

8420 EMERGENCY AND CRISIS SITUATIONS

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to provide for the safety and security in each school building in the district. The district will develop and implement comprehensive written plans, procedures, and mechanisms to provide for the protection of health, safety, security, and welfare of the school population; the prevention of, intervention in, response to and recovery from emergency and crisis situations; the establishment and maintenance of a climate of civility; and support services for staff, students, and their families.

“School security drill” means an exercise, other than a fire drill, to practice procedures that respond to an emergency situation including, but not limited to, a bomb threat, non-fire evacuation, lockdown, or active shooter situation and that is similar in duration to a fire drill.

The Superintendent or designee shall consult with law enforcement agencies, health and social services provider agencies, emergency management planners, and school and community resources, as appropriate, in the development of the school district’s plans, procedures, and mechanisms for school safety and security. The plans, procedures, and mechanisms shall be consistent with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.1 and the format and content established by the Domestic Security Preparedness Task Force, pursuant to N.J.S.A. App. A:9-64 et seq., and the Commissioner of Education and shall be reviewed annually, and updated as appropriate.

A copy of the school district’s school safety and security plan shall be disseminated to all school district employees. New employees shall receive a copy of the school district’s safety and security plan, as appropriate, within sixty days of the effective date of their employment. All employees shall be notified in writing, as appropriate, regarding updates and changes to the school safety and security plan.

The school district shall develop and provide an in-service training program for all school district employees to enable them to recognize and appropriately respond to safety and security concerns, including emergencies and crises, consistent with the school district’s plans, procedures, and mechanisms for school safety and security and the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.1. New employees shall receive this in-service training, as appropriate, within sixty days of the effective date of their employment. This in-service training program shall be reviewed annually and updated, as appropriate.

The Board shall ensure individuals employed in the district in a substitute capacity are provided with information and training on the district’s practices and procedures on school safety and security including instruction on school security drills, evacuation procedures, and emergency response protocols in the district and the school building where the individuals are employed in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:41-7.



Every Principal of a school of two or more rooms, or of a school of one room, when located above the first story of a building, shall have at least one fire drill and one school security drill each month within the school hours, including any summer months during which the school is open for instructional programs, and shall require all teachers of the school, whether occupying buildings of one or more stories, to keep all doors and exits of their respective rooms and buildings unlocked during the school hours, except during an emergency lockdown or an emergency lockdown drill. Where school buildings have been provided with fire escapes, they shall be used by a part or all of the students performing every fire drill. An actual fire or school security emergency that occurs at a school during the month and that includes activities which are the equivalent of a drill shall be considered a drill for the purposes of meeting the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:41-1.

Every school in the district shall conduct a school security drill within the first fifteen days of the beginning of the school year. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the school district shall ensure that a school security drill that occurs when students are present:

1. Includes clear, developmentally and age-appropriate messaging to students and staff at the conclusion of the drill that the event is a drill and that no current danger exists;
2. Does not expose students to content or imaging that is not developmentally or age-appropriate;
3. Is paired with trauma-informed approaches to address any student inquiries or concerns which may arise as a result of a school security drill;
4. Does not include the use of fake blood, real or prop firearms, or the simulations of gun shots, explosions, or other sounds or visuals that may induce panic or traumatic response from a student or school district employee;
5. Does not require a student to role play as a victim, but may include first aid training in which students participate; and
6. Is accessible to students with disabilities and mental health conditions, and provides all necessary accommodations for these students.

The Principal or designee shall provide written notification to the parent of a student enrolled in the school following completion of a school security drill, which notice shall be provided to the parent by no later than the end of the school day on which the school security drill is conducted.



The Principal or designee will provide local law enforcement or other emergency responders, as appropriate, with a friendly notification at least forty-eight hours prior to holding a school security drill. A law enforcement officer shall be present at a minimum of one school security drill in each school year in order to make recommendations on any improvements or changes to school security drill procedures that the officer may deem advisable in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:41-1. The school district may permit emergency personnel access to the buildings and grounds of its school for school security drills that are scheduled outside of school hours and during such times as students are not present.

The school district shall review and update its school security drill procedures using a process that coincides with the review of the school safety and security plan developed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.1 and collects input from emergency personnel; parents of students enrolled in the school district; teachers and staff employed in the district; mental health professionals; and student government representatives from multiple grade levels.

The school district shall annually track data on such measures and information as required by the Commissioner of Education, and shall report the data to the Commissioner.

Such drills and in-service training programs shall be conducted in accordance with a building security drill guide and training materials that educate school employees on proper evacuation and lockdown procedures in a variety of emergency situations on school grounds in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.1.

