



A Parent's Guide to Safety and Security in the East Windsor Public Schools



Presidential Policy 8 -

Signed by the president in 2011 – describes the nation's approach to preparedness in 5 areas:

1. Prevention – actions meant to avoid or stop an incident
2. Protection – actions meant to protect people and property
3. Mitigation – reducing chance an incident will occur
4. Response – how we address an incident
5. Recovery – how we get back to “business as usual”



What Does that Really Mean?

That just means that schools are required to plan how we will think about safety

Before

During

After

This can be any kind of situation including severe weather, loss of water or power, spills in the chemistry labs, medical issues, safety issues or a variety of other things

We work with our police department to help make decisions about security plans.



BEFORE

The Prevention, Protection and Mitigation really refers to what we do before any incident has occurred. These are meant to reduce the chance of something happening.

We do these in our own homes every day.

Some examples of how families prevent, protect and mitigate include:

- check to make sure candles are out
- repair leaks
- have outside lights on in the evening
- get dental cleanings
- have security systems or dogs
- schedule annual physicals....



What “before” looks like in schools...

Make plans (these are required by law)

We train our staff about our plans

We ask our families to provide current contact information

Board of Education writes policy

We make ongoing repairs

Nursing makes sure immunization requirements are met

Parking lots are sanded when it's icy

We inspect our buildings

We do drills with the students

We teach our Social Emotional Competency lessons

We establish a safe school climate



DURING

The Response is what happens during an issue.

We have a response plan for incidents that occur at home

- We chase the dog when it gets loose
- We use the gas can if the car runs out of gas
- We shut off the valve if the sink leaks



What “during” looks like in schools...

We use our plans to respond to a variety of issues.

We don't share these so that our security measures aren't able to be worked around.

We work with police, fire, EMS, town hall, and district staff works together

Some of these plans involve

Secure Building (we used to call it Lock in)

Lock down

Shelter in place



Secure Building, Lock down, Shelter in Place

- These reflect the state of the building – not the incident we are addressing
- This language is know by First Responders and we update as recommended by best practice
 - we need to be able to communicate quickly and efficiently with police, fire and others in case of emergency
- We use this language with students so it's part of every day – just like fire drills



Some reason we may use those...

An accident outside the school so everyone remains inside

Chemicals spill in the chemistry lab or the custodial closet

Someone is having a medical issue and needs privacy

Someone in one of our buildings isn't following directions from staff



AFTER

- ▶ The Recovery is what we do following an incident of any kind

At home we recover by:

Mopping the floor

Washing the dog

Going to the doctor

Explaining consequences to our children

Calling the insurance company



How “after” looks in schools...

After any incident, we try to get staff and students back to their regular schedule as quickly as possible.

At times there are things that need to be put in place following a situation of any type.

Administrators meet to discuss how we responded and discuss changes

We may need to clean

Counseling may be provided to students

We communicate with parents



Communication

FERPA – Federal Education Records Protection Act


Protects privacy of student education records

Educational records are broadly defined as records that are directly related to a student and maintained by an educational agency

Includes but not limited to:

- Academic information
- Health information
- Discipline information

- ▶ School districts and school-based staff are prohibited from sharing information related to students, including discipline information, under FERPA.
- ▶ This means that we cannot share much information about why we use our security measures
- ▶ The individual staff or district as a whole would be violating a federal regulation




We also don't share our security procedures. This would put students and staff at risk in the future.



We realize it can create anxiety when the schools implement security procedures.

Please ask your child's principal or the superintendent's office if you have questions.

Please understand – we may not be able to provide the information you would like but we will provide as much as we can.



Thank you for your ongoing support
and understanding.

Have a wonderful school year!!!