



607 CRISIS MANAGEMENT POLICY

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Crisis Management Policy is to act as a guide for school district and building administrators, school employees, students, school board members, and community members to address a wide range of potential crisis situations in the school district. The step-by-step procedures suggested by this Policy will provide guidance to each school building in drafting crisis management plans to coordinate protective actions prior to, during, and after any type of emergency or potential crisis situation. The school has developed tailored building-specific crisis management plans for the school building, and sections or procedures may be added or deleted in those crisis management plans based on building needs.

The school district will, to the extent possible, engage in ongoing emergency planning with first responders and other relevant community organizations. The school district will ensure that relevant first responders in the community have access to their building-specific crisis management plans and will provide training to school district staff to enable them to act appropriately in the event of a crisis.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. The Policy and Plans

The school district's Crisis Management Policy has been created in consultation with local community response agencies and other appropriate individuals and groups that would likely be involved in the event of a school emergency. It is designed so that building administrators can tailor a building-specific crisis management plan to meet that building's specific situation and needs.

The school district's administration shall present tailored building-specific crisis management plans to the school board for review and approval. The building-specific crisis management plans will include general crisis procedures and crisis-specific procedures. Upon approval by the school board, such crisis management plans shall be an addendum to this Crisis Management Policy. This Policy and the plans will be maintained and updated on an annual basis.

B. Elements of the District Crisis Management Policy

- i. **General Crisis Procedures.** The Crisis Management Policy includes general crisis procedures for securing buildings, classroom evacuation, building evacuation, campus evacuation, and sheltering. The Policy designates the

individual(s) who will determine when these actions will be taken. Building administrators when creating their building-specific crisis management plans may modify these district-wide procedures. A communication system will be in place to enable the designated individual to be contacted at all times in the event of a potential crisis, setting forth the method to contact the designated individual, the provision of at least two designees when the contact person is unavailable, and the method to convey contact information to the appropriate staff persons. The alternative designees may include members of the emergency response team. A secondary method of communication is included in the plan for use when the primary method of communication is inoperable. The building has access to a copy of the Emergency Planning and Procedures Guide for Schools to assist in the development of building-specific crisis management plans. Finally, all general crisis procedures address specific procedures for children with special needs such as physical, sensory, motor, developmental, and mental health challenges.

- ii. Lock-Down Procedures. Lock-down procedures will be used in situations where harm may result to persons inside the school building, such as a shooting, hostage incident, intruder, trespass, disturbance, or when determined to be necessary by the building administrator or his or her designee. The building administrator or designee will announce the lock-down over the public address system. Code words will not be used. Provisions for emergency evacuation will be maintained even in the event of a lock-down. The building administrator has submitted lock-down procedures for their building as part of the building-specific crisis management plan.
- iii. Evacuation Procedures. Evacuations of classrooms and buildings shall be — implemented at the discretion of the building administrator or his or her designee. The building’s crisis management plan includes procedures for transporting students and staff a safe distance from harm to a designated safe area until released by the building administrator or designee. Safe areas may change based upon the specific emergency situation. The evacuation procedures include specific procedures for children with special needs, including children with limited mobility (wheelchairs, braces, crutches, etc.), visual impairments, hearing impairments, and other sensory, developmental, or mental health needs. The evacuation procedures address transporting necessary medications for students that take medications during the school day.
- iv. Sheltering Procedures. Sheltering provides refuge for students, staff, and visitors within the school building during an emergency. Shelters are safe areas that maximize the safety of inhabitants. Safe areas may change based upon the specific emergency. The building administrator or his or her designee announces the need for sheltering over the public address system or other designated system. The building administrator has submitted sheltering procedures for the building as part of the building-specific crisis management

plan.

- v. **Crisis-Specific Procedures.** The Crisis Management Policy includes crisis-specific procedures for crisis situations that may occur during the school day or at school-sponsored events and functions. These district-wide procedures are designed to enable building administrators to tailor response procedures when creating building-specific crisis management plans.
- vi. **School Emergency Response Teams**
 - 1. **Composition.** The building administrator in the school building has selected a school emergency response team that is trained to respond to emergency situations. All school emergency response team members receive on-going training to carry out the building's crisis management plans and have knowledge of procedures, evacuation routes, and safe areas. For purposes of student safety and accountability, to the extent possible, school emergency response team members will not have direct responsibility for the supervision of students. Team members are willing to be actively involved in the resolution of crises and be available to assist in any crisis situation as deemed necessary by the building administrator. The building maintains a current list of school emergency response team members, which is updated annually. The building administrator, and alternative designees, knows the location of that list in the event of a school emergency.

