

Students

Emergencies

Drills:

Each school in the district will conduct at least one safety-related drill per month when school is in session. These drills will teach students the following three basic functional drill responses:

1) Shelter-in-Place

Students will receive instruction in shelter-in-place to limit exposure to hazardous materials released into the environment when there is insufficient time to evacuate the campus, by isolating the inside environment from the outside, and taking the steps necessary to eliminate or minimize the health and safety hazard.

2) Lockdowns

Students will receive instruction so that in the event of the breach of security of a school building or campus; staff, students and visitors will take steps to isolate from threats of violence. Lockdown structure will include recommendations from the National Association of School of Psychologists.

3) Evacuations

Students will receive instruction so that in the event the school or district needs to be evacuated due to threats, such as fires, oil train spills, or tsunamis, they will be able to leave the building in the shortest time possible and take the safest route possible to another school or facility.

The above safety-related drills will incorporate the following:

- a. Use of the school mapping information system in at least one of the drills; and
- b. A pedestrian evacuation drill for schools in mapped tsunami hazard zones; and
- c. An earthquake drill using the state-approved earthquake safety technique “drop, cover, and hold.”

The Superintendent or designee will develop emergency evacuation procedures for each building.

Earthquakes

The Board recognizes the importance of protecting staff, students and facilities in the event of an earthquake. Facilities will be designed to meet or exceed current building seismic codes enforced at the time of construction permitting and maintained in a manner to sustain the seismic integrity of the facility. Likewise, staff must be prepared to take necessary action to protect students and staff from harm.

The Superintendent or designee will establish guidelines and action to be taken by building principals should an earthquake occur while school is in session.

Bomb Threats

The Superintendent or designee will establish procedures for action in the event that any threat is received toward the school by telephone, letter, orally or by other means.

Emergency School Closure or Evacuation

When weather conditions or other circumstances make it unsafe to operate schools the Superintendent is directed to determine whether schools should be started late, closed for the day and/or whether transportation will be provided only on emergency routes. Those decisions will be communicated through community media resources pursuant to a plan developed by the Superintendent or designee.

Outbreak, Epidemic, Pandemic

The Board recognizes that an outbreak, epidemic or pandemic is a serious threat that could affect students, staff and the community. The Superintendent or designee will serve as a liaison between the district and local health officials. The district liaison, in consultation with local and national health officials, will ensure that a pandemic/epidemic plan exists in the district and establish procedures to provide for staff and student safety during such an emergency.

When a health emergency within a school or its surrounding area necessitates evacuation and/or total or partial closure of the schools within the district, staff will be responsible for aiding in the safe evacuation of the students within the endangered school or its surrounding area.

The Superintendent or designee will establish procedures for the emergency closure of a building or department.

Cross Reference: Policy 4310 District Relationships with Law Enforcement and other Government Agencies

Legal References:

RCW 19.27.110	International fire code – Administration and enforcement by counties, other political subdivisions and municipal corporations - Fees
RCW 28A.320.125	Safe school plans – Requirements - Duties of school districts, schools, and educational service districts – Reports – Drills - Rules

Classification: Essential

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