

ATTLEBORO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Attleboro, Massachusetts

Critical Incident Policy

File: EB

The Attleboro School Committee recognizes that the management of a critical incident is essential. A critical incident is defined as a traumatic event, and/or the threat of such event causing extreme stress, fear, or injury. This may include, but is not limited to:

- Threat(s) of bodily harm
- Serious injury, illness, or death of a student or staff member
- Students or staff lost
- Severe verbal aggression
- Student or staff witnessing a serious accident or incident of violence
- Natural disaster e.g. extreme inclement weather, earthquake, etc.
- Fire, bomb threat, explosion, gas or chemical hazard

Attleboro Public Schools administrators will respond responsibly using the most accurate information available to a critical incident.

In responding to a critical incident, the goals will include, but not be limited to:

- Preserving life,
- Communicating effectively,
- Protecting the school district's property, and
- Restoring normalcy as quickly as possible.

The School Committee recognizes that critical incidents can be alarming experiences and expects that appropriate supports will be implemented to minimize long-term effects arising from exposure to trauma. Attleboro Public Schools will respond to any emergency or crisis by:

- Taking action to protect lives and prevent injury to students and staff.
- Minimizing property damage.
- Coordinating with emergency responders through implementation of a Incident Command System (ICS).
- Keeping employees, students, families and the public informed to extent possible under the circumstances presented by the critical incident.
- Restoring normal services as quickly as possible.
- Educating students, parents, staff, responders, and community as appropriate on APS emergency preparation and response plans.

The Superintendent's School Safety and Emergency Response Procedure and Protocol Plan will operate within the framework of School Committee policies. During emergency situations, the school administration retains administrative control over employees, students and property. Specific authority and control may be delegated as deemed appropriate.

The Attleboro School District will be sensitive to the consequences of any public statements as they related to confidentiality and privacy.

All relevant staff members will take custody of the Attleboro Public Schools School Safety and Emergency Response

Procedure and Protocol Plan. A master copy will be held in the Superintendent's

Office. Emergency numbers will be displayed in designated areas.

The Superintendent's School Safety and Emergency Response Procedure and Protocol Plan for Schools contains the information needed to:

- Support school-based practitioners to develop their own skills of crisis management
- Help staff develop an understanding of both the short- and long-term effects of loss, grief, and trauma
- Promote resilience and develop the emotional well-being of students and staff
- Identify both personal and external sources of support for students and their families.

This policy will be periodically amended where appropriate.

Reviewed by Legal Counsel
Policy Sub-Approved: 12-01-14
School Committee Approved: 12-08-14