A copy of the list is kept on file in the sponsor's administrative offices.

- 2. **Leaders.** The building administrator or designee will serve as the leader of the school emergency response team and will be the primary contact for emergency response officials. In the event the primary designee is unavailable, the designee list includes more than one alternative designee and may include members of the emergency response team. When emergency response officials are present, they may elect to take command and control of the crisis. It is critical in this situation that school officials assume a resource role and be available as necessary to emergency response officials.

III. PREPARATION BEFORE AN EMERGENCY

A. Communication

- i. **District Employees.** Teachers generally have the most direct contact with students on a day-to-day basis. As a result, they must be aware of their role in responding to crisis situations. This also applies to non-teaching school personnel who have direct contact with students. All staff shall be aware of the school district's Crisis Management Policy and the building's crisis

management plan. The school's building-specific crisis management plan includes the method and dates of dissemination of the plan to its staff. Employees receive a copy of the relevant building-specific crisis management plans and shall receive periodic training on plan implementation.

- ii. Students and Parents. Students and parents shall be made aware of the school district's Crisis Management Policy and relevant tailored crisis management plans for the school building. The school district's building-specific crisis management plan sets forth how students and parents are made aware of the district and school-specific plans. Students shall receive specific instruction on plan implementation and shall participate in a required number of drills and practice sessions throughout the school year.

B. Planning and Preparing for Fire

- i. A safe area at least 50 feet away from the building has been designated to enable students and staff to evacuate. The safe area does not interfere with emergency responders or responding vehicles and is not in an area where evacuated persons are exposed to any products of combustion.
- ii. The building's facility diagram and site plan are available in appropriate areas of the building and identify the most direct evacuation routes to the designated safe areas both inside and outside of the building. The facility diagram and site plan identify the location of the fire alarm control panel, fire alarms, fire extinguishers, hoses, water spigots, and utility shut offs.
- iii. Teachers and staff will receive training on the location of the primary emergency evacuation routes and alternate routes from various points in the building. During fire drills, students and staff will practice evacuations using primary evacuation routes and alternate routes.
- iv. Certain employees, such as those who work in hazardous areas in the building, will receive training on the locations and proper use of fire extinguishers and protective clothing and equipment.
- v. Fire drills will be conducted periodically without warning at various times of the day and under different circumstances, e.g., lunchtime, recess, and during assemblies. State law requires a minimum of five fire drills each school year, consistent with Minn. Stat. § 299F.30. See Minn. Stat. § 121A.035.
- vi. A record of fire drills conducted at the building will be maintained in the building administrator's office.
- vii. The school district has prearranged sites for emergency sheltering and transportation as needed.

- viii. The school district determines which staff will remain in the building to perform essential functions if safe to do so (e.g., switchboard, building engineer, etc.). The school district also has designated an administrator or designee to meet local fire or law enforcement agents upon their arrival.

C. Facility Diagrams and Site Plans

The school building has a facility diagram and site plan that includes the primary and secondary evacuation routes, exits, designated safe areas inside and outside of the building, and the location of fire alarm control panel, fire alarms, fire extinguishers, hoses, water spigots, and utility shut offs. All facility diagrams and site plans will be regularly updated and whenever a major change is made to a building. Facility diagrams and site plans will be available in the office of the building administrator and in other appropriate areas and will be easily accessible and on file in the school sponsor's administrative offices. Facility diagrams and site plans will be provided to first responders, such as fire and law enforcement personnel. A secondary location for the diagrams and site plans has been included in the district's Crisis Management Policy and includes filing documents with the charter school sponsor, and compiling facility diagrams and site plans and distributing copies to the building landlord and first responders.

D. Emergency Telephone Numbers

The building will maintain a current list of emergency telephone numbers and the names and addresses of local, county, and state personnel who may be involved in a crisis situation. The list will include telephone numbers for local police, fire, ambulance, hospital, the Poison Control Center, county and state emergency management agencies, local public works departments, local utility companies, the public health nurse, mental health/suicide hotlines, and the county welfare agency. A copy of this list will be kept on file in the school sponsor's administrative offices, and updated annually.

School employees will receive training on how to make emergency contacts, including 911 calls, when the school district's main telephone number and location is electronically conveyed to emergency personnel instead of the specific building in need of emergency services. School district plans will set forth a process to internally communicate an emergency, using telephones in classrooms, intercom systems, or two-way radios, as well as the procedure to enable the staff to rapidly convey emergency information to a building designee. Each plan will identify a primary and secondary method of communication for both internal and secondary use. The plan includes several methods of communication because computers, intercoms, telephones, and cell phones may not be operational or may be dangerous to use during an emergency.

