

Schodack Central School District District-Wide School Safety Plan

2025 - 2026

Revised: May 2025
Amended November 2025

Address: 1477 South Schodack Road, Castleton-On-Hudson, NY 12033

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Schodack Central School District District-Wide School Safety Plan

I. INTRODUCTION

Emergencies and violent incidents in school districts are critical issues that must be addressed in an expeditious and effective manner. School Districts are required to develop a District-Wide School Safety Plan designed to prevent or minimize the effects of serious, violent incidents and emergencies and to facilitate the coordination of schools with local and county resources in the event of such incidents or emergencies. The District-Wide School Safety Plan is a comprehensive, multi-hazard school safety plan that covers all school buildings of the school district that addresses crisis intervention, emergency response and management at the district level.

The District-Wide Plan is responsive to the needs of all schools within the District and is consistent with the more detailed and confidential Building Level Emergency Response Plan. Schools are at risk of a wide variety of acts of violence and natural and technological disasters. To address these threats, the State of New York has enacted the Safe Schools Against Violence in Education (SAVE) law.

This component of Project SAVE is a comprehensive planning effort that addresses risk reduction/prevention, response, and recovery with respect to a variety of emergencies in the District and its schools.

The Schodack Central School District supports the SAVE Legislation and intends to facilitate the planning process. The Superintendent of Schools of the Schodack Central School District encourages and advocates on-going cooperation and support of Project SAVE.

A. Designation of the Chief Emergency Officer

§ 155.17(c)(1)(xix) the designation of the superintendent, or superintendent's designee, as the district chief emergency officer whose duties shall include, but not be limited to:

- a) coordination of the communication between school staff, law enforcement, and other first responders;
- b) lead the efforts of the district-wide school safety team in the completion and yearly update of the district-wide school safety plan and the coordination of the district-wide plan with the building-level emergency response plans;
- c) ensure staff understanding of the district-wide school safety plan;
- d) ensure the completion and yearly update of building-level emergency response plans for each school building;
- e) assist in the selection of security related technology and development of procedures for the use of such technology;
- f) coordinate appropriate safety, security, and emergency training for district and school staff, including required training in the districtwide school safety plan and building-level emergency response plan(s);

- g) ensure the conduct of required evacuation and lock-down drills in a trauma-informed, developmentally, and age-appropriate manner that does not include props, actors, simulations, or other tactics intended to mimic a school shooting or other act of violence or emergency in all district buildings as required by section 807 of the Education Law; and
- h) ensure the completion and yearly update of building-level emergency response plans by the dates designated by the commissioner.

The Schodack Central District Chief Emergency Officer:

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Name | Jason Chevrier |
| Title | Superintendent |
| Telephone Number | 518-732-2184 |

B. Appointment of the District Wide School Safety Team

Where noted below, the following appointments are made to the required members of District Wide School Safety Team upon adoption of the District Wide School Safety Plan. The District Wide School Safety Team appointments will be confirmed at the annual Organization Meeting held in July.

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| Board of Education | To be determined |
| District Administrator | Jason Chevrier, Superintendent Assistant Superintendent for Business and Support Services |
| Representative of Teacher Organization | To be named by the Schodack Faculty Association |
| Representative of Administrator Organizations | James Derby, Principal Castleton Elementary Robert Santarcangelo, Principal Maple Hill High School Angela Tommasini, Assistant Principal Maple Hill High School Megan Sullivan, Assistant Principal at Castleton Elementary School |
| Representative of Parent Organization | To be determined |
| School Safety Personnel | Richard Eckel, SRO |
| Bus Driver and Monitor | To be named by the Transportation Department Yearly |
| Other | Needham Risk Management |

The District Wide School Safety Team will meet regularly throughout the year to:

- Assess and review the District-wide Safety Plan annually and make updates, as needed throughout the school year.
- Make any necessary recommendations regarding emergency operations, planning, procedures, and/or protocols.

- Conduct training sessions as necessary.
- Support the Building-level Emergency Response Planning Teams at each school as necessary.
- Meet with local emergency responders to develop procedures for emergency situations that exceed the expertise and/or resources of the district.
- Prepare the updated District-wide School Safety Plan for the required public comment period, public meeting and adoption by the Board of Education by the required deadline of September 1 each school year.
- Additional tasks as requested by the Superintendent.

Per the regulations, if appointed, a student representative will not be present for discussions about confidential building-level response plans or portions of the district-wide emergency response strategies that are confidential, and no portion of a confidential building-level emergency response plan will be shared with the student representative(s).

C. District Information

The Schodack Central School District serves a student population of approximately 862 students. Within the district, there are approximately 194 employees. The district is comprised of the following buildings:

Castleton Elementary School

80 Scott Ave, Castleton-on-Hudson, NY 12033
 518-732-7755
 James Derby, Principal

Maple Hill Junior/Senior High School

1216 Maple Hill Road, Castleton-on-Hudson, NY 12033
 518-732-7701
 Robert Santarcangelo, Principal

Schodack District Office Building

1477 South Schodack Road, Castleton-on-Hudson, NY 12033
 518-732-7736
 Jason Chevrier, Superintendent
www.Schodack.k12.ny.us

D. District Wide School Safety Plan Review and Public Comment

To comply with New York State Education Law §2801-a and Commissioner’s Regulation 155.17(c)(3)(i), The District must adopt and submit its District-Wide School Safety Plan to the New York State Education Department (NYSED).

Annual Review and Update: The District-Wide School Safety Planning Team conducts meetings to review the Plan and throughout the school year, stakeholder feedback is gathered from various sources.

Public Comment Period: To ensure that the plan is in place and board approved by the September 1 deadline, the updated draft plan will be posted on the District's website. A 30-day public comment period is initiated, during which stakeholders can provide feedback.

Public Hearing and Board Adoption: A public hearing allows participation from school personnel, parents, students, and other interested parties. Following the hearing, the Board of Education adopts the final plan by September 1st, ensuring compliance with the requirement for at least one public hearing prior to adoption.

Submission to NYSED: Within 30 days of adoption, and no later than October 1st, the approved plan will be posted on the district website, and the superintendent will submit the plan URL and an attestation regarding staff training to the NYSED via the SED Monitoring application, providing contact information for the Chief Emergency Officer and details of the public comment period and adoption date.

Confidentiality of Building-Level Emergency Response Plans: In accordance with Education Law §2801-a, all school building-level emergency response plans remain confidential and are not subject to public disclosure. These plans are updated annually by September 1st and submitted to local law enforcement and the State Police by October 1st.

E. Philosophy and Goals

It is the policy of the Schodack Central School District to provide for a safe and secure learning and teaching environment for its students, staff and school community. This policy shall be implemented through the following means:

- Development of a detailed school safety plan for the District and each building in the District.
- Establishment and implementation of policies for responding to threats of violence concerning school district property, facilities and premises.
- Establishment and implementation of policies for responding to acts of violence by students, teachers, administrators, staff or visitors. This may include a zero-tolerance policy in some cases of violence in our schools.
- Development and delivery of prevention and intervention strategies for students manifesting at-risk behaviors.
- Development and adoption of policies and procedures for contacting law enforcement officials and parents in the event of a violent incident.
- Establishment and implementation of policies and procedures for school building security and training of students and staff in school security.
- Development and adoption of protocols for responding to bomb threats, hostage situations, intrusions and kidnappings.

- Development and implementation of strategies to improve communication regarding the reporting of violent incidents.

F. District Policy Manual

The policy statements formulated by the Board of Education of the Schodack Central School District are available on the district website (<https://go.boarddocs.com/ny/schodack/Board.nsf/Public>).

