



Frederick County Public Schools
Board of Education
SCHOOL SAFETY DRILLS
Policy 410

A. Policy Purpose

To express the Board of Education of Frederick County's (Board) commitment to a safe environment and culture within the Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) fostering physical and mental health wellness, safety, security, and civility for students and staff.

B. Definitions

1. "District Emergency Plan" is defined to mean a plan for all FCPS facilities that addresses mitigation, prevention, preparation, response, and recovery to an emergency.
2. "Drill" is defined to mean a formalized exercise by which school system personnel, school staff, and/or students rehearse the District Emergency Plan or LSEP or portions of the plan and practice response protocols.
3. "Local School Emergency Plan" (LSEP) is defined to mean a plan for each public school grounds within FCPS that addresses mitigation, prevention, preparation, response, and recovery to an emergency.
4. "School Emergency" is defined to mean unforeseen circumstances that jeopardize the health, safety, or well-being of students or staff or both, and includes, but is not limited to, inclement weather conditions (*e.g.*, snowstorms, flooding, extreme temperatures), failure of building systems (*e.g.*, electrical, plumbing), or other emergencies such as natural disasters, utility outages, or security threats.

C. Policy Statement

1. The Board acknowledges the importance of school safety, emergency preparedness, and response in all of its locations and activities, and the Board affirms that such environments are conducive to effective teaching, learning, and work.
2. In particular, the Board understands the necessity of conducting drills as the first step in creating a secure school environment. Frequent practice not only instills a sense of calm but also helps identify any flaws in the current emergency response plans. Drills also teach the importance of promptness and following instructions in a high-stress situation.

D. Implementation

1. The Board directs the Superintendent, in consultation with local community health and safety officials, to develop a District Emergency Plan and a LSEP for each school.

2. The District Emergency Plan and the LSEP shall:
 - a. Address responding to violent or traumatic events on school grounds during regular school hours or during school-sponsored activities, or events in the community that affect normal school functioning;
 - b. Deal with the contingencies of man-made, technological, and natural hazards; and
 - c. Align with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS), and internally developed emergency planning guidelines.
3. **Drills**
 - a. All FCPS facilities will conduct and report all drills and school emergency incidents in compliance with Maryland law and MCSS, MSDE, and internally developed guidance.
 - b. FCPS shall develop and implement an annual schedule of safety and emergency preparedness drills to be conducted during the school year for each FCPS facility in accordance with the best practices and law.
 - c. Each school will complete the minimum number of safety and emergency preparedness drills as identified by MSDE, MCSS, and the Superintendent's regulation, [FCPS Regulation 200-29, School Security, Facility Access and Reporting Emergencies](#).
 - d. The Safety and Emergency Management Department (SEMD) shall maintain records of the safety and emergency management incidents and drills that occur.
4. **Communication**
 - a. The Board expects FCPS to distribute, at the beginning of each school year, the model content developed by the MCSS and the Maryland Department of State Police, which informs parents about the State's firearm storage laws.
 - b. The Board expects FCPS to distribute to parents the annual schedule of active shooter safety drills or trainings at the beginning of the school year and notify parents after a drill or training has taken place.
5. The Board directs the Superintendent to provide regulations to ensure the implementation of this Policy in accordance with the requirements under Maryland law.

E. Related Information

1. **Board Policy**
 - a. [Policy 111, School and Workplace Safety](#)
2. **Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR)**
 - a. [COMAR 13A.02.02.02, Definitions](#)
 - b. [COMAR 13A.02.02.04, Emergency Plan](#)
3. **FCPS Regulations**
 - a. [Regulation 200-29, School Security, Facility Access and Reporting Emergencies](#)
4. **FCPS Resources**
 - a. [FCPS Safety & Emergency Management Webpage](#)
 - b. [FCPS Safety & Emergency Management Community Resources Webpage](#)

- c. [FCPS School Safety Overview Slide Deck \(Rev. August 5, 2025\)](#)
- d. [Standard Response Protocol Handout](#)

5. External Resources

- a. [Maryland Center for School Safety Website](#)
- b. [Maryland State Department of Education \(MSDE\), Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment, and Educational Policy. \(December 2019\). *Maryland Emergency Planning Guidelines for Local School Systems and Schools*](#)
- c. [MSDE Emergency Planning for School Systems and Schools Webpage](#)

6. Maryland Statutes

- a. [Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 4-134](#)
- b. [Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 7-408](#)
- c. [Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 7-435](#)
- d. [Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 7-451](#)
- e. [Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 7-1501, *et seq.*](#)
- f. [Md. Code Ann., Public Safety § 6-206](#)

F. Policy History (Maintained by Legal Services)

<i>Responsible Office</i>	Security and Emergency Management Department
Adoption Dates	04/25/01
Review Dates	
Revision Dates	10/11/17; 10/08/25