

## 806 CRISIS MANAGEMENT POLICY

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Crisis Management Policy is to act as a guide for the school 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 Fridley School District develops building-specific crisis management plans for each school building in the district 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 within the school district and 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 each building administrator can tailor a building-specific crisis management plan to meet that building's specific situation and needs.

The school district's administration and/or the administration of each building shall present tailored building-specific crisis management plans to the School Board for review and approval along with the district Emergency Crisis Management Guide. Upon approval by the School Board, such crisis management plans shall be an addendum to this Crisis Management Policy. The Policy and the plans will be maintained and updated on an annual basis.

#### B. Elements of the District Crisis Management Policy

1. **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. These district-wide procedures may be modified by building administrators when creating the building-specific crisis management plans. 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 Building Crisis Response Team. A secondary method of communication should be included when the primary method of communication is inoperable. Each building will have access to an Emergency Crisis Management Guide to assist in the development of the building-specific crisis management plans. Finally, all general crisis procedures will address specific procedures for children with special needs such as physical, sensory, motor, developmental, and mental health challenges.

- a. **Lock-Down Procedures.** Lock down procedures will be used in situations where harm may result to persons inside the school building, such as shooting, hostage incident, intruder, trespass, disturbance, or when determined to be necessary by the building administrator/designee. The building administrator or designee will announce the lock down over the public address system or other designated system. Code words will not be used. Provision for emergency evacuation will be maintained even in the event of a lock down. Each building administrator will submit lock down procedures for the building as part of the building-specific crisis management plan. Each building will conduct five lock-down drills each school year.
  - b. **Evacuation Procedures.** Evacuation of classrooms and buildings shall be implemented at the discretion of the building administrator or designee. Each building's crisis management plan will include 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 should 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 should also address transporting necessary medications for students that take medications during the school day. Each building will conduct five fire drills and one tornado drill each school year.
  - c. **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 designee will announce the need for sheltering over the public address system or other designated system. Each building administrator will submit sheltering procedures for the building as part of the building-specific crisis management plan.
2. **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.

### 3. Building Crisis Response Teams

- a. **Composition.** The building administrator in each school building will select a building crisis response team that will be trained to respond to emergency situations. All building crisis response team members will receive on-going training to carry out the building's crisis management plans and will have knowledge of procedures, evacuation routes, and safe areas. For purposes of student safety and accountability, to the extent possible, building crisis response teams will not have direct responsibility for the supervision of students. Team members must be 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. Each building will maintain a current list of building crisis response team members which will be updated annually. The building administrator and alternative designees will know the location of that list in the event of a school emergency. A copy of the list will be kept on file in the school district office.
- b. **Leaders.** The building administrator or designee will serve as the leader of the building crisis response team and will be the primary contact for the emergency response officials. In the event the primary designee is unavailable, the designee list should include more than one alternative designee and may include members of the building crisis 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

1. **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 their own building's crisis management plan. Each school's building-specific management plan shall include the method and date of dissemination of the plan to its staff. Employees will receive a copy of the relevant building-specific crisis management plan and shall receive periodic training on plan implementation.

2. **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 each school building. Each building-specific crisis management plan shall set 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 Preparation for Fire

1. Designate a safe area at least 50 feet away from the building to enable students and staff to evacuate. The safe area should not interfere with emergency responders or responding vehicles and should not be in an area where evacuated persons are exposed to any products of combustion.
2. Each building's facility diagram and site plan shall be available in appropriate areas of the building and shall identify the most direct evacuation routes to the designated safe areas both inside and outside of the building. The facility diagram and site plan must identify the location of the fire alarm control panel, fire alarms, fire extinguishers, hoses, water spigots, and utility shut offs.
3. 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 situations using primary evacuation and alternate routes.
4. 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.
5. 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 drills each school year.
6. A record of fire drills conducted at the building will be maintained in the building administrator's office.
7. The school district will have prearranged sites for emergency sheltering and transportation as needed.
8. The school district will determine which staff will remain in the building to perform essential functions if safe to do so (e.g. receptionist, head custodian, etc.). The school district also will designate an administrator or designee to meet local fire or law enforcement agents upon their arrival.

- C. **Facility Diagrams and Site Plans:** All school buildings will have a facility diagram and site plan that includes the location of 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 maintained by the building administrator and on file in the school district office. Facility diagrams and site plans will be provided to first responders, such as fire and law enforcement personnel.
- D. **Emergency Telephone Numbers:** Each 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 on file in the Emergency Crisis Management Guide and will be updated annually.

School district 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 be 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. It is recommended that the plan include 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, employees, and visitors of a crisis or emergency. This system shall be maintained on a regular basis under the maintenance plan for all school district buildings.

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

- F. **Early School Closure Procedures:** The superintendent will make decisions about closing schools or buildings as early in the day as possible. The early school closure procedures will set forth the criteria for each 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, where possible.