The school district will be required to annually submit a security drill statement of assurance to the New Jersey Department of Education by June 30 of each school year. The school in the district will be required to complete a security drill record form as required by the New Jersey Department of Education.

N.J.S.A. 2C:33-3

N.J.S.A. 18A:41-1; 18A:41-2; 18A:41-6; 18A:41-7; 18A:41-7a.

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.1

Adopted: 17 September 2014

Revised:



R 8420 EMERGENCY AND NON-FIRE EVACUATION PLAN

The need for orderly and safe evacuation during certain situations is critical to the safety of the occupants of a school building. If such a threat is deemed immediate, credible, and reasonable, the Principal or designee may order a non-fire building evacuation. In the event the Principal or designee believes a threat does not exist or immediate evacuation is not required, the Principal or designee shall review the situation with the Superintendent, who may consult with local law enforcement officials to review the threat risk.

A. Procedures in the Event it is Determined a Non-Fire Evacuation is Warranted

1. The Principal or designee will immediately order a non-fire evacuation of the school building. The notification process may be the school's fire alarm system, a notice over the school's public address system, or any other method deemed appropriate by the Principal or designee to inform building occupants to evacuate the school building. The evacuation may be an entire or partial building evacuation depending on the circumstances.
2. The Principal or designee will:
 - a. Immediately call local law enforcement officials;
 - b. Immediately call the Superintendent;
 - c. Ensure any school buses enroute to the school or other vehicles entering the school grounds are redirected to a designated alternative location pending further instructions from law enforcement officials;
 - d. Notify and maintain contact with the Superintendent regarding the communication to be released to parents, community and media; and
 - e. Allow local enforcement officials to control the scene upon their arrival.
3. School staff members, upon receiving notice the school needs to be evacuated, will:
 - a. Direct students to gather personal belongings in the classroom or within their immediate area;
 - b. Instruct students not to use any electronic communication device until instructed otherwise;



- c. Close the windows and doors of their vacated rooms and turn off any light or electrical switch;
- d. Take the student roster and the day's attendance;
- e. Lead their class or the students under their supervision upon receiving the evacuation notice to the evacuation area;
- f. Take attendance when arriving at the evacuation area and report any additional students or missing students to the Principal or designee;
- g. Not allow any student to re-enter the building, leave the evacuation area, or be dismissed from school unless authorized by the Principal or designee or law enforcement officials; and
- h. Not speak to the media or permit media to interview any student.

B. Procedures After it is Determined the School Building Can be Reoccupied

- 1. The Principal or designee, upon a determination by school and law enforcement officials that the threat or risk is concluded, will direct the reoccupation of the building.
- 2. If it is determined the building is not safe to re-enter, the Principal or designee will notify school officials of the situation at the evacuation assembly locations. If it is determined students will be released for the day, the Principal or designee, in consultation with the Superintendent, will coordinate student dismissal procedures from the evacuation assembly areas and family notification and reunification protocols.
- 3. The school district will provide school district staff and other school district crisis response team members to provide counseling and support as needed.

Critical Incident Response Procedures for School Administrators, Faculty and Staff – The New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness and the New Jersey Department of Education - 2010

Adopted: 17 September 2014



R 8420.1 FIRE AND FIRE DRILLS

A. Fire Drills

1. The Principal of the school building will conduct at least one fire drill each month within school hours, including any summer months during which the school is open for instructional programs. The Principal shall require all teachers to keep all doors and exits of their respective rooms and buildings unlocked during school hours. Where school buildings have been provided with fire escapes, they shall be used by a part or all of the students performing every fire drill.

Attempts should be made to conduct drills in various weather conditions and at various times of the school day. Fire drills should be unannounced to school staff and students. The Principal shall inform local firefighting officials whenever a fire alarm is for drill purposes.

An actual fire that occurs at a school building during the month and includes activities which are the equivalent of a drill shall be considered a drill for the purposes of meeting the requirements of this Regulation and N.J.S.A. 18A:41-1.

2. The fire alarm shall be by a building-wide audible signal. Alarm signals should be tested regularly.
3. When the fire alarm rings, each staff member supervising students will:
 - a. Direct students to form into a single file line and proceed along the evacuation route to the nearest exit designated for evacuation;
 - b. Close the windows of the room and turn off all lights and audio-visual equipment;
 - c. Take the class register or roll book;
 - d. Ascertain that all students have left the room and that any student who may have left the classroom prior to the fire drill is located and escorted from the building;
 - e. Close all doors to the room when the room is empty and keep all doors and exits of their respective rooms and buildings unlocked;