E. Warning Systems

The school district shall maintain a warning system designed to inform students, staff, and visitors of a crisis or emergency. This system shall be maintained on a regular basis under the maintenance plan for the school building.

It shall be the responsibility of the building administrator to inform students and employees of the warning system and the means by which the system is used to identify a specific crisis or emergency situation. Each school's building-specific crisis management plan includes the method and frequency of dissemination of the warning system information to students and employees.

F. Early School Closure Procedures

The director or designee will make decisions about closing school or buildings as early in the day as possible. The early school closure procedures will set forth the criteria for early school closure (e.g., weather-related, utility failure, or a crisis situation), will specify how closure decisions will be communicated to staff, students, families, and the school community (designated broadcast media, local authorities, e-mail, or district or school building web sites), and will discuss the factors to be considered in closing and reopening a school or building.

Early school closure procedures also will include a reminder to parents and guardians to listen to designated local radio and TV stations for school closing announcements.

G. Media Procedures

The director or designee has the authority and discretion to notify parents or guardians and the school community in the event of a crisis or early school closure. The director will designate a spokesperson that will notify the media in the event of a crisis or early school closure. The spokesperson shall receive training to ensure that the district is in strict compliance with federal and state law relative to the release of private data when conveying information to the media.

H. Grief-Counseling Procedures

Grief-counseling procedures will set forth the procedure for initiating grief-counseling plans. The procedures will utilize available resources including the school psychologist, counselor, community grief counselors, or others in the community. Grief-counseling procedures will be used whenever the director or designee determines it to be necessary, such as after an assault, a hostage situation, shooting, or suicide. The grief-counseling procedures shall include the following steps:

- i. Administrator will meet with relevant persons, including school psychologists and counselors, to determine the level of intervention needed

- for students and staff.
- ii. Designate specific rooms as private counseling areas.
- iii. Escort siblings and close friends of any victims as well as others in need of emotional support to the counseling areas.
- iv. Prohibit media from interviewing or questioning students or staff.
- v. Provide follow-up services to students and staff who receive counseling.
- vi. Resume normal school routines as soon as possible.

IV. PROCEDURES INCLUDED IN THIS POLICY

Procedures for the various hazards/emergencies listed below are attached to this Policy for the building- specific crisis management plan. After approval by the school board, the procedure will become an addendum to the Crisis Management Policy.

- A. Fire
- B. Hazardous Materials
- C. Severe Weather: Tornado/Severe Thunderstorm/Flooding
- D. Medical Emergency
- E. Fight/Disturbance
- F. Assault
- G. Intruder
- H. Weapons
- I. Shooting
- J. Hostage
- K. Bomb Threat
- L. Chemical or Biological Threat—not required for Spero Academy
- M. Checklist for Telephone Threats
- N. Demonstration
- O. Suicide
- P. Lock-down Procedures
- Q. Shelter-In-Place Procedures
- R. Evacuation/Relocation
- S. Media Procedures
- T. Post-Crisis Procedures
- U. School Emergency Response Team
- V. Emergency Phone Numbers

V. MISCELLANEOUS PROCEDURES

- A. Chemical Accidents

Procedures for reporting chemical accidents shall be posted at key locations: janitorial closets.

B. Visitors

The school shall implement procedures mandating visitor sign in and visitors in school buildings. See MSBA/MASA Model Policy 903 (Visitors to School District Buildings and Sites).

The school shall implement procedures to minimize outside entry into the school building except at designated check-in points and assure that all doors are locked prior to and after regular building hours.

C. Student Victims of Criminal Offenses at or on School Property

The school shall establish procedures allowing student victims of criminal offenses on school property the opportunity to transfer to another school.

Legal References:

42 U.S.C. § 5121 et seq. (Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance)
Minn. Stat. Ch. 12 (Emergency Management)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.06 (Reports of Dangerous Weapon Incidents in School Zones)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.035 (Crisis Management Policy)
Minn. Stat. § 299F.30 (Fire Drill in School; Doors and Exits)
Minn. Stat. § 609.605, Subd. 4 (Trespasses on School Property)
Minn. Rules Part 7510 (Fire Safety)
Title IX, Part E, Subpart 2, Section 9532 (No Child Left Behind)
20 U.S.C. § 7912 (Unsafe School Choice Option)

Cross References:

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 407 (Employee Right to Know – Exposure to Hazardous Substances)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 413 (Harassment and Violence)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 501 (School Weapons Policy)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 532 (Use of Peace Officers and Crisis Teams to Remove Students with IEPs from School Grounds)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 903 (Visitors to School District Buildings and Sites)