

PREVENTION AND MITIGATION

Prevention and Mitigation is the first phase of emergency management. Prevention is the attempt to deflect a crisis before it can occur, by mitigating or reducing risks.

Mitigation refers to actions taken to reduce the adverse effect of an emergency. Mitigation measures can be implemented *before* an emergency, *during* an emergency, or in *recovery* from an emergency.

Warwick Public Schools Crisis Prevention & Intervention Recommendations

Prevention and early intervention should and must be an integral part of any plan to protect students, staff and parents in a school community. Listed below are recommendations that will help to create a safer environment for the staff and students who work and play in our schools. Some recommendations are easy to implement and may be done so without large expenditures of money, time or material. There are other recommendations that will require expenditures of money, time and materials. All recommendations are important and all should be given equal consideration.

PREVENTION: Activities designed to prevent a crisis from occurring.

1. A system of visitor passes should be set up and advertised and used in all schools.
2. Staff identification and substitute badges should be worn by all staff in all schools.
3. All exterior doors must be able to close and lock, according to fire safety regulations.
4. Access to the interior of the school should be limited to a few well monitored areas.
5. An anonymous reporting system should be set up in each school including a designated phone tip line that is advertised to students and staff.
6. It should be made clear to parents and students that desks and lockers are the property of Warwick Public Schools and are subject to search at any time.
7. A system wide, standardized, simple behavior code, which is written in positive terms, should be posted in all classrooms.
8. The Warwick Public School Behavior Code (The Code of Ethics) should be sent home with all students at the start of every school year, including strict consequences for weapon and drug possession.
9. A police department School Resource Officer should be scheduled in each secondary school.
10. Surveillance cameras should be set up in problem areas, in the secondary schools to reduce theft, vandalism and assaults.
11. Crisis drill training should be conducted regularly with staff and students.
12. Teacher, student and parent training programs should be set up in the following areas:

For Teachers: Social Skills Training Curriculum for problem solving,
anger management and conflict management.
How to recognize individual predictors of violence.
How to recognize imminent warning signs of violence.
How to recognize the warning signs of suicide.
First Aid and CPR training.
Crisis Drill Training.

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For Students: Social Skills(as listed above).

School Culture and Tolerance Issues and the conspiracy of silence.
Conflict Resolution Teams.

For Parents: Provide opportunities for parents to be involved in parenting programs.
Inform parents what is being done in the areas of School Crisis
Prevention/Intervention/Response.

INTERVENTION: Activities that intervene in situations threatening the safety of the school community.

1. A comprehensive, fully functional communications system should be in all schools. Included in this recommendation are the following: two way radios available for classes that are being conducted outside the building, cellular phones for all principals and vice principals, intercom systems that allow for communication to and from the main office, including corridors, a megaphone for each school and a uniform warning code system be in place at all schools.
2. A Safety Team should be in place in each school.
3. A close working relationship, with both formal, (MOU's), and informal lines of communication should exist between various community agencies, including the police, fire, mental health services, the school department and parents.
4. All interior classroom doors should be in proper working condition and capable of being locked.
5. The Emergency Response Plan should be displayed in each room in all schools.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. First Aid kits should be placed in strategic locations throughout the building.
2. School crisis response plans should be reviewed annually by the school Safety Team.
3. A permanent, District level Crisis Oversight Committee should be appointed. The committee, chaired by one of the Directors, should be made up of administrators, teachers, a psychologist or guidance counselor, parent(s), police and or fire representative(s) and the student council president from each high school.
4. Programs for at risk and disenfranchised students, should be reviewed and discussed by the District level Crisis Oversight Committee, with the intent of future implementation.
5. A school Hazard Assessment Form should be filled out and used to mitigate hazards in and around the school.
6. A full scale exercise should be conducted yearly at various schools.

SCHOOL HAZARD ASSESSMENT FORM (Sample only, use sheet in Forms Section)

School: _____ Surveyed by: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Check off the items that could be potential hazards in and around your building. Put the location, repair priority (high, medium, low) and comment if needed. High = could cause serious injury, e.g. TV not strapped down. Medium = possibility of injury, e.g. Walkways need repair. Start outside the building and work your way inside. Principals must review these sheets, make a copy and send the original to maintenance personnel. **Immediately notify the principal of any hazard that presents a serious danger and/or will cause injury.**

HAZARD	LOCATION(S)	PRIORITY (H, M, L)	COMMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> Playground needs fill			
<input type="checkbox"/> Playground equipment needs repair			
<input type="checkbox"/> Large rocks that could cause injury			
<input type="checkbox"/> Bleachers need repair			
<input type="checkbox"/> Fences need repair			
<input type="checkbox"/> Track surface needs repair			
<input type="checkbox"/> Fields need fill			
<input type="checkbox"/> Walkways need repair			
<input type="checkbox"/> Traffic signs need replacing			
<input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor lighting needs repair/upgrade			
<input type="checkbox"/> Improper water drainage(flooding)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Trees falling down			
<input type="checkbox"/> Shrubs/trees need trimming back			
<input type="checkbox"/> Wires hanging too low			
<input type="checkbox"/> Natural gas pipes not protected			
<input type="checkbox"/> Metal building rusting badly			
<input type="checkbox"/> Unsecured portable structures			
<input type="checkbox"/> Unsecured siding, roofing materials			
<input type="checkbox"/> Chemical leak in outer building			
<input type="checkbox"/> Downspouts broken			