

Category: Priority/Required by Law

Related Policies: EB, EBCB, EBCC, ECA, EEAE, JKAA, JLCJA, JLIA, KFA, KI

The Board recognizes that effective learning and teaching takes place in a safe, secure, and welcoming environment and that safe schools contribute to improved attendance, increased student achievement, and community support. The practice of safety shall be considered a facet of the instructional programming of the District schools by incorporating concepts of safety appropriately geared to students at different grade levels.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for developing and maintaining a comprehensive safety program/plan for the District, taking into account applicable laws, regulations, Board policies, and best practices. While the comprehensive safety program need not be a single consolidated document, it should include:

- A. The District-wide Crisis Prevention and Response Plan, which, in turn, includes the site-specific Emergency Operations Plan for each school (see also RSA 189:64);
- B. The Sports Injury Emergency Action Plan prepared under policy JLCJA;
- C. The District Communication Plan; and
- D. The School Bus Safety Program established under policy EEAE.

Additionally, to the extent not included in the above specific Board directed plans, the Superintendent will address the following areas of emphasis in the comprehensive safety plan:

1. Procedures that address the supervision and security of school buildings and grounds. See also ECA.
2. Procedures that address the safety and supervision of students during school hours and school-sponsored activities. See also JLIA.
3. Procedures that address persons visiting school buildings and attending school-sponsored activities. See also KI and KFA.
4. Training programs for staff and students in crisis prevention and management.
5. Training programs for staff and students in emergency response procedures that include practice drills for fire and all hazard as required by law and Board policy EBCB.
6. Training programs for staff and students in how to recognize and respond to behavior or other information that may indicate impending violence or other safety problems. See also EBCC.
7. Procedures and training to implement employee and work-place safety per Board policy EB.
8. Training and support for students that aims to relieve the fear, embarrassment, and peer pressure associated with reporting behavior that may indicate impending violence or other safety problems.
9. Procedures for safe and confidential reporting of security and safety concerns at each school building.
10. Procedures for regular assessments by school security/safety professionals and law enforcement officers to evaluate the security needs of each school building and to provide recommendations for improvements if necessary. See also ECA.
11. Procedures for periodic evaluations by School District professionals to determine whether students feel safe and to provide recommendations for improvements in school climate at each district building.
12. Procedures for managing the behavior of children, including proper training and protocols relative to restraint and seclusions consistent with RSA 126-U and Board policy JKAA.

13. Training programs for staff and students in safety precautions and procedures related to fire prevention, natural disaster response, accident prevention, public health, traffic, bicycle and pedestrian safety, environmental hazards, civil defense, classroom and occupational safety, and special hazards associated with athletics and other extracurricular activities.
14. District and building level procedures to assure timely safe schools reporting to law enforcement the N.H. Department. of Education and the School Board as required under RSA 193-D:4.

Whenever the Superintendent delegates tasks relating to the above to other District personnel, that delegation should be recorded in a manner readily accessible to others in the instance of the Superintendent's absence or departure.

Each Principal shall be responsible for the supervision and implementation of components of the safety programs in their school, inclusive of school busses, school grounds (including playgrounds), during authorized school activities (such as field trips), within school building(s) (including classrooms and laboratories), off school grounds during school sanctioned activities (including, but not limited to, work-based learning and internships), and in the use of online resources.

Legal References:

RSA 193-D, Safe School Zones

RSA 193-F, Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention

RSA 281-A:64, Safety Provisions

N.H. Dept. of Ed. Rules - Ed. 306.04(a)(2), and 306.04(d), Promoting School Safety

Reviewed:

1st Reading: December 7, 2022

2nd Reading: January 4, 2023 (as amended)