of Schools – Dr. James J. Grossane
- Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations (including Food Service) – Kevin O’Brien
- Director of Facilities – Matt Castelluzzo
- Transportation Coordinator – Michael Onufrey
- Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel & Special Education - Regina M. Agrusa
- Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent (School Safety Co-Coordinator) – Scott Greene
- Director of Athletics, Physical Education, Health and School Nurses- Matt McLees

Disaster Mental Health Services

The Building-Level Emergency Response Team will designate the Post-Incident Response Team in each school building to respond in crisis situations and help provide disaster mental health services as outlined in the Building-Level Emergency Response Plan.

A District-Wide Post-Incident Response Team will respond in crisis situations to help provide disaster mental health services, as appropriate. Depending on the scope of the situation, the Nassau County Emergency Management Office may be contacted to help coordinate a County or State-Wide effort. The Post-Incident Response Team will consist of the Building’s Pupil Personnel Services, Psychologists and Social Workers.

Forms and Record Keeping

The success of our Violence Prevention Program will be greatly enhanced by our ability to document and accurately report on various elements of the program along with training staff on our Plan. This will allow us to monitor its success and update the program as necessary. The

following forms have been developed for this purpose and will be located in the Forms Section of the Building-Level Emergency Response Plan.

- Individual Incident Report (IIR)
- Self-Inspection Security Checklist
- Student/Staff Security Survey
- Bomb Threat Response
- School Building Training Pamphlet
- Training Documentation

Additional resources and training materials have been developed for this purpose and can be obtained on the Nassau Schools Emergency Planning Consortium website at www.nassauschoolemergency.org under the **Safety Plans** tab.

Appendix A

Pandemic Plan

Our District -Wide School Safety Plan is based on addressing the four phases of emergency management (Prevention/Mitigation; Preparedness; Response; Recovery) This Pandemic Plan is built upon the components already existing in our District-Wide School Safety Plan that also incorporates our Building-Level Emergency Response Plans. It is a flexible plan developed in collaboration with a cross section of the school community and public health partners and will be updated regularly to reflect current best practices. The Plan will be tested (exercised) routinely as part of the overall exercise of the District Wide School Safety Plan. The District-Wide School Safety Team assumes responsibility for development and compliance with all provisions of this plan and implementation at the building level through the Building Level Emergency Response Team.

Prevention/Mitigation

- We will work closely with the Nassau County Department of Health to determine the need for activation of our Plan. The following procedures will be followed by school nurses for reporting communicable disease, including influenza, Covid-19 and communicating with the Health Department.
 - Report suspected and confirmed cases of influenza and Covid-19 on the monthly school's Communicable Disease Report, (DMS-485.7/93, HE-112.4/81) and submit to: Nassau County Department of Health, Bureau of Infectious Diseases, 240 Old Country Road, Mineola, NY. 11501
 - Public Health Consultation and Immediate Reporting: 516-227-9639
 - Weekend/After-hours Consultation and Reporting: 516-742-6154

The Nassau County Department of Health will monitor County-Wide cases of influenza and Covid-19 and inform school districts as to appropriate actions.

The Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel and the District Athletic Director will help coordinate our Pandemic planning and response effort. They will work closely with the District-Wide School Safety Team that has the responsibility for reviewing and approving all recommendations and incorporating them into the District-Wide School Safety Plan. The school district physician and school nurses will provide vital support to the district administration. Because of the potential importance of technology in the response effort (communication and notification) the school district technology director will also be an important team member.

The District-Wide School Safety Team will review and assess any obstacles to implementation of the Plan. This will include issues related to Planning and Coordination, Continuity of Student Learning, Core Operations, Infection Control Policies and Procedures and Communication.

The school district will emphasize and place signage for hand washing and cough/sneezing etiquette through educational campaigns including the CDC Germ Stopper Materials, Cover Your Cough Materials, It's SNAP Toolkit and the NSF Scrub Clean which can be accessed at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/school/>

We will educate and provide information to our students and staff about our Pandemic Plan and about how to make an informed decision to stay home when ill.

Preparedness

- We have collaborated with our partners to assure complementary efforts. We have invited representatives from local law enforcement to attend our District-Wide Safety meetings. This will allow us to send consistent messages to the school community on pandemic related issues.

We have established our District-Wide Incident Command Structure as follows:

- Dr. James Grossane- Superintendent of Schools
- Kevin O'Brien- Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations
- John Capozzi- Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Administration
- Dr. Taryn Johnson- Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

- Regina Agrusa- Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel and Special Education
- Scott Greene- Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent
- Matt McLees- Director of Health and Physical Education and School Nurses
- Brian Messinger- District Coordinator Classroom Instructional Technology
- Michael Onufrey- Transportation
- Matt Casteluzzo- Director of Facilities
- Dan Espina- District Coordinator of Technology

Building-level Command Posts and Incident Command Structures are defined in the Building-Level Emergency Response Plans. Our incident Command System will complement and work in concert with the Federal, State, and Local Command Systems. Communication will be important throughout the pandemic outbreak. It will be necessary to communicate with parents, students, staff, and the school community. Communication methods may include school postings, general mailings, e-mails, connect-ed calls, phones, cell phones as well as 911 systems.