- f. Ensure their assigned students have left the school along the route prescribed in the school evacuation plan. In the event a school building has been provided with fire escapes, they shall be used by a part or all of the students performing every fire drill;
 - g. Direct students to a location not less than a distance twice the height of the building walls and keep the students in a single file line facing the building;
 - h. Take attendance to determine all students who reported to class have been evacuated from the building and report immediately to the Principal any student who is unaccounted for; and
 - i. When the recall signal is given, conduct students back to the classroom.
- 4. Evacuation of the school in a fire drill must be conducted quickly and quietly and in an orderly fashion. Students must be silent, refrain from talking and running, and remain in closed, single file lines. Any student or staff member whose behavior disrupts the conduct of the fire drill shall be reported to the Principal and will be subject to discipline.
- 5. All persons in the school must leave the building during a fire drill, including all aides, visitors, volunteer workers, and all office, cafeteria, custodial, and maintenance employees, except those employees who have been assigned specific duties to be performed in the school building during a fire drill.
- 6. Physical education classes in progress outside the building should stop the game activity and line up in place or in their regularly assigned drill position.
- 7. Students will be instructed not to gather belongings to take outside on the fire drill. In inclement or cold weather, students may pick up their coats and put them on as they exit the building, provided no time is lost in that activity.
- 8. The office employee responsible for keeping the central attendance register, or a designated substitute, must carry the register out of the building during the drill.
- 9. Each Principal shall report monthly to the Superintendent on the conduct of fire drills. Their report will include the date, weather conditions, and time to evacuate for each drill conducted, as well as any comments that could assist in improving the conduct of future drills.



10. Every fire drill will be conducted with seriousness and with the assumption that prompt evacuation is actually required for the safety and survival of persons in the school.
11. Principals are encouraged to change the circumstances of fire drills so that staff members and students are subjected to various conditions and learn to respond to them quickly, constructively, and safely. Any such variations should take into account the ages and abilities of children.
 - a. One or more exits may be designated as “blocked” so that students are required to use alternative evacuation routes.
 - b. A fire drill may be designated as a “smoke drill” so that students learn to avoid the hazards of smoke by walking in a low or crouching position (not a crawling position).

B. Fire

1. A school staff member or any building occupant who detects a fire in a school building or on school grounds shall immediately report the fire by calling 911 and/or by activating a fire alarm pull station in accordance with law.
2. The school staff member or building occupant shall also report the fire to the school Principal, if possible.
3. In the event of a fire in a school building, the school Principal shall immediately sound the fire alarm, in the event the fire alarm had not been previously activated, for the evacuation of all students, staff members, visitors, and volunteers.
4. Evacuation shall be conducted in accordance with the fire drill procedures established in A. above, except that no employee may remain in the building to perform specific duties.
5. As a precaution, the Principal or designee will maintain a record of disabled students who may require special attention in the event of fire or other evacuation. Fire fighters will be promptly informed of the location and special circumstances of each such student.
6. As soon as practicable after the incident, the Principal shall submit a report to the Superintendent on the appropriate form.



7. The school district shall immediately notify the appropriate local fire department of any fire which occurs in a school building or on school property in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:41-5.

C. Fire and Smoke Doors

Every Principal and custodian/janitor in the school building in the district which has a furnace room, hallway, or stair-tower fire or smoke doors shall keep them closed during the time the school building is occupied by teachers and students pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:41-2.

Adopted: 17 September 2014
Revised:



R 8420.2 BOMB THREATS

A bomb threat consists of a message regardless of the source or form or truth of the message, that someone has placed or intends to place in the school an explosive device or any material that will cause significant harm to persons in the school or damage to school property. The procedures to be enacted when a bomb threat is received shall be included in the school district's plans, procedures, and mechanisms for school safety and security in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.1 and Policy 8420.

Adopted: 17 September 2014

Revised:



R 8420.3 NATURAL DISASTERS AND MAN-MADE CATASTROPHES

A. Definitions

1. "Natural disasters" include floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, lightning strikes.
2. "Man-made catastrophes" include explosions, toxic hazards, airplane accidents, nuclear accidents, attacks.

B. Procedures

1. The Principal is responsible for responding quickly and reasonably to all natural disasters and man-made catastrophes. The Principal's primary goal in any emergency is the protection of the students and staff members assigned to his/her building.
2. The Principal shall cooperate with local law enforcement officers, civil defense agencies, and other appropriate authorities.
3. All reasonable efforts will be made to predict or anticipate the occurrence of a natural disaster or manmade catastrophe and to take such steps in advance as may be necessary to protect students and staff and, if possible, school property.
4. Any school employee who detects or suspects a natural disaster or man-made catastrophe shall immediately notify the Principal, who shall immediately evaluate and/or verify the report. The Principal shall report an impending disaster or catastrophe to the Superintendent and the appropriate police or civil authority.
5. If necessary and prudent, the school will be evacuated in accordance with the fire drills procedures set forth in Regulation No. 8420.1. The alarm for a disaster or catastrophe will be a building designated signal.
6. Until their students are sent home or they are otherwise excused from their duties, classroom teachers will attend to the needs of the students assigned to them. Other teaching staff members and support staff members will report to the Principal or their immediate supervisor for direction. The following personnel should be prepared to take the actions indicated at the direction of the Principal.



