

NOAH WEBSTER EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION MODEL POLICY

TO: TBD
FROM: Noah Webster Educational Foundation
RE: Crisis Management Plan Development and Execution
DATE: TBD

This model policy seeks to improve the safety protocols of schools and create a positive school environment by requiring more diligent steps be taken when creating and practicing crisis management plans.

Crisis Management Plan Development and Execution

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BACKGROUND: School Districts are required by federal and state law to have crisis management plans in place for a variety of dangerous situations that could take place while students are in school. This policy aims to encourage the better development and execution of crisis management plans by instating standards based on guidance recommended by the U.S. Department of Education, many state governments, and mental health professionals. This model policy corresponds directly to NWEF's 'Navigating Mental Health K-12' training, specifically, Session Four, ['Crisis Management and Trauma Informed Practices.'](#)

LEGAL ADVISORY: This model policy was written based on research and guidance from mental health professionals and policy analysts. Noah Webster Educational Foundation is not a law firm, nor does it claim any legal expertise. Please consult with your school district's attorney and state laws and codes when evaluating model policies from Noah Webster Educational Foundation.

Subject: Crisis Management Plan Development and Execution

I. Description of Policy

This School Board/School Division, as required by the state and federal government for the safety and wellbeing of students, develops and implements a crisis management plan. To provide aid in the development and execution of the crisis management plans and to encourage a safe school climate schools within this district will abide by the guidelines of this policy to ensure student safety and well being are prioritized. This policy outlines the appropriate steps that should be taken to ensure that crisis management plans are as informed and practiced as possible in the event that a crisis situation should occur.

A. School boards have an obligation to create guidelines and work with school crisis response teams to develop safe and practical crisis management plans. School board members are responsible for overseeing schools to make sure all guidelines are met for the safety of students, faculty, and staff within **this district's** schools.

B. While practicing crisis management plans school boards should make sure the necessary steps are taken to promote confidence and safety among students, faculty, and staff and to make sure any potential weaknesses in the crisis plans are identified and improved.

II. Developing a Crisis Management Plan

This School District should be partnering with schools within its jurisdiction to reevaluate and/or develop crisis management plans annually. When implementing policies and site-specific crisis management plans school board members and school crisis response teams (CRTs) will consult local law enforcement to best provide for the safety of students, faculty, and staff.

Crisis management plans should also include responses for fires, emergency weather situations, suicide, a school shooting (and other forms of violence), criminal activity, and the death of teachers/students. Due to the sensitive nature of these topics and the expertise required in formulating an appropriate response, school board members are responsible for requiring members of each school within **this district's** crisis response team to be appropriately trained by qualified mental health and other professionals.

III. Practicing Crisis Management Plans

School board members should observe and ensure that each school within **this district** is following the guidelines for practicing crisis management plans outlined in this section:

A. The protocols outlined in each crisis management plan should be practiced annually for each crisis situation included in the plan (fire, weather emergencies, school shooter, criminal activity, etc.).

B. When practicing crisis plans that are relevant to law enforcement and other local agencies, such as fire drills or school shooter drills, local law enforcement should be involved to help calm and direct students and to observe for potential issues with the crisis plans in place.

School board members will use the provided information to enforce and oversee each school's practice of site-specific crisis management plans to ensure student safety and wellbeing.