The policies related to school safety include but are not limited to:

Policy 01115-R Student Harassment and Bullying Prevention and Intervention

Policy 8110 School Building Safety

Policy 8130 School Safety Plans and Teams

Policy 8130.2 Workplace Violence Prevention

Policy 8131 Pandemic Planning

Policy 8210.1 Use of Surveillance Cameras on School Property

II. RISK REDUCTION/PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

A. Prevention/Intervention Strategies

Program Initiatives

The District has developed a number of programs and activities to aid in risk reduction. These initiatives are run at different age groups within the District. Examples of the topics covered:

- Character Education Programming
- District Code of Conduct
- S.A.D.D.
- Pre-Prom Assemblies on Drugs and Alcohol that can involve fire, police and emergency medical services
- Social Workers and Psychologist available to assist students
- Individual classroom programs on respect and character building
- Weekly advisory team meetings between social workers, guidance counselors, building administrators, and health office staff to assist identifying students with needs
- School Spirit Week, focusing on self-respect, bullying and tolerance
- Student Council planned activities
- Wellness Day at the Jr./Sr. High School
- SEL Curriculum across the school district
- Wellness committees
- Rensselaer County Mental Health Satellite Office, housed at MH and accessed by CES students as well.
- Saint Peters Health Partners – Anti-bullying, cyber safety, and personal safety presentations at CES

Facilities Initiatives

The District has attempted to enhance the security of its facilities through a number of initiatives, including the following:

- The school district has developed a parent/visitor sign-in procedure and requires the use of visitor ID badges with visual contact.
- The district's staff uses faculty/staff ID badges.
- The district has developed a single point of access for visitors at each building.
- The district has added video cameras in strategic areas of the school buildings to monitor activities within the school buildings.
- The district implemented a data logging card access system for entry into the buildings.
- The district has purchased meshed style waste receptacles to replace solid ones.
- The district purchased self-extinguishing waste canisters.
- The district has installed CO detectors in all required areas.
- The district installed a new fire sprinkler system in the new wing of CES.
- The district enhanced the fire alarm systems for the bus garage.
- The district restructured the Junior/Senior High School parking lot.
- The district created a separate bus and parent drop off at the elementary school.
- The district installed sprinklers in the renovated areas of the Junior/Senior High School
- The district installed speed bumps at the CES parent drop off.
- The district has implemented procedures for after-school and after-hours safety.

Consideration of Silent Panic Alarm Systems

Governor Hochul signed Alyssa's Law, Chapter 227 of the Laws of 2022 (Chapter 227) which amends Education Law §2801-a to require that district-wide school safety teams consider the usefulness of silent panic alarm systems when reviewing and amending district-wide safety plans. District-wide school safety teams shall consider, as part of their review of the comprehensive district-wide safety plan, the installation of a panic alarm system.

Section 155.17(b) of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education defines silent panic alarm systems as, "Panic alarm system means a silent security system signal generated by the manual activation of a device intended to signal a life-threatening or emergency situation requiring a response from local law enforcement or, in the case of a school building located in a municipality in which there is no municipal police department, a location designated by the superintendent of state police and may include one or more of the following: wired panic button or buttons, wireless panic button or buttons or a mobile or computer application."

The District Wide School Safety team will evaluate and consider silent panic alarms on an annual basis.

Training, Drills, and Exercises

Trauma Informed Drills

The district will perform emergency drills in a trauma informed manner. This means the district will avoid using tactics in training and drills that may introduce or activate trauma, such as the use of props, actors, simulations, or other tactics intended to mimic a school shooting, incident of violence, or other emergency, or inclusion of developmentally or age-inappropriate content. These drills may inadvertently prompt a negative emotional or psychological response in staff or students because of previous exposure(s) to trauma.

Drill Procedures

The District shall practice emergency response procedures under its District-Wide School Safety Plan and each of its Building-Level Emergency Response Plans (at least once every school year), where possible in cooperation with local law enforcement, emergency preparedness plan officials, and other first responders as follows:

- Evacuation and Lockdown drills shall be conducted with students at least twelve times in each school year, eight of which required drills shall be held between September first and December thirty-first of each such year.
- Eight of all such drills shall be evacuation drills, four of which shall be through use of the fire escapes on buildings where fire escapes are provided or through the use of identified secondary means of egress, such as through different corridors, hallways, stairways and exit doors. Six evacuation drills will be conducted by December thirty-first.
- Four of all such required drills shall be Lockdown drills. Two Lockdown drills will be conducted by December thirty-first.
- The school buildings may use temporary visual barriers to create a safe space during lockdown situations.
- Drills shall be conducted at different times of the school day.
- Students shall be instructed in the procedure to be followed in the event that a fire occurs during the lunch period or assembly, provided however, that such additional instruction may be waived where a drill is held during the regular school lunch period or assembly.
- Four additional drills shall be held in each school year during the hours after sunset and before sunrise in school buildings in which students are provided with sleeping accommodations.
- At least two additional drills shall be held during summer school in buildings where summer school is conducted, and one of such drills shall be held during the first week of summer school.
- One Emergency Dismissal drill shall be conducted to test emergency response procedures that require early dismissal, at a time not to occur more than 15 minutes earlier than the normal dismissal time.
- Parents or persons in parental relation shall be notified at least one week prior to the drill.
- Such drills shall test the usefulness of the communications and transportation system during emergencies.

- Drills conducted during the school day with students present shall be conducted in a trauma-informed, developmentally, and age-appropriate manner and shall not include props, actors, or simulations or other tactics intended to mimic a school shooting or other act of violence or emergency.
- With the exception of evacuation drills, at the time that drills are conducted, students and staff shall be informed that the activities being conducted are a drill.
- The District may choose to conduct tabletop exercises as a training resource and may include a discussion-based activity for staff in an informal classroom or meeting type setting to discuss their roles during an emergency and their responses to a sample emergency situation.

If the district chooses to opt to participate in full-scale exercises in conjunction with local and county emergency responders and preparedness officials that include props, actors, or simulations or other tactics intended to mimic a school shooting or other act of violence or emergency, such exercises ***shall not be conducted on a regular school day or when school activities such as athletics are occurring on school grounds***. Such exercises shall not include students without written consent from parents or persons in parental relation.

Drill Notification for Persons in Parental Relation

Each building within the District shall be required to develop a schedule and process to notify parents and persons in parental relation of scheduled drills which will include students. Notification of all drills will be made to parents and persons in parental relation within one week through email and Parent Square.

Drills held at the District or building level will be followed by a debriefing with participant stake holders to identify areas of success and opportunities for improvement. Building representatives will provide a report to the District-Wide Safety Team on drill status during regularly scheduled district-wide safety meetings.

Training

The District has established policies and procedures for annual multi-hazard school safety training for employees and students. Training includes:

- An annual review of the building-level emergency response guides and general employee awareness training for building employees conducted by each principal or their designee.
- The annual early go home drill to test evacuation and sheltering procedures.
- Each school building conducts evacuation/fire drills throughout the year in compliance with the NYSED schedule for the purpose of familiarizing employees and students with emergency procedures.

Topics for training will include general security and safety measures, intervention strategies with difficult or challenging students, building security awareness, violence prevention, mental health, and reporting requirements and procedures.

Training for school staff, including bus drivers and monitors, includes awareness of behaviors that may signal emotional distress or violent tendencies, as well as protocols for reporting concerns. Staff also receive annual instruction on the District Code of Conduct and participate in professional development related to threat assessment and trauma-informed practices. For example, training may cover de-escalation techniques, recognizing early signs of behavioral escalation, and strategies for supporting at-risk students. These sessions are conducted or coordinated by the Superintendent and are available through staff development days, on-demand modules, and in-person workshops.

Assignment of Responsibilities

Faculty and Staff

Faculty, aides and monitors shall have responsibility for:

- Monitoring halls, lavatories, locker rooms, locker bays and similar areas, assuring orderly passage of students and pre-emptive intervention in potentially disruptive situations.
- Observation of the general property, including the immediate outside area/perimeter of the building(s), with an obligation to report suspicious activity to district or building administration.
- Overseeing study halls, cafeterias, or other areas of student assemblage with the goal of assisting to maintain an orderly, safe environment.

School Safety Personnel

School safety personnel have a critical role in violence prevention. The following represents a description of the responsibilities of school safety personnel in schools:

- Oversight of school building security procedures.
- Oversight and/or advisement on school security technology.
- Participation in the District Wide School Safety Team and Building Level Emergency Response Team.
- Development of relationships with students and staff.

The memorandum of understanding outlining the role and responsibilities of school safety personnel can be found in Appendix D.

Building Administrators

The Building Principal or their designee shall serve as the School Safety Representative for the school building. The responsibilities of the School Safety Representative are as follows:

- Monitor hallways, entryways, exits and outside grounds during school hours for unusual occurrences or unauthorized visitors.
- Act as building liaison in communicating building-level safety issues or concerns.
- Represent the building on the District-Wide Health and Safety Committee.
- Serve on Building-Level Emergency Response Planning Team.
- Attend school safety meetings and be a resource on school safety and security issues for building employees.
- Develop plans and strategies for building security, crime and violence prevention, safety planning and employee training.

- Participate in school incident investigations.
- Respond to all school emergencies as part of the building’s Emergency Response Plan.
- Coordinate annual school safety multi-hazard training for students and employees. Multi-hazard training shall include crisis intervention, emergency response and management.
- Employees and students shall receive annual training and drill practice on protocols for bomb threats, evacuation, sheltering, lockdown, relocate to hallway, fire emergency, bus drills and appropriate violence prevention strategies.
- Designate procedure for informing substitute teaching and non-teaching employees of school safety protocols.
- Comply and encourage compliance with all school safety and security policies and procedures established by the Board of Education.
- Attend professional development activities on school safety and violence prevention.
- All school safety personnel shall be provided with training on violence prevention and school safety. All training courses shall receive prior approval from the Superintendent of Schools or their designee.

