

The following text will be added to our 2019-20 District Wide Safety Plan:

1. Students are strongly encouraged to inform school staff about any direct or indirect threat of violence or actual act of violence to themselves, others or school property.
2. Staff members are required to immediately inform the Principal or his / her designee of any direct or indirect threat of violence or actual act of violence to students, themselves, others or school property. The Principal or his/her designee decides whether or not to utilize the building's trained clinician(s) in an effort to de-escalate or defuse the situation.
3. Parents and visitors are strongly encouraged to tell school staff about any indirect or direct threats of violence or actual act of violence towards students, themselves, others or school property.
4. After considering the specificity/generality of the threat or severity of the violent act, the Principal or his/her designee will decide whether or not to immediately contact the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee to advise them of the threat, get help to determine the level of threat or report the violent act. The Principal will have the discretion to report minor incidents to the Superintendent verbally and/or in memorandum form after the situation has been resolved.
5. The Principal or his/her designee will also decide whether or not to contact law enforcement personnel. Threats or actions placing students, staff and others in imminent danger require an immediate LOCKDOWN protocol followed by a call to the police and the District Superintendent (if safe to do so). Violent offenses defined in the S.A.V.E. regulations will also require the involvement of the police.
6. The principal, and/or his/her designee then determines the appropriateness of directing the Building Emergency Response Team to be activated.
7. The Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) consisting of trained staff and school personnel may assist with an Evacuation, Lockout, Shelter – In – Place, Hold – In – Place, or Early Dismissal and will follow the appropriate protocol (see appendixes for further information). The Incident Command System (ICS) under the National Incident Management System (NIMS) should be followed as closely as possible to ensure coordination between the building level teams, district leadership, and responding agencies.
8. If the threat of violence or danger is imminent, a Lockdown is to be utilized. A Lockdown is time sensitive and therefore may be requested by any school staff member based on the incident and timely need for the Lockdown. During the Lockdown, all school staff, students, and visitors (including all BERT members) are required to Lockdown in the nearest lockable space. Further directions are outlined in Building-Level Emergency Response Plans.
9. Procedures for contacting parents, guardians and persons in parental relation to students in the event of a violent incident or early dismissal are spelled out by each building. The use of the District's mass communication system is typically utilized.
10. Police should be called to assist school staff in managing dangerous and violent situations. Violent adults are to be reported to the building administrator immediately, and the police shall be called. Aggressively dangerous and violent students should only be restrained by qualified staff when practical.
11. The building administrator will investigate reported threats and reported acts of violence and will make the determination of disciplinary measure consistent with the District's Code of Conduct. Chronic offenders may require a behavior plan, close monitoring, and police involvement.
12. School administrators must keep records of serious threats and acts of violence and report them annually to the state.

The following text will be added to our 2019-20 District Wide Safety Plan:

PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

The District utilizes a variety of intervention strategies to reduce risk and prevent critical incidents.

1. Training for school staff working in an incident control capacity.
2. The District provides de-escalation techniques and non-violent conflict resolution training to other staff annually. Each building has staff trained in non-violent conflict resolution.
3. Training may be available during faculty meetings, staff development sessions or on conference days.

4. Procedures relating to building security including utilization of staff and security equipment may include:
 - a. Surveillance cameras
 - b. Door-lock (buzzer) entry systems
 - c. Portable radios
 - d. Alarm systems
 - e. Keypad or swipe entry systems
 - f. Single point of entry

The District continually investigates other security measures and conducts staff development training to ensure schools are as safe as possible. In addition the District utilizes training programs and security consultant services from the [Altaris Consultant Group](#).

The following text will be added to our 2019-20 District Wide Safety Plan:

Signs of Suicide & Prevention

Understanding the issues concerning suicide and mental health is an important way to take part in suicide prevention, help others in crisis, and change the conversation around suicide. NYSED recognizes The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (NSPL) (1-800-273-TALK (1-888-628-9454 for Spanish-speaking callers)) as a valuable resource for suicide prevention and intervention. NSPL is the only federally funded hotline for suicide prevention and intervention. People who are in emotional distress or suicidal crisis can call the Lifeline at any time, from anywhere in the Nation, to talk in English or Spanish with a trained crisis worker who will listen to and assist callers in getting the help they need.

For more information about the NSPL, visit www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

The Dutchess County Government (DCG) also offers assistance as well as a hotline number that can connect individuals with experienced mental health professionals. DCG has published the following flyer to support their services: <http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CountyGov/Departments/DBCH/Need-2-Talk-Helpline-card.pdf>

Should the District or one of our schools become aware that a student is intent on harming his or herself the school and or District will immediate reach out to the parent or guardian of said student.

When District or School Staff are informed of a student experiencing suicidal ideation one of the School's or District's Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) staff must be notified and administer a suicide assessment. The PPS staff member is then required to fill out a suicide procedure protocol report.

The following text will be added to our 2019-20 District Wide Safety Plan:

Staff Development

All general staff will receive training on district-wide procedures as well as specific procedures contained within their respective building-level emergency response plan. This training shall occur prior to September 15th of each school year or within 30 days of joining the district. The training will include practices and procedures to educate, evaluate, update and review all emergency management protocols and procedures the teams perform including, but not limited to Lockdown, Lockout, Evacuation, Shelter-In-Place and Hold-In-Place. Training will also include components on violence prevention and mental health. The District may involve local emergency responders to participate in this training.

The following text will be added to our 2019-20 District Wide Safety Plan:

Chief Emergency Officer

Assistant Superintendent for Compliance and Information Systems:

Daren Lolkema
(845) 298-5000

Daren.lolkema@wcsdny.org

Whose responsibilities include:

- Coordination of the communication between school staff, law enforcement, and other first responders;
- Lead the efforts of the district-wide school safety team in the completion and yearly update of the district-wide school safety plan and the coordination of the district-wide plan with the building-level emergency response plans;
- Ensure staff understanding of the district-wide school safety plan;
- Ensure the completion and yearly update of building-level emergency response plans for each school building;
- Assist in the selection of security related technology and development of procedures for the use of such technology;
- Coordinate appropriate safety, security, and emergency training for district and school staff, including required training in the emergency response plan;
- Ensure the conduct of required evacuation and lock-down drills in all district buildings as required by Education Law section 807; and
- Ensure the completion and yearly update of building-level emergency response plans by the dates designated by the commissioner.