

## **COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT**

### **POLICY: SCHOOL CRISIS PREVENTION AND RESPONSE**

**DATE ADOPTED:** September 5, 2023

### **PURPOSE**

Student, staff, and visitor safety is a primary consideration in the Colchester School District. Therefore, emergency plans and procedures are needed for all situations which might endanger the lives of students, staff, and visitors. The frequency with which life threatening incidents are occurring across the country and in our own state prompts all of us to take these incidents seriously. Such emergency situations include but are not limited to: criminal acts, disease epidemic, hazardous materials spills, fires, gas leaks, structural damages, weather related emergencies, flooding, natural disasters, physical injury or death, the presence of intruders on school premises, and power outages.

Colchester School District will develop and annually review individual school emergency plans focused on maximizing student, staff and visitor safety while minimizing instructional disruptions.

### **I. RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### **A. Administrative Responsibilities**

In order to maintain a safe, orderly, civil, and positive learning environment, and to prevent and respond to unexpected crises quickly and appropriately the district will have a school crisis prevention and response plan.

Individual school emergency plans will be based on the Vermont School Crisis Planning Guide.

The superintendent, or their designee, is directed to create a school crisis prevention and response plan, and a set of administrative procedures that identify how students and staff should respond to emergency situations and the role that local emergency service providers will play in crisis preparedness and crisis management. This will include appropriate and effective training; establishment of crisis response teams, both within each building and throughout the district; consultation and cooperation with community agencies, such as police, fire, emergency medical, youth and health authorities; and publication of emergency procedures for such situations as can be imagined.

Generally, the principal, or their designee, will organize and oversee the planning and operation of the crisis response team and will serve as the incident response team leader, according to the crisis response procedures. The plan will be reviewed annually and routinely practiced during regular drills.

Last Adopted: October 3, 2017  
 Date Warned: August 11, 2023  
 First Reading: August 15, 2023  
 Second Reading: September 5, 2023

Following a major incident, the crisis response team shall debrief and review the effectiveness of the crisis response and present a report and any recommendations for the future to the superintendent.

**B. Staff Responsibilities**

The staff shall follow all guidelines outlined in the crisis response procedures and staff handbook when practicing routine drills and when responding to actual emergency situations.

**C. Student Responsibilities**

Students shall follow all guidelines outlined in the crisis response procedures and the student handbook when practicing routine drills and when responding to actual emergency situations.

Students suspected of involvement in causing school crises will be held accountable and shall be dealt with in accordance with the school's discipline policy and state/federal law. An incident may also be referred to law enforcement for possible criminal charges or for the school to pursue civil litigation.

Any lost learning time resulting from response to a school crisis or emergency shall be made up.