- G. Media Procedures: The superintendent 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 superintendent will designate a spokesperson who 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. Behavioral Health Crisis Intervention Procedures: Short-term behavioral health crisis intervention procedures will set forth the procedure for initiating behavioral health crisis intervention plans. The procedures will utilize available resources including the school psychologist, counselor, community behavioral health crisis intervention, or others in the community. Counseling procedures will be used whenever the superintendent or the building administrator determines it to be necessary, such as after an assault, a hostage situation, shooting or suicide. The behavioral health crisis intervention procedures shall include the following steps:
1. Administrator will meet the relevant persons, including school psychologists and counselors, to determine the level of intervention needed for students and staff.
  2. Designate specific rooms as private counseling areas.
  3. Escort siblings and close friends of any victims as well as others in need of emotional support to the counseling areas.
  4. Prohibit media from interviewing or questioning students or staff.
  5. Provide follow-up services to students and staff who received counseling.
  6. Resume normal school routines as soon as possible.
- I. Long Term Recovery Intervention Procedures: Long-term recovery intervention procedures may involve both short-term and long-term recovery planning:
1. Physical/structural recovery
  2. Fiscal recovery
  3. Academic recovery
  4. Social/emotional recovery



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**Fridley Public Schools** is committed to creating a welcoming, respectful environment that provides an equitable and inclusive education for each student, staff and community member by ensuring that opportunities, access, and resources are aligned to support the growth and academic achievement of each student.

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#### IV. PROCEDURES INCLUDED IN THIS POLICY

Procedures for the various emergencies listed below are included in the Emergency Crisis Management Guide. After approval by the School Board, these adopted procedures will become an addendum to the Crisis Management Policy.

- A. Assault and Rape
- B. Bomb Threats
- C. Building Security
- D. Bus Accidents
- E. Chemical or Biological Threat
- F. Child Abuse
- G. Childnapping
- H. Civil Defense Alert
- I. Death
- J. Demonstrations/Disturbances
- K. Emergency Phone Numbers
- L. Evacuation/Relocation
- M. Fight/Disturbance
- N. Fire
- O. Hazardous Material Emergency
- P. Highly Contagious Serious Illness or Pandemic Flu
- Q. Intruder/Hostage
- R. Lock-down
- S. Media Procedures
- T. Medical Emergencies
- U. Phone Threats
- V. Post-crisis
- W. Sex Offenders
- X. School Emergency Response Team
- Y. Shelter-in-place
- Z. Shooting
- AA. Suicide
- BB. Utility Emergencies
- CC. Vandalism/Burglary
- DD. Weapons
- EE. Weather Related Emergencies

#### V. MISCELLANEOUS PROCEDURES

- A. Chemical Accidents  
Procedures for reporting chemical accidents shall be posted at key locations such as chemistry labs, art rooms, swimming pools areas, and custodial closets.



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**B. Visitors**

The school district shall implement procedures mandating visitor sign in for visitors in school buildings (See also Policy 903)

The school district shall implement procedures to minimize outside entry into school buildings 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 district shall establish procedures allowing student victims of criminal offenses on school property the opportunity to transfer to another school within the school district.

[Note: The Every Student Succeeds Act, 20 U.S.C. § 6301, et seq.; Title IX, 20 U.S.C. § 1681, et seq.; and the Unsafe School Choice Option, 20 U.S.C. § 7912, require school districts to establish such transfer procedures.]

***Legal References:***

Minn. Stat. Ch. 12 (Emergency Management)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 12A (Natural Disaster; State Assistance)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.035 (Crisis Management Policy)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.06 (Reports of Dangerous Weapon Incidents in School Zones)  
Minn. Stat. § 299F.30 (Fire Drill in School)  
Minn. Stat. § 326B.02, Subd. 6 (Powers)  
Minn. Stat. § 326B.106 (General Powers of Commissioner of Labor and Industry)  
Minn. Stat. § 609.605, Subd. 4 (Trespasses on School Property)  
Minn. Rules, Ch. 7511 (Fire Safety)  
20 U.S.C. § 1681, *et seq.* (Title IX)  
20 U.S.C. § 6301, *et seq.* (Every Student Succeeds Act)  
20 U.S.C. § 7912 (Unsafe School Choice Option)  
42 U.S.C. § 5121 *et seq.* (Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance)

***Cross References:***

Policy 407 (Employee Right to Know - Exposure to Hazardous Substances)  
Policy 413 (Harassment and Violence)  
Policy 501 (School Weapons Policy)  
Policy 506 (Student Discipline)  
Policy 532 (Use of Peace Officers and Crisis Teams to Remove Students with IEPs from School Grounds)  
Policy 903 (Visitors to the School District Buildings and Sites)  
<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/sfm/documents/2011comprehensiveschoolsafetyguide.pdf>

***School Board Action:***

Approved September 19, 2000





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***Annual Review:***

<u>Month</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Notes</u>
January	2022	Reviewed / No changes