

**Policy**

EMERGENCIES AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

The superintendent shall direct the development of plans, procedures and mechanisms for responding to emergencies and crises in the schools that threaten human life and property. He/she shall consult with law enforcement agencies, health and social services agencies and emergency management planners in developing these plans and shall ensure that they provide for the protection of the health, safety and welfare of the school population as well as supportive services for staff, students and their families.

Plans and procedures shall include these elements:

- A. Cooperation with local government agencies in developing and carrying out a school/community disaster plan that includes procedures for building lockdowns when necessary;
- B. Mechanisms for the orderly evacuation of buildings in case of fire or other emergencies;
- C. Means to provide as much protection as possible for children at school and on their way to and from school;
- D. Training in individual self-protection and survival techniques for students and staff;
- E. Communicating specific instructions to students and staff so that the school emergency plan may be carried out with the greatest possible speed and safety.

The superintendent shall develop and provide an inservice training program for school staff to enable them to recognize and appropriately respond to crises, consistent with the district's plans, procedures and mechanisms for managing crises. The inservice program shall be reviewed and updated annually.

Fire Drills and School Security Drills

Fire drills shall be held at least once each month for all students. There shall also be at least one school security drill per month. The superintendent may order a modification of the fire drills so that they may take the form of indoor drills or of rapid dismissals with outdoor clothing when low temperatures prevail.

A written statement of procedures and instructions for fire drills and school security drills shall be formulated by the superintendent and disseminated to all staff. All staff shall also receive training on school safety and security that includes instruction on school security drills within 60 days of the commencement of that staff member's employment, whichever date is later.

Instruction in fire prevention shall be given and emphasized in appropriate courses in the curriculum of the school. A "school security drill" shall be defined as an exercise to respond to an emergency situation such as a non-fire evacuation, lockdown, bomb threat, lockdown or active shooter situation that is similar in duration to a fire drill.

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Required Drills

A. The district shall be required to conduct a minimum of two drills per year for each of the following drills:

1. Active shooter;
2. Evacuation (non-fire);
3. Bomb threats;
4. Lockdowns.

Students are not required to participate in two of the eight mandated drills;

B. Within the first 10 days of the new school year each school in the district shall be required to conduct one fire drill;

C. Within the first 15 days of the new school year each school in the district shall be required to conduct one school security drill.

Reporting

By June 30<sup>th</sup> of each year the superintendent shall submit to the executive county superintendent an annual "Statement of Assurance" report on the forms provided by the Department of Education.

Emergency Closings; Delayed Openings

The superintendent is authorized by the board to close the schools, open them late or dismiss them early in hazardous weather or in other extraordinary circumstances which might endanger the health or safety of students or school employees.

Each year, parents/guardians, students, and staff members shall be informed in advance of how they shall be notified in event of emergency closings. Parents/guardians shall be required to make alternative arrangements for their children in case no one is home to receive a child after an unscheduled early closing.

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Key Words

Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness, Civil Defense, Disasters, Fire Drills, Security Drills, Bomb Threats

<b><u>Legal References:</u></b>	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:6-2	Instruction in accident and fire prevention
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:11-1	General mandatory powers and duties
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:40-12	Closing schools during epidemic
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:41-1 <u>et seq.</u>	Fire drills and fire protection
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:54-20	Powers of board (county vocational schools)
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:16-1.4(a)14	District policies and procedures
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:16-5.1 <u>et seq.</u>	School Safety and Security
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:16-6.3	Reporting students or staff members to law enforcement agencies
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:26-12.2	Policies and procedures for school facility operation
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 8:57-1.9	Reporting of diseases by health officers

EMERGENCIES AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS (continued)

A Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement between Education and Law Enforcement Officials

**Possible**

<b><u>Cross References:</u></b>	*1410	Local units
	*2210	Administrative leeway in absence of board policy
	*3541.33	Transportation safety
	*4131/4131.1	Staff development; inservice education/visitations/conferences
	*4231/4231.1	Staff development; inservice education/visitations/conferences
	5141.6	Crisis intervention
	*6111	School calendar
	*6112	School day

\*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.