




Richmond Public Schools
Safety and Security

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Department: Safety and Security

Current Issue: School Crisis and Emergency Response Plan



Code of Virginia § 22.1-279.8 mandates that each school board annually review the written school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plans to the Virginia Center on School Safety no later than August 31 of each year. School crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plan" means the essential procedures, operations, and assignments required to prevent, manage, and respond to a critical event or emergency, including natural disasters involving fire, flood, tornadoes, or other severe weather; loss or disruption of power, water, communications or shelter; bus or other accidents; medical emergencies, including cardiac arrest and other life-threatening medical emergencies; student or staff member deaths; explosions; bomb threats; gun, knife or other weapons threats; spills or exposures to hazardous substances; the presence of unauthorized persons or trespassers; the loss, disappearance or kidnapping of a student; hostage situations; violence on school property or at school activities; incidents involving acts of terrorism; and other incidents posing a serious threat of harm to students, personnel, or facilities."

The School Crisis and Emergency Response Plan, is based on "best practice" models provided through the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services' Center for School Safety, The United States and Virginia Departments of Education. This Plan incorporates the NIMS process of prevention & mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery implemented in all crisis and emergency situations at the school level. It is intended to be a practical guide and resource for a variety of emergencies. Although standard across the school district, the plan allows some flexibility in addressing each school's individual needs. It is ever evolving and will change as new information is learned and best practices emerge.



Emergency response procedures are arranged in alphabetical order for easy access. Procedures are arranged very loosely in chronological order and some procedures may be handled simultaneously by different people or groups of people working as a team. The situation unfolding, the information available at the moment and the number of members who are helping to manage the situation dictates the order of the procedures used as the emergency is managed. Prior to school opening each building's administrators and Safety and Security Committee will meet, review, update their plan and communicate the plan to all building staff.