Hiring and Screening of School Personnel

The following hiring and screening practices are followed for the hiring of all personnel:

Fingerprinting and Criminal Background Checks

For all employees hired by schools, the District completes a fingerprinting and criminal background check prior to appointment. No employee works in the District until fingerprint clearance is received. Employees include: any person receiving compensation for work from schools; any employee of a contracted service provider involved in direct student contact; any worker assigned to a school under a public assistance employment program (includes part-time employees and substitutes).

Reference Checks

References are thoroughly checked prior to extending an employment offer.

- Reference check forms are used for instructional, non-instructional and transportation personnel.
- Reference checks are completed and reviewed by the administrative team along with the application.
- Prior to making a job offer to a prospective employee, the following mandatory questions are asked during reference checks with immediate and/or past supervisors:
 - Do you have knowledge of any violations of safety or security by (prospective employee) related to students, employees or others?
 - Why did (prospective employee) leave your employment? Or, do you know why (prospective employee) is leaving your employment?
 - Would you rehire (prospective employee)? If no, why not?

B. Early Detection of Potentially Violent Behaviors

The District has implemented policies and procedures related to the early detection of potentially violent behaviors. Each Building Principal is responsible for the dissemination of informative materials regarding the early detection of potentially violent behaviors, including but not limited to the identification of family, community, and environmental factors to teachers, administrators, school personnel, including

school bus drivers and monitors, parents and other persons in parental relation to students of the school district, students and other persons deemed appropriate to receive such information. In addition, employees shall receive training on the District's Code-of-Conduct and awareness training on violent behaviors, to be conducted or coordinated by the Superintendent of Schools.

Behavioral Assessment Team

The Schodack Central School District utilizes a multi-disciplinary safety (behavioral) assessment team at the building-level which assess whether certain exhibited behaviors or actions need intervention or other support. All district staff are trained annually on the purpose and procedures of these teams. These teams meet periodically throughout the school year to discuss behavioral intervention techniques, suicide ideation, and any other topics deemed necessary.

The membership of the Safety Assessment Team is multi-disciplinary and provides an array of opinions and perspectives when evaluating a student. While an initial assessment may occur with just a mental health professional and a school administrator, follow-up steps (if necessary) should include personnel who are specific to the student. For example, if a student is involved with sports, you could include a coach, or you may bring in teachers who are familiar with the student. Ideally, teams will include representatives who provide differing perspectives (e.g. mental health and administration) and professionals who are familiar with the at-risk student (e.g. teachers and coaches). An example team membership includes:

- Building administrators
- School-based mental health professional (Guidance counselor/school psychologist/school social worker)
- Teacher/coach (Who is familiar with the student)
- Behavior specialist
- Others who may know the student.

This team can expand or contract as necessary, but functions best when it has multiple perspectives and experiences. A description of the process can be found in Appendix A.

C. Hazard Identification

The Schodack Central School District recognizes the following locations within its facilities as sites of potential emergency or injury:

- Castleton Elementary School Playground
- Castleton Elementary School Gymnasiums
- Schodack District Office Building Playground
- Schodack District Office Building Athletic Fields
- Schodack District Office Building Gymnasium and Climbing Wall
- Maple Hill High School Athletic Fields
- Maple Hill High School Track
- Maple Hill High School Gymnasium
- Maple Hill High School Multi-Use Facility (MUF)
- Maple Hill High School Chemistry Labs

- Maple Hill High School Auditorium
- Outside grounds of all three school buildings (located on traveled roadways)
- Bus garage facility (located adjacent to the Maple Hill District office with school bus travel to and from the bus garage site)
- Off-Site Field Trips
- Railroad Tracks Located Within Walking Distance of School District Property

III. RESPONSE

A. Notification and Activation (Internal and External Communications)

In cases of a serious violent incident, the District would use the procedure listed below to meet the requirements for notification and activation. A serious violent incident is an incident of violent criminal conduct that is, or appears to be, life threatening and warrants the evacuation of students and employees because of an imminent threat to their safety or health. This includes, but is not limited to, the use or threatened use of a firearm, explosive, bomb, incendiary device, chemical, or biological weapons, knives or other dangerous instrument capable of causing death or serious injury, riots, hostage-taking, or kidnapping.

Communications systems are:

Internal Communication

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| Teachers and building employees | Public address system, email, text message, other electronic communications |
| Students | Public address system, verbally from supervising teachers, other electronic communications |
| Superintendent of Schools | Phone, email, radio, verbal communication, text message, other electronic communications <u>All Administrators are authorized by the District Superintendent to use ALL CALL on District Phones or PA system to notify the Entire Campus of a threat (i.e., Lockdown, Safety Hold, Shelter in Place, etc.).</u> |
| Buildings and Grounds | Phone, radio, other electronic communications |
| Board of Education | Phone, E-mail, other electronic communications |

External Communication

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| New York State Police: | 911 |
| Town P.D. | 911 |
| Sheriff's Office | 911 |
| Fire Department | 911 |
| Parents | District Website: www.schodack.k12.ny.us Parent Square Transportation Phone Emergency Information: Rhonda Greenway, 518-732-2070 |

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| | The district will also utilize local radio frequency and Radio Stations as necessary. |
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The District Communication Specialist would be responsible for conveying emergency information to educational facilities within the district. The District Communication Specialist would take appropriate steps to secure the following information about each educational agency within the District: Number of students, number of employees, transportation requirements associated with the evacuation of each facility and the business and home telephone numbers of key officials of each agency. Such information would be updated at least annually. Each such agency would report material changes to such data, in writing, within seven days of such change.

Information will be provided to parents, guardians or persons in parental relation to the students in the event of a violent incident or an early dismissal through the use of telephone, Parent Square, or local and regional radio and TV stations. These are the same stations that are used to announce official delays or closings. This information is provided to parents through the website and building handbooks. Additionally, if an event occurs at the campus where students cannot be released immediately, a parent/community public information center may be established at another campus building.

In the event that this public information center is established, parents and community members are encouraged not to report to the main campus where a building may be in crisis, but rather gather at a designated meeting place where regular public information statements will be made by the District Communication Specialist or designee.

B. Emergency Response Protocols

The Schodack Central School District has a comprehensive multi-hazard Emergency Response Plan. Such plan is updated annually. The school district provides annual training to all staff and faculty on the school district’s emergency response actions, includes this informaton in each classroom’s emergency folder, and discusses it regularly throughout the year during drills, tabletop exercises, and faculty meetings.

The district uses a standardized emergency response protocol framework which includes the following actions:

Shelter/Shelter-in-Place: Used to shelter students and staff inside the building because it is safer inside the building than outside.

Hold-in-Place: Used to restrict movement inside the building while dealing with a short-term incident, such as a medical emergency.

Evacuate: Used when students and staff must leave the building.

Secure Lockout: Used when students and staff must remain inside **locked school buildings** during incidents that pose an imminent concern outside of the school.

Lockdown: Used to secure students and staff inside **locked classrooms** during incidents that pose an immediate threat of violence in or around the school.

Chain of Command

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| Jason Chevrier | Superintendent of Schools |
| Brian Carey | Assistant Superintendent of Business and Support Services |
| Jacqueline Hill | Director of Student Services |
| Alyssa Sabbatino | Director of Teaching and Learning |
| Robert Santarcangelo / Angela Tommasini | Maple Hill Jr. Sr High School Principal / Assistant Principal |
| James Derby /Megan Sullivan | Castleton Elementary School Principal / Assistant Principal |

In the event of an act of violence or implied or direct threat, the Schodack Central School District shall follow the following protocol:

- Follow the classroom emergency procedures as directed by the Building Principal.
- Use of employees trained in de-escalation or other strategies to diffuse the situation.
- Inform Building Principal and local law enforcement of implied or direct threat.
- Determine level of threat with Superintendent of Schools/Designee.
- Contact appropriate law enforcement agency, if necessary.
- Monitor situation, adjust response as appropriate, and include the possible use of the Emergency Response Team.