- a. The school nurse will set up a station for the treatment of injuries and caring for injured and shocked persons until transportation to hospital facilities is available.
 - b. The head custodian will survey the damage, if any, done to essential school building services, such as electrical, gas, water, and fuel. He/She will report any such damage to the Principal along with any recommendations for repair or substitution.
 - c. The cafeteria manager will assess food and water inventories and establish procedures for supplying such food and water as may be required by persons in the school or the school shelter.
7. If the school cannot or should not be re-entered, parents will be notified and students will be sent home as follows:
 - a. Students who ordinarily walk to school will be excused,
 - b. Students who ride school buses will be excused as soon as bus transportation is available,
 - c. The Principal may arrange for private vehicle transportation.
8. Students who cannot be sent home safely shall be sheltered in a safe place in the school or in the place designated for out-of-school shelter in the school evacuation plan. A teaching staff member will be assigned to supervise any such students until they can be transferred to the parent or responsible adult designated by the parent.
9. Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) will be informed of the school's response to the disaster or catastrophe by implementation of the parent call chain established pursuant to Regulation No. 8420. Reasonable efforts will be made to inform parent(s) or legal guardian(s) promptly of the nature of the emergency and to assure them of their children's safety.
10. The Principal, other administrators, and all school staff members will strive to discharge their responsibilities calmly, intelligently, and prudently.



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Natural Disasters and Man-made Catastrophes

11. The Principal will make a written report to the Superintendent on the nature of the emergency, the actions taken in response to the emergency, and the outcome of those actions. The report will detail, as necessary, the actions of specific staff members and make such recommendations for commendation or discipline as may be appropriate.

Adopted: 17 September 2014



R 8420.4 KIDNAPPING

A. Definition

1. A person is a victim of kidnapping:
 - a. When a person is unlawfully removed from the school or school grounds; or
 - b. When a person is unlawfully confined with the purpose of holding the victim for ransom, reward, as a shield, or hostage; or
 - c. When a person is unlawfully removed from the school or school grounds or a substantial distance from where he or she is found in school or on school grounds; or
 - d. When a person is unlawfully confined for a substantial period of time with any of the following purposes:
 - (1) To facilitate commission of a crime or flight thereafter, or
 - (2) To inflict bodily injury on or terrorize the victim.

B. Procedures

1. The following procedures shall be implemented in the event there is reason to believe a student has been kidnapped. The Building Principal or designee will:
 - a. Immediately notify the Superintendent;
 - b. Check school records to determine whether there is a legal custody issue;
 - c. Contact the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s); and
 - d. Notify the local law enforcement agency.

The Building Principal or designee will be prepared to provide law enforcement authorities information about the student (to the extent possible) including: a physical description of the student; any photograph



of the student; information regarding known friends of the student; the names of any potential witnesses to an abduction; a description of an abductor; and other information that may be helpful to law enforcement in locating the student.

2. The Building Principal or designee will alert school staff to the possible kidnapping and solicit staff assistance in obtaining information that may be helpful to law enforcement in locating the student.
3. The administrative staff will encourage all staff members remain calm to prevent panic.

Adopted: 17 September 2014



R 8420.5 ASBESTOS RELEASE

The Board of Education recognizes the building may contain asbestos. The Board and school staff members have implemented the necessary safety measures to eliminate the possibility of asbestos fiber release episodes to ensure the safety of all building occupants. The district maintains an Asbestos Management Plan as required by the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA). The following procedures shall be implemented in the event of an inadvertent disturbance that causes an asbestos fiber release episode in a school district building.

Procedures

1. The area where the fiber release may have occurred shall be immediately evacuated;
2. The building's heating, ventilating, and air conditioning system shall be shut down;
3. The area where the fiber release may have occurred shall be sealed off and doors shall be closed;
4. The Superintendent and building maintenance supervisor shall be immediately contacted;
5. The names of all persons who were in the area where the fiber release may have occurred shall be recorded and maintained in separate file;
6. The Building Principal or designee shall communicate to the parents/legal guardians of students, staff, and other occupants of the building as necessary; and
7. The school district shall take such action as necessary depending on whether asbestos fibers were released.

Adopted: 17 September 2014

