

Crisis Response Plan

The school board recognizes that crisis situations can arise unexpectedly, yet require an organized and thoughtful response. Possible crisis situations could include suicide, natural disaster, death of a faculty member or student, rape, car or school bus accident, or threats of or actual harm to students or staff from a source outside the school.

To facilitate the development of a Crisis Response Plan and to help carry out that plan, the school board authorizes the superintendent of schools to establish a Crisis Response Team, that may include representatives from central office and building administration, the guidance staff, school medical personnel, the teaching staff, parents, local public safety department(s), local human services agencies and the clergy.

Once named, the Crisis Response Team should be assembled to create a specific but flexible Crisis Response Plan that will allow school officials to communicate accurate information to staff, students, parents, the media, and the community and to respond to any material, physical and/or emotional needs that arise in a crisis situation. The Plan should include specific information such as (1) how a state of emergency or crisis will be declared and by whom, (2) where the crisis headquarters will be located, and (3) who will serve as spokesperson(s) during the crisis.

For situations that may result in strong emotional reactions by students, the Crisis Response Plan should provide for counseling services to be provided, as the situation may require, by school guidance personnel, community social services agency staff and possibly local clergy.

The Crisis Response Plan should include a means to evaluate the effectiveness of each instance that the Plan is used. If the Plan is not utilized during the school year, an annual review will be conducted to ensure that all aspects of the Plan remain current.

The superintendent will develop administrative procedures, as appropriate, to implement this policy.

Approved: December 4, 2014