Acts of Violence

In the event of serious acts of violence, district personnel shall follow the following protocol:

- Follow the classroom emergency procedures as directed by the Building Principal and the procedures included in the Building-Level Emergency Response Plan.
- Determine level of threat with Superintendent of Schools/Designee.
- If the situation warrants, isolate the immediate area and evacuate if appropriate.
- If necessary or threat is imminent, initiate lockdown procedures and contact appropriate law enforcement agency.
- If necessary and deemed appropriate by the Incident Commander, during an act of violence the East Greenbush Police Department will access the camera livestream to monitor the situation.
- Monitor situation; adjust response as appropriate; if necessary, initiate early dismissal, sheltering, or evacuation procedures.

Follow-up actions and debrief of the violent incident should include:

1. Investigation of the incident by Building Principal and law enforcement, as necessary.

2. Preparation of written accounts of the incident by all involved.
3. Review of written accounts by the Building Principal for any disparities.
4. Appropriate disciplinary action according to the code of conduct.
5. Review of the entire incident by administration for future planning.
 - a. What happened?
 - b. Where did it happen?
 - c. When did it happen?
 - d. Why did it happen?
 - e. How did it happen?
 - f. How many individuals were involved?
 - g. Are the individuals associated with a group?
 - h. How could the incident have been prevented?
 - i. What warning signs were missed?
 - j. What can we do to prevent a future incident?
6. Counseling or other needed support for the victim(s), other students and staff involved in the incident.
7. Necessary reporting and parental notification.

Each school's Building-Level emergency response plan lists building specific response actions to criminal acts, bomb threats, civil disturbance, intrusion, hostage taking, kidnapping, as well as technological and natural disasters.

Communication During Off-Site Reunification

In the event of an incident or emergency that requires students and staff to leave campus, all official information will be conveyed by the district to parents and persons in parental relation through Parent Square.

District Resources Available for Use in an Emergency

The district has created a comprehensive list of resources available during an emergency, including fuel sources, communications, food service capability, maintenance vehicle lists, and medical supplies and AED, CPR and First Aid trained staff. Specific information in each of these categories is contained in the Building-Level plans.

Procedures to Coordinate the Use of School District Resources and Person-power during Emergencies

The District shall use the following procedure to coordinate the use of school resources and person-power during emergencies:

- The Building Principal of the affected facility shall contact the Superintendent of Schools or their designee and request the necessary manpower or resources.
- The Superintendent of Schools or the highest-ranking person in the chain of command shall assess the request and allocate personnel and resources as necessary.

Protective Action Options

The district shall follow the following protocols in assessing the appropriate protective action option. The decision to cancel school, to dismiss early, shelter in place, or evacuate shall be made in cooperation with state and local emergency responders, as appropriate.

- School Cancellation
 - Monitor any situation that may warrant a school cancellation – Superintendent of Schools/Safety Team.
 - Make determination – Superintendent of Schools.
 - Contact local media – Superintendent of Schools or Director of Communications & Governmental Relations.

- School Delay
 - Monitor any situation that may warrant school delay – Building Administrators/ Superintendent of Schools/Safety Team.
 - If conditions warrant, delay opening of school.
 - Contact Transportation Supervisor to coordinate transportation issues.
 - Contact local media to inform parents of delayed opening.
 - Set up information center so that parents may make inquiries as to situation.
 - Provide for safety and security of employees and students who do come to school.

- Early Dismissal
 - Monitor situation – Superintendent of Schools/Safety Team.
 - If conditions warrant, close school – Superintendent of Schools.
 - Contact Transportation Supervisor to arrange transportation.
 - Contact local media to inform parents of early dismissal.
 - Set up an information center so that parents may make inquiries as to the situation.
 - Retain appropriate personnel until all students have been returned home.

- Evacuation (before, during and after school hours, including security during evacuation and evacuation routes)
 - Determine the level of threat – Superintendent of Schools or Designee.
 - Contact Transportation Supervisor to arrange transportation – Superintendent of Schools or Designee.
 - Clear all evacuation routes and sites prior to evacuation.
 - Evacuate all employees and students to pre-arranged evacuation sites.
 - Account for all student and employee population. Report any missing employees or students to Building Principal.
 - Make determination regarding early dismissal – Superintendent of Schools or Designee.
 - If determination was made to dismiss early, contact local media to inform parents of early dismissal.
 - Ensure adult supervision or continued school supervision/security.
 - Set up an information center so that parents may make inquiries as to the situation.

- Retain appropriate personnel until all students have been returned home.
- Sheltering Sites (internal and external)
 - Determine the level of threat – Superintendent of Schools/Incident Commander /Designee.
 - Determine location of sheltering depending on nature of incident.
 - Account for all students and employees. Report any missing employees or students to designee.
 - Determine other occupants in the building.
 - Make appropriate arrangements for human needs.
 - Take appropriate safety precautions.
 - Establish a Public Information Officer to provide information and current status of the situation to parents and other inquiring parties.
 - Retain appropriate personnel until all students have been returned home.

Arrangements for Obtaining Emergency Assistance from Local Government

The administration shall use the following process in making arrangements for obtaining assistance during emergencies from emergency service organizations and local government agencies:

- Superintendent of Schools/Designee in an emergency contacts dispatch point or 911 center for fire or EMS response.
- Superintendent of Schools/Designee contacts highest-ranking local government official for notification and/or assistance.

Procedures for Obtaining Advice and Assistance from Local Government Officials

The Administration shall use the following protocol for obtaining advice and assistance from local government officials including the county or city officials responsible for implementation of Article 2-B of the Executive Law:

- Superintendent of Schools/Designee in an emergency will contact emergency management coordinator and/or the highest-ranking local government official for obtaining advice and assistance.
- The District has identified resources for an emergency from the following agencies: Red Cross, fire department, police, private industry, private individuals, religious organizations and others.

Remote Instruction Plan

Schodack Central School District has created a remote instruction plan and intends to enact the plan in the case of an emergency school closure where appropriate. Please find the districts remote instruction plan in Appendix B of this document.

Continuation of Operations Plan

In accordance with the amended New York State Labor Law section 27-c and New York State Education Law paragraph m of subdivision 2 of section 2801-a the District has adopted a plan for operations in the event of a declared public health emergency involving a communicable disease. The plan includes the identification of essential positions, facilitation of remote work for non-essential positions, provision of personal protective equipment, and protocols for supporting contact tracing and can be found in Appendix C.

Closure of a School Building

In accordance with Section 155.17(f) of the Commissioner’s Regulations, the District has established a protocol for reporting to the New York State Education Department (NYSED) and the BOCES district superintendent whenever a building-level emergency response plan is activated and results in the closure of a school building.

Reporting to NYSED

In the event of an emergency that requires the activation of the District-Wide School Safety Plan or a Building-Level Emergency Response Plan, and that results in the closure of a school building for in-person instruction, the superintendent or building principal will contact the BOCES district superintendent via telephone or email, and notify the Commissioner of Education via the NYSED “Report of School Closure” portal as soon as is practicable following the decision to close the building.

Even in cases where remote instruction continues during the emergency, a Report of School Closure must still be submitted. This includes closures where instruction is temporarily relocated to another facility or conducted through virtual platforms.

Required Follow-Up Reporting

Once it is deemed safe to re-open the building and resume in-person instruction, the Superintendent or building principal will complete a corresponding “Report of School Re-Opening” using the NYSED portal. This report must include:

- The actual duration of the closure;
- The instructional location and modality during the closure (e.g., remote, hybrid, alternate site);
- Any additional details that were not available at the time of initial closure.

Scope and Applicability: Closures that require this reporting include, but are not limited to:

- Natural disasters (e.g., hurricanes, floods, earthquakes);
- Infrastructure failures (e.g., extended power outages, water supply issues);
- Public health emergencies (e.g., infectious disease outbreaks);
- Threats to safety (e.g., bomb threats, active shooter incidents);
- Extraordinary adverse weather events, excluding routine snow days.

Routine weather-related closures due to snow do not require submission of a Report of School Closure or notification to the BOCES district superintendent.

By following this reporting protocol, the District ensures transparency, accountability, and compliance with state requirements while supporting the safety and continuity of learning for all students.

IV. RECOVERY

Recovery addresses the help needed for all involved to heal and to restore the school community to “normal” operations. The District Plan supports the school building plan by deploying district resources that support the school’s building-level emergency response team and the post-incident response team.

A debriefing by the Building Level Post-Incident Response Team is an essential part of the recovery phase following an emergency incident. The debriefing will be used in part to evaluate the district's plan for possible revisions.

Central Administration Support for Buildings

The Schodack Central School District District-Wide Team will support the Building-Level Emergency Response Team and the Post-Incident Response Team in affected schools. The District's Incident Command System Plan identifies alternates to relieve team members, and interfaces with the Crisis Response Plan to provide team members the opportunity to debrief and rehab in a controlled environment. Additionally, members of the Post-Incident Response Team will be provided with sufficient staffing to allow the rotation of personnel, and the opportunity to debrief and rehab in a controlled environment.