Continuity of operations and business office function could be severely impacted by a loss of staff. As such, our plan will include procedures for maintaining essential functions and services. This will include:

- Overall Operations- we have defined the following titles for decision-making authority for the Superintendent of Schools, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Administration, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction and Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel and Special Education. Recognizing the need for these essential individuals to have frequent communication, we have established as many redundant communication systems as possible. Our primary communication will be through our normal phone system followed by cell phone, email and our Connect- Ed district automated phone notification system.
- The Business Office is essential for maintaining overall function and facilities operation. Back up personnel will be important to maintain purchasing and payroll responsibilities. We have defined the following job titles for having back up responsibility in these areas. Payroll, Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, Transportation, Purchasing, Accounting and Food Service have been deemed essential. Therefore, we have recognized the need for job cross training. We train these individuals on an ongoing basis in preparation should a need arise. In addition, the district has established the ability to maintain these essential functions off site from remote locations as follows: The districts Coordinator of

Technology has set up at (VPN) Virtual Private Network in which the business office has the ability to conduct essential business functions remotely. Off-site function was tested in April, 2020.

- The Personnel Office will be essential in monitoring absenteeism and ensuring appropriate delegation of authority. Changes to district policies and procedures to reflect crisis response may become necessary. The Superintendent will work with administration and local officials to determine if schools need to be closed and a contingent plan needs to be enacted. The Superintendent of Schools has the authority, consistent with State and/or local guidance, to deem certain titles essential for maintaining overall function of the district.

Continuity of instruction will need to be considered in the event of significant absences or school closure. Restructuring of the school calendar may become necessary. We will work closely with the NYSED on this potential result throughout the crisis period. Some of the alternative learning strategies we have implemented to be used in combination as necessary include:

- Online instruction, online resources, online textbooks through district supplied I-Pads.
- The District will look to provide synchronous and asynchronous methods of instruction to our students.
- Communication modalities for assignment postings and follow through school email, Schoology, in addition to Google, Microsoft and Apple platforms.
- We have obtained input from curriculum staff in development of these strategies and have implemented and refined these methods March, 2020 during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Response

- The District-Wide Safety Team will meet to determine the need for activation of a pandemic response based on internal monitoring and correspondence with the Nassau County Department of Health and other experts. Each Building Level Emergency Response Team will be informed that the Plan has been activated.
- The entire Incident Command Structure at both the District and Building level will be informed that the response effort has been enacted. These individuals will meet to discuss the Plan's activation and review responsibilities and communication procedures.
- The Superintendent will work closely with the Technology Department will re-test all communication systems to assure proper function. The District Wide Safety Team and Building Level Emergency Response Teams will assist with the effort.

- The Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations will meet with staff to review essential functions and responsibilities of back up personnel. Ability to utilize off-site systems will be tested. The Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations will monitor utilization of supplies, equipment, contracts and provided services and adjust as necessary.
- The Director of Facilities will meet with staff and monitor ability to maintain essential function. The Director of Facilities will review essential building function procedures with the Principal and command chain. Sanitizing procedures will be reviewed with teachers and staff. The Director of Facilities will work closely with the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations to implement different phases of the plan as necessary.
- The Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Administration will meet with staff to review essential functions and responsibilities of back-up personnel along with monitoring absenteeism to assure maintenance of the Command Structure and possible need to amend existing procedures.
- Based on recommendations from Local and State Authorities, schools may be closed. Our Plan for continuity of instruction will be implemented as previously described.

Recovery

- Re-establishing the normal school curriculum is essential to the recovery process and should occur as soon as possible. We will work toward a smooth transition from the existing learning methods to our normal process. We will use all described communication methods and our public relations team to keep the school community aware of the transition process.
- We will work closely with NYSED to revise or amend the school calendar as deemed appropriate.
- Each Building Level Post Incident Response Team will assess the emotional impact of the crisis on students and staff and make recommendations for the appropriate intervention.
- The District will evaluate all building operations for normal function and re-implement appropriate maintenance and cleaning procedures.
- The District Wide School Safety Team and Building Level Emergency Response Teams will meet to debrief and determine lessons learned.
- Curriculum activities that may address the crisis will be developed and implemented.
- The District-Wide School Safety Team and Building-Level Emergency Response Teams will meet to de-brief and determine lessons learned and strategies to strengthen safety measures in our schools. Information from the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Administration, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel and Special Education, District Athletic Director, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and the Coordinators for District Technology will be vital to this

effort. The District-Wide Safety Plan and Building-Level Emergency Response Plans will be revised to reflect this.