Disaster Mental Health Services

The district will work with the School Psychologist, Guidance Director, and School Nurse to coordinate disaster mental health resources through the County Mental Health Department, community resources, neighboring school districts, and other disaster mental health resources to fully support members of the crisis response team.

If necessary, the District will coordinate with the statewide plan for disaster mental health services to assure that the school has access to federal, state and local mental health resources in the event of a violent incident.

Short-term actions for recovery include:

- Mental health counseling (students and staff)
- Building security
- Facility restoration
- Post-incident response critique
- Other

Long-term actions for recovery include:

- Mental health counseling (monitor for post-traumatic stress behavior)
- Building security
- Mitigation (to reduce the likelihood of occurrence and impact if it does occur again)
- Other

In conclusion, the Schodack Central School District's safety-related programs and procedures are under the oversight of the Chief Emergency Officer and will be revised as necessary to effectively respond to evolving circumstances.

Appendix A: Enhancing School Safety Using A Threat Assessment Model An Operational Guide for Preventing Targeted School Violence

This guide was prepared by the staff of the U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC)
(2018)

INTRODUCTION

When incidents of school violence occur, they leave a profound and lasting impact on the school, the community, and our nation as a whole. Ensuring safe environments for elementary and secondary school students, educators, administrators, and others is essential. This operational guide was developed to provide fundamental direction on how to prevent incidents of targeted school violence, that is, when a student specifically selects a school or a member of the school community for harm. The content in this guide is based on information developed by the U.S. Secret Service, Protective Intelligence and Assessment Division, National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC)

When establishing threat assessment capabilities within K-12 schools, keep in mind that there is no profile of a student attacker. There have been male and female attackers, high-achieving students with good grades as well as poor performers. These acts of violence were committed by students who were loners and socially isolated, and those who were well-liked and popular. Rather than focusing solely on a student's personality traits or school performance, we can learn much more about a student's risk for violence by working through the threat assessment process, which is designed to gather the most relevant information about the student's communications and behaviors, the negative or stressful events the student has experienced, and the resources the student possesses to overcome those setbacks and challenges.

CREATING A COMPREHENSIVE TARGETED VIOLENCE PREVENTION PLAN

Ensuring the safety of our schools involves multiple components, including physical security, emergency management, and violence prevention efforts in the form of a threat assessment process. This process begins with establishing a comprehensive targeted violence prevention plan. The plan includes forming a multidisciplinary threat assessment team, establishing central reporting mechanisms, identifying behaviors of concern, defining the threshold for law enforcement intervention, identifying risk management strategies, promoting safe school climates, and providing training to stakeholders. It can also help schools mitigate threats from a variety of individuals, including students, employees, or parents. This guide provides basic instructions for schools on creating a targeted violence prevention plan, the focus of which is to decrease the risk of students engaging in harm to themselves or the school community. These recommendations serve as the starting point on a path to implementation that will need to be customized to the specific needs of your school, your student body, and your community. When creating these plans, schools should consult with legal representatives to ensure that they comply with any applicable state and federal laws or regulations.

STEP 1. ESTABLISH A MULTIDISCIPLINARY THREAT ASSESSMENT TEAM

The first step in developing a comprehensive targeted violence prevention plan is to establish a multidisciplinary threat assessment team (hereafter referred to as the "Team") of individuals who will direct, manage, and document the threat assessment process. The Team will receive reports about concerning students and situations, gather additional information, assess the risk posed to the school community, and develop intervention and management strategies to mitigate any risk of harm. Some considerations for establishing a Team include:

Some schools may pool their resources and have a single Team that serves an entire district or county, while other districts may choose to have a separate Team for each school.

Teams should include personnel from a **variety of disciplines** within the school community, including teachers, guidance counselors, coaches, school resource officers, mental health professionals, and school administrators. The multidisciplinary nature of the Team ensures that varying points of view will be represented and that access to information and resources will be broad.

The Team needs to have a **specifically designated leader**. This position is usually occupied by a senior administrator within the school.

Teams should establish **protocols and procedures** that are followed for each assessment, including who will interview the student of concern; who will talk to classmates, teachers, or parents; and who will be responsible for documenting the Team's efforts. Established protocols allow for a smoother assessment process as Team members will be aware of their own roles and responsibilities, as well as those of their colleagues.

Team members should meet whenever a concerning student or situation has been brought to their attention, but they should also **meet on a regular basis** to engage in discussions, role-playing scenarios, and other teambuilding and learning activities. This will provide members of the Team with opportunities to work together and learn their individual responsibilities so that when a crisis does arise, the Team will be able to operate more easily as a cohesive unit.

STEP 2. DEFINE PROHIBITED AND CONCERNING BEHAVIORS

Schools need to establish policies defining prohibited behaviors that are unacceptable and therefore warrant immediate intervention. These include threatening or engaging in violence, bringing a weapon to school, bullying or harassing others, and other concerning or criminal behaviors. Keep in mind that **concerning behaviors occur along a continuum**. School policies should also identify behaviors that may not necessarily be indicative of violence, but also warrant some type of intervention. These include a marked decline in performance; increased absenteeism; withdrawal or isolation; sudden or dramatic changes in behavior or appearance; drug or alcohol use; and erratic, depressive, and other emotional or mental health symptoms.

If these behaviors are observed or reported to the Team, schools can offer resources and supports in the form of mentoring and counseling, mental health care, tutoring, or social and family services.

The threshold for intervention should be relatively low so that Teams can identify students in distress before their behavior escalates to the point that classmates, teachers, or parents are concerned about their safety or the safety of others. It is much easier to intervene when the concern is related to a student's struggle to overcome personal setbacks, such as a romantic breakup, than when there are concerns about threats posed to others.

During the assessment process, Teams may identify other **concerning statements and actions** made by the student that may not already be addressed in their policies. Gathering information about these behaviors will help the Team assess whether the student is at risk for attacking the school or its students and identify strategies to mitigate that risk.

STEP 3. CREATE A CENTRAL REPORTING MECHANISM

Students may elicit concern from those around them in a variety of ways. They may make threatening or concerning statements in person, online, or in text messages; they may engage in observable risky behavior; or they may turn in assignments with statements or content that is unusual or bizarre. When this occurs, those around the student need a method of reporting their concerns to the Team.

Schools can **establish one or more reporting mechanisms**, such as an online form posted on the school website, a dedicated email address or phone number, smart phone application platforms, or another mechanism that is accessible for a particular school community.

Students, teachers, staff, school resource officers, and parents **should be provided training and guidance on recognizing behaviors of concern, their roles and responsibilities in reporting the behavior, and how to report the information.**

Teams need to be sure that a team member proactively monitors all incoming reports and can **respond immediately** when someone's safety is concerned.

Regardless of what method schools choose to receive these reports, there should be an **option for passing information anonymously**, as students are more likely to report concerning or threatening information when they can do so without fear of retribution for coming forward.

The school community should feel confident that team members will be responsive to their concerns, and that **reports will be acted upon, kept confidential, and handled appropriately.**

STEP 4. DETERMINE THE THRESHOLD FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT INTERVENTION

The vast majority of incidents or concerns that are likely to be reported can be handled by school personnel using school or community resources. For example, the most common types of reports submitted to Safe2Tell Colorado during the 2016- 2017 school year were related to suicide, bullying, drugs, cutting (self-harm), and depression.² Some of these common reports may not require the involvement of law enforcement. Those that do warrant law enforcement intervention include threats of violence and planned school attacks, which constituted Safe2Tell's sixth and seventh most common types of reports, respectively.

Reports regarding student **behaviors involving weapons, threats of violence, physical violence, or concerns about an individual's safety** should immediately be reported to local law enforcement. This is one reason **why including a school resource officer or local law enforcement officer** on the Team is beneficial.

If a school resource officer is not available to serve on the Team, schools should set a clear threshold for times and situations **when law enforcement will be asked to support or take over an assessment.** For example, it might be necessary to have law enforcement speak with a student's parent or guardian, search a student's person or possessions, or collect additional information about the student or situation outside the school community during the assessment.

STEP 5. ESTABLISH ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES

Teams need to establish clearly defined processes and procedures to guide their assessments. Note that any safety concerns should be immediately addressed before the procedures described below take place. When followed, the procedures should allow the Team to form an accurate picture of the student's thinking, behavior, and circumstances to inform the Team's assessment and identify appropriate interventions.

Maintain documentation to keep track of when reports come in; the information that is gathered; when, where, and how it was obtained; who was interviewed; the behaviors and circumstances of the student of concern; and the intervention strategies taken. Documentation requirements, such as forms and templates, should be included in the plan to ensure standardization across cases.

Use a community systems approach. An effective approach for gathering information to assess a student of concern is **to identify the sources that may have information on the student's actions and circumstances.** This involves identifying the persons with whom the student has a relationship or frequently interacts and the organizations or platforms that may be familiar with the student's behaviors. Students exist in more than one system and they come in contact with people beyond their classmates and teachers at school. Gathering information from multiple sources ensures that Teams are identifying concerning behaviors, accurately assessing the student's risks and needs, and providing the appropriate interventions, supports, and resources.

Examine online social media pages, conduct interviews, review class assignments, and consider searching the student's locker or desk. Team members should also review **academic, disciplinary, law enforcement, and other formal records** that may be related to the student. When reviewing school records, be sure to determine whether the student has been the subject of previous reports to school officials, especially if the student has a history of engaging in other concerning or threatening behaviors. Also determine if the student received any intervention or supports and whether those were beneficial or successful. The Team may be able to draw on information from previous incidents and interventions to address the current situation for the student. This factor further emphasizes the importance of the Team's documentation to ensure the accuracy and availability of information regarding prior contacts the student of concern may have had with the Team.

Build rapport that can facilitate information-gathering efforts. By demonstrating that their goal is to support individuals who may be struggling, while ensuring that the student and the school are safe, Teams may be better able to build a positive relationship with a student of concern and the student's parents or guardians. When Teams have established this rapport, parents or guardians may be more likely to share their own concerns, and the student may be more forthcoming about frustrations, needs, goals, or plans.

Evaluate the student's concerning behaviors and communications in the context of their age and social and emotional development. Some students' behaviors might seem unusual or maladaptive, but may be normal for adolescent behavior or in the context of a mental or developmental disorder. To ensure that these students are being accurately assessed, collect information from diverse sources, including the reporting party, the student of concern, classmates, teammates, teachers, and friends. Consider whether those outside of their immediate circle, such as neighbors or community groups, may be in a position to share information regarding observed behaviors.

Investigative themes

Teams should organize their information gathering around several themes or areas pertaining to the student's actions, circumstances, and any other relevant threat assessment factors. Addressing each theme is necessary for a complete assessment and may uncover other avenues of inquiry to help determine whether the student is at risk for engaging in violence. Using the themes to identify where the student might be struggling will help the Team identify the most appropriate resources. Keep in mind, there is no need to wait until the Team has completed all interviews or addressed every theme before taking action. As soon as an area for intervention is identified, suitable management strategies should be enacted.

Motives

Students may have a variety of motives that place them at risk for engaging in harmful behavior, whether to themselves or others. If you can discover the student's motivation for engaging in the concerning behavior that brought him/her to the attention of the Team, then you can understand more about the student's goals. The Team should also assess how far the student may be willing to go to achieve these goals, and what or who may be a potential target. Understanding motive further allows the Team to develop management strategies that can direct the student away from violent choices.

Communications

Look for concerning, unusual, bizarre, threatening, or violent communications the student made. The student's communications may reveal grievances held about certain issues or a possible intended target. They may allude to violent intentions or warn others to stay away from school at a certain time. They may reveal information relevant to the other investigative themes by making reference to feelings of hopelessness or suicide, a fascination with violence, interest in weapons, or other inappropriate interests. These statements might be made in person to classmates, teammates, or friends; in writing on assignments or tests; and/or via social media, text messages, or photo or video-sharing sites. Earlier NTAC research that examined attacks on schools found that not every student directly threatened their target prior to attack, but in a majority of incidents (81%), another person was aware of what the student was thinking or planning. It is important for Teams to remember that a student who has not made threatening statements may still be at risk for engaging in violence. Whether or not the student made a direct threat should not be the lone indicator of concern.

Inappropriate interests

Gather information about whether the student has shown **an inappropriate or heightened interest in concerning topics such as school attacks or attackers, mass attacks, or other types of violence**. These interests might appear in the student's communications, the books the student reads, the movies the student watches, or the activities the student enjoys. The context of the student's interests is an important factor to consider. For example, a student's interest in weapons may not be concerning if the student is a hunter or is on the school's rifle team, with no evidence of an inappropriate or unhealthy fixation on weapons. In other situations, the context surrounding a student's interest in weapons could be of concern. For example, if a student is fixated on past school shooters or discusses what firearm would be best to use in a mass attack.

Weapons access

In addition to determining whether the student has any inappropriate interests or fascination with weapons, the Team should assess whether the student **has access to weapons**. Because many school attackers used firearms acquired from their homes, consider whether the family keeps weapons at home or if there is a relative or friend who has weapons. Sometimes parents who keep weapons at home incorrectly assume that their children are unaware of where they are stored or how to access them. If there are weapons at home, the Team should determine if they are stored appropriately and if the student knows how to use them or has done so in the past. The Team should also remember that firearms are not the only weapons to be concerned about. Even though many school attackers have used firearms in carrying out their attacks, explosives, incendiary devices, bladed weapons, or combinations of these weapons have been used in past attacks.

Stressors

All students face stressors such as **setbacks, losses, and other challenges** as part of their lives. While many students are resilient and can overcome these situations, for some, these stressors may become overwhelming and ultimately influence their decision to carry out an attack at school. Gather information on stressors the student is experiencing, how the student is coping with them, and whether there are supportive friends or family who can help the student overcome them. Assess whether the student experienced stressors in the past that are still having an effect, such as a move to a new school, and whether there might be additional setbacks or losses in the near future, like a relationship that might be ending. **Stressors can occur in all areas of a student's life**, including at school with coursework, friendships, romantic relationships, or teammates, or outside of school with parents, siblings, or at jobs. Many students can experience bullying, a stressor which can take place in person at school or online at home. Teams should intervene and prevent bullying and cyberbullying of a student who has been brought

to their attention. More broadly, administrators should work to address any concerns regarding bullying school-wide and ensure their school has a safe climate for all students.

Emotional and developmental issues

Anxiety, depression, thoughts of suicide, and other mental health issues are important factors to consider when conducting an assessment. Keep in mind that students with emotional issues or developmental disorders might behave in a way that is maladaptive but might not be concerning or threatening because the behavior is a product of their diagnosis. **Behaviors exhibited by a student with a diagnosed disorder need to be evaluated in the context of that diagnosis and the student's known baseline of behavior.** If the student is experiencing feelings related to a diagnosable mental illness, such as depression, then the Team needs to consider the effect of these feelings on their behaviors when assessing the student's risk of engaging in harm to self or others.

Desperation or despair

Assess whether the student feels **hopeless, desperate, or out of options**. Determine if the student has had thoughts about or engaged in behaviors that would indicate the student's desperation. The Team should determine whether the student has felt this way before, how the student managed those feelings then, and whether those same resources for coping are available to the student now. Consider whether the student has tried addressing the problems in a positive way, but was unable to resolve them, thereby leading to a sense of hopelessness about their situation.

Violence as an option

Some students, who are feeling hopeless and out of options, **may think violence is the only way to solve a problem or settle a grievance**. The Team should look to see whether the student thinks violence is acceptable or necessary, if the student has used violence in the past to address problems, and whether the student has thought of alternative ways to address the grievances. The Team should also assess whether peers, or others, support and encourage the student to use violence as a means to an end. If possible, connect the student with more positive, prosocial role models who discourage violence and identify more acceptable ways to solve problems.

Concerned others

In previous incidents, many students made statements or engaged in behaviors prior to their attacks that elicited concern from others in their lives. Assess whether parents, friends, classmates, teachers, or others who know the student are worried about the student and whether they have taken any actions in response to their concerns. Gather information on the specific behaviors that caused worry or fear. These could **include behaviors that may have elicited concerns about the safety of the student or others**, such as unusual, bizarre or threatening statements; intimidating or aggressive acts; indications of planning for an attack; suicidal ideations or gestures; or a fixation on a specific target. **Other behaviors that elicit concern may not necessarily be indicative of violence**, but do require that the Team assess the behavior and provide appropriate supports. Examples of these behaviors include alcohol or drug use; behavior changes related to academic performance, social habits, mood, or physical appearance; conflicts with others; and withdrawal or isolation.

Capacity to carry out an attack

Determine whether the student's thinking and behavior is organized enough to plan and execute an attack and whether the student has the resources to carry it out. **Planning does not need to be elaborate** and could be as simple as taking a weapon from home and inflicting harm on classmates at school. Other student attackers may develop more complex and lengthier plans. At the very least, carrying out an attack requires that the student has access to a weapon and the ability to get that weapon to school undetected.

Planning

Targeted attacks at school are **rarely sudden or impulsive** acts of violence. The Team should assess whether the student has made specific plans to harm the school. The student might create lists of individuals or groups targeted for violence, or research tactics and materials needed to carry out the attack. The student may conduct surveillance, draw maps of the planned location, and test security responses at school. He/she may write out detailed steps and rehearse some aspects of a plan, such as getting to the school, the timing of the attack, or whether to attempt escape, be captured, or commit suicide. The student may also acquire, manufacture, or practice with a weapon.

Consistency

The Team should **corroborate the student's statements** to determine that they are consistent with the student's actions and behaviors and with what other people say about the student. When inconsistencies are identified, the Team should then try to determine why that is the case. For example, the student might say that he/she is handling a romantic break-up well, but posts on social media indicate the student is struggling to move on, and friends report that the student is more upset or angry about the break-up than reported. Determine whether the inconsistency is because the student is deliberately hiding something or if the inconsistency stems from another underlying issue. For example, a depressed student may claim that they are isolated, even if they regularly go out with a large group of students. If the inconsistency is deliberate, it is important to determine why the student feels the need to conceal their actions. The concealment may be as simple as a fear of facing punishment for some other inappropriate behavior, or it may be related to hidden plans for a violent act.

Protective factors

A thorough threat assessment requires understanding the full picture of a student's behaviors and environment, which also includes accounting for the positive and prosocial influences on the student's life. The Team should identify factors that may restore hope to a student who feels defeated, desperate, or in a situation that is impossible to overcome. This includes determining whether the student has a **positive, trusting relationship with an adult at school**. This could be a teacher, coach, guidance counselor, administrator, nurse, resource officer, or janitor. A trusted adult at school in whom the student can confide and who will listen without judgment can help direct a student toward resources, supports, and options to overcome setbacks. Learn who the student's friends are at school and if the student feels emotionally connected to other students. A student may need help developing friendships that they can rely on for support. Positive situational or personal factors might help to deter a student from engaging in negative or harmful behaviors. Changes in a student's life, such as having a new romantic relationship or becoming a member of a team or club, might discourage any plan to engage in violence. The Team could also use activities or groups the student wants to take part in as motivation for the student to engage in positive and constructive behaviors, such as attending class, completing assignments, and adhering to a conduct or behavior code.

STEP 6. DEVELOP RISK MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

Once the Team has completed a thorough assessment of the student, it can **evaluate whether the student is at risk for self-harm or harming someone else** at school. Concern may be heightened if the student is struggling emotionally, having trouble overcoming setbacks or losses, feeling hopeless, preoccupied with others who engaged in violence to solve problems, or has access to weapons. Remember, the Team is not attempting to predict with certainty if violence will happen. Instead, evaluate the presence of factors that indicate violence might be a possibility. Teams can then **develop risk management strategies that reduce the student's risk for engaging in violence** and make positive outcomes for the student more likely.

Each student who comes to the Team's attention will require an **individualized management plan**. The resources and supports the student needs will differ depending on the information gathered during the assessment.

Often, the Team will determine that the student is not currently at risk for engaging in violence, but **requires monitoring or is in need of guidance** to cope with losses, develop resiliency to overcome setbacks, or learn more appropriate strategies to manage emotions.

Resources to assist the student could take the form of peer support programs or therapeutic counseling to enhance social learning or emotional competency, life skills classes, tutoring in specific academic subjects, or mental health care. Most programs and supports will be available within the school, but the Team may need to also access community resources to assist with managing the student.

Sometimes management involves suspension or expulsion from school. When this is necessary, Teams and school administrators should consider how it might affect their ability to monitor the student. **Removing a student from school does not eliminate the risk to the school community**. Several school attacks have been carried out by former students who had been removed from the school or aged out of their former school. A suspended or expelled student might become isolated from positive peer interactions or supportive adult relationships at school. Teams should develop strategies to stay connected to the suspended or expelled student to determine whether the student's situation is deteriorating, or the behaviors of concern are escalating so that they can respond appropriately. Management plans should remain in place until the Team is no longer concerned about the student or the risk for violence. This is accomplished by addressing the following basic elements that can reduce the likelihood a student will engage in violence and provide support and resources for those in need.

Notify law enforcement immediately if a student is thinking about or planning to engage in violence, so that they may assist in managing the situation.

Make efforts to address the safety of any potential targets by altering or improving security procedures for schools or individuals and providing guidance on how to avoid the student of concern.

Create a situation that is less prone to violence by asking the family or law enforcement to block the student's access to weapons, while also connecting the student to positive, prosocial models of behavior. Another option may involve removing the student from campus for a period of time, while maintaining a relationship with the student and the student's family.

Remove or redirect the student's motive. Every student's motive will be different, and motives can be redirected in a variety of ways. These strategies may include bullying prevention efforts or offering counseling for a student experiencing a personal setback.

Reduce the effect of stressors by providing resources and supports that help the student manage and overcome negative events, setbacks, and challenges.

STEP 7. CREATE AND PROMOTE SAFE SCHOOL CLIMATES

A crucial component of preventing targeted violence at schools relies on developing positive school climates **built on a culture of safety, respect, trust, and social and emotional support**.

Teachers and staff in safe school environments support diversity, encourage communication between faculty and students, intervene in conflicts, and work to prevent teasing and bullying. Students in safe school climates feel empowered to **share concerns with adults**, without feeling ashamed or facing the

stigma of being labeled a “snitch.” Administrators can take action to develop and sustain safe school climates.

Help students feel connected to the school, their classmates, and teachers. This is an important first step to creating school climates that are supportive, respectful, and safe. **Encourage teachers and staff to build positive, trusting relationships with students** by actively listening to students and taking an interest in what they say.

Break down “codes of silence” and help students feel empowered to come forward and share concerns and problems with a trusted adult. At one school, administrators used a faculty meeting to identify students who lacked a solid connection with an adult at school. They provided faculty with a roster of enrolled students and asked them to place a mark next to students with whom they had a warm relationship. For students without a mark next to their name, popular, well-liked teachers and staff were asked to reach out and develop positive connections with them.

Help students feel more **connected to their classmates and the school**. One teacher asked her elementary students to write down names of classmates they wanted to sit next to. If a student’s name did not appear on anyone’s list, the teacher placed that student’s desk next to a friendly or outgoing classmate in an effort to help the student develop friendships. This effort could be easily adapted with middle or high school-aged students by asking students to identify one or two classmates they would like to be partnered with for a project and assigning any student not named on a list to be partnered with a friendly or outgoing classmate.

Adults can also help students **identify clubs or teams at school** they can join or encourage them to start their own special interest group.

Schools can also support positive school climates by implementing school-wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) programs. These programs actively teach students what appropriate behavior looks like in a variety of settings, including in the classroom, with their friends, or among adults. Teachers frequently praise prosocial behavior they observe and encourage students’ good behavior. PBIS can improve academic outcomes for schools and has been shown to reduce the rates of school bullying.

While teachers and staff can foster relationships and connectedness among the student body, **students themselves have a role to play** in sustaining safe school climates. They should be actively engaged in their schools, encouraged to reach out to classmates who might be lonely or isolated, and empowered to intervene safely when they witness gossiping, teasing, and bullying.

STEP 8. CONDUCT TRAINING FOR ALL STAKEHOLDERS

The final component of a comprehensive targeted violence prevention plan is to identify training needs for all stakeholders, including faculty, staff, and administrators; students; parents; and school resource officers or local law enforcement. **School safety is everyone’s responsibility**. Anyone who could come forward with concerning information or who might be involved in the assessment process should be provided with training. Effective training addresses the goals and steps of an assessment, the type of information that should be brought forward, and how individuals can report their concerns. It might be beneficial for staff and students to hear presentations, see videos, and role-play scenarios so they have a thorough understanding of their responsibilities and the steps they can take to keep their school safe. Each audience will require a slightly different message, but some stakeholders may also benefit from attending training together, such as parents and students, or school faculty/staff and law enforcement personnel. When developing a training program, consider how frequently each stakeholder will receive training, and whether to vary the delivery method of trainings. Also, each audience may have unique needs.

Faculty, staff, and administrators

Every adult at school needs training related to threat assessment and violence prevention, **including administrative, maintenance, custodial, and food service staff**. Training can include who should be notified when concerning or threatening information is discovered, what information should be brought forward, how school staff might learn about information, and the steps school staff can take to safely intervene with concerning or threatening situations. Providing training on other topics, such as suicide awareness and prevention, conflict resolution, mental health, and developmental disabilities, might also allow school faculty, staff, and administrators to foster positive school climates.

Students

Students need training on the threat assessment process, where to report concerns, and what information they should bring forward. Students also need assurances that they can make a report to the Team or another trusted adult **anonymously**, that their information will be **followed up on**, and will be kept **confidential**. Training can also educate students about other actionable steps they can take to cultivate a safe school climate, including ways they can safely intervene with bullying, gossip, or name-calling. Messaging should demonstrate to students that there is a big **difference between “snitching,” “ratting,” or “tattling,” and seeking help**. While snitching is informing on someone for personal gain, here, students are encouraged to come forward when they are worried about a friend who is struggling, or when they are trying to keep someone from getting hurt. Remind students that if they are concerned about a classmate or friend, they need to keep speaking out until that person gets the help they need. Finally, maintaining a safe school climate includes providing students with training or lessons to acquire skills and abilities to manage emotions, resolve conflicts, cope with stress, seek help, and engage in positive social interactions.

Parents.

Parents should also be trained on the threat assessment process at their child’s school and their role in that process. They should be clear on who to call, when, and what information they should be ready to provide. Parents can also benefit from training that helps them recognize when children and teenagers may be in emotional trouble or feeling socially isolated. Training can also reduce the stigma around mental, emotional, or developmental issues and provide information on available resources and when they should seek professional assistance.

Law enforcement and school resource officers.

Not every school will have a school resource officer, but schools can still develop relationships with local law enforcement agencies and personnel. Schools can encourage local officers to co-teach classes at the school, serve as coaches or assistant coaches of sports teams, and work with parents and teachers at after-school events. In some communities without school resource officers, local law enforcement agencies have encouraged officers to “adopt a school,” stopping by the school to greet and become familiar with students and teachers, eating lunch on campus, or doing paperwork in an office at the school. Like parents and teachers, local law enforcement and school resource officers need to be aware of the school’s threat assessment process and their own responsibilities once a threat is identified. Training for law enforcement and school resource officers should also provide familiarity with emergency response procedures the school has in place and the layout of the campus. Officers and school staff might benefit from attending training together so that all parties are aware of the point at which local law enforcement should be involved in an investigation. This would also allow officers to get to know administrators, teachers, counselors, facilities and maintenance personnel, and other school staff. It is much easier to work through an emergency situation when schools and law enforcement are already familiar with each other and their procedures.

CONCLUSION

Despite having a comprehensive targeted violence prevention plan in place, and despite a school and Team's best efforts at prevention, incidents of targeted school violence may still occur. It is critical to develop and implement emergency response plans and procedures and provide training on them to all stakeholders. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security recommends that emergency response plans be developed with input from local law enforcement and first responders.⁵ For example, procedures should be developed for reporting emergencies, evacuation procedures and routes, use of emergency notification systems, and information regarding local hospitals or trauma centers. Law enforcement and first responders should be apprised of these plans and procedures and know how to implement them. Everyone has a role in preventing school violence and creating safe school climates. The threat assessment procedures detailed in this guide are an important component of school safety and security efforts and have been determined to be the best-practice in the prevention of targeted school violence. The model highlights that students can engage in a continuum of concerning behaviors and communications, the vast majority of which may not be threatening or violent. Nevertheless, it encourages schools to set a low threshold when identifying students who might be engaging in unusual behavior, or experiencing distress, so that early interventions can be applied to reduce the risk of violence or other negative outcomes.

Appendix B: Remote Instruction Plan

Schodack Central School District Emergency Remote Instruction Information

Availability of Devices and Internet Access

In order to facilitate the educational process in the event of an emergency situation that would require remote instruction for students, the school district completes the annual Student Digital Resources collection process to better inform how this plan can serve the school community. The purpose of this survey is so that the school district can understand the level of access to technology that students within the school district have, primarily in regard to their access to the internet and computers.

To support remote learning, the district will make computer devices and hotspot devices available to the greatest extent possible. When this is not possible, the school district shall work with community partners to help ensure that public access wi-fi points are available for students and families throughout the community to allow for them to participate in remote learning. To the extent possible, the district shall try to maintain the use of a single online learning platform.

The school district's technology department shall be responsible for assisting students with internet access, including, but not limited to, the use of hotspot devices, and may also be tasked with servicing devices that may not be working properly. This group may also be responsible for providing on-site instructional support for technology integration and for providing learning opportunities through tutorial videos and other virtual means.

Should the school district determine in advance that emergency conditions may require the school district to provide remote instruction during the following day(s), students and staff shall be informed of this possibility via their existing internal and external communication channels with as much advance notice as possible. The school district may communicate this information via the public address system, verbal communication, letters sent home, social media posts, phone calls, and via text messages.

Inevitably, there may be students in the school community for whom remote learning is not appropriate or possible. In these situations, the school district shall assess that individual's unique needs and try to accommodate them with in-person learning, to the extent that is possible. Options include, but are not limited to, allowing students to pick up work at school, work being sent home with those students, materials being dropped off at that student's home, or the use of public areas for internet access. In addition, district assets may be provided to students who are in need of internet access or computer devices at the school district's discretion.

Provision of Special Education and Related Services

Should remote learning become necessary, the school district shall ensure that special education services are provided to students who need them, in accordance with their individualized education programs (IEPs) and to ensure that they receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE). In order to facilitate the provision of special education and related services the school district shall ensure that:

- Students are provided with prioritized standards-based lessons via Google.
- Students are directly provided with modifications and accommodations per their IEP.
- All differentiated assignments shall be compliant with NYS guidelines and the student's IEP.
- Accommodations shall be provided through the student's 504 plans.
- Students are provided with daily synchronous instruction via Google Meet

Expectations for Time Spent in Modalities and Foundation Aid

In the event that the school district were required to go to emergency remote instruction, instruction will not focus only on “core” subjects to the exclusion of elective courses. Additionally, all instruction will continue to be aligned to the New York State Learning Standards. While remote, student schedules will remain the same and will align as closely to the minutes of instruction required in school as possible. Attendance will be taken in all learning models. Remote learning opportunities for secondary students will include a greater emphasis on synchronous instruction.

To ensure high-quality remote learning experiences, the school district shall standardize the use of a single online learning platform, to the extent possible, and develop a common, coordinated set of guidelines for teachers to follow when using that platform. This online learning management system will allow for students, teachers, and parents to access and organize online learning resources, content and work. It will also allow for the communication of feedback and grades and provide opportunities for communication between students, teachers, and families. During remote instruction, students will be required to participate in all remote learning activities and classes and will be required to complete assignments. Student expectations will be determined by the instructor within parameters established by the school district. Google Meet will be utilized for full group instruction, small group instruction, and one-to-one support.

For state aid purposes, the school district estimates that they will spend six hours of time in remote instruction due to emergency conditions.

Appendix C: Continuation of Operations During Public Health Emergencies

**Public Employer Health Emergency Plan
for the Schodack Central School District**

March 18, 2021

This plan has been developed in accordance with NYS legislation S8617B/A10832.

Promulgation

This plan has been developed in accordance with the amended New York State Labor Law section 27-c and New York State Education Law paragraphs k and l of subdivision 2 of section 2801-a (as amended by section 1 of part B of chapter 56 of the laws of 2016), as applicable.

This plan has been developed with the input of the Schodack Faculty Association (SFA), the Schodack Administrators Association (SAA) and the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA), as required by the amended New York State Labor Law.

No content of this plan is intended to impede, infringe, diminish, or impair the rights of us or our valued employees under any law, rule, regulation, or collectively negotiated agreement, or the rights and benefits which accrue to employees through collective bargaining agreements, or otherwise diminish the integrity of the existing collective bargaining relationship.

This plan has been approved in accordance with requirements applicable to the agency, jurisdiction, authority, or district, as represented by the signature of the authorized individual below.

As the authorized official of the Schodack Central School District, I hereby attest that this plan has been developed, approved, and placed in full effect in accordance with S8617B/A10832 which amends New York State Labor Law section 27-c and New York State Education Law paragraphs k and l of subdivision 2 of section 2801-a (as amended by section 1 of part B of chapter 56 of the laws of 2016), as applicable, to address public health emergency planning requirements.

Signed on this day: March 30, 2021

By: Jason Chevrier

Signature: _____

Title: Superintendent of Schools

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Purpose, Scope, Situation Overview, and Assumptions

Purpose

This plan has been developed in accordance with the amended New York State Labor Law section 27-c and New York State Education Law paragraphs k and l of subdivision 2 of section 2801-a (as amended by section 1 of part B of chapter 56 of the laws of 2016), as applicable. These laws were amended by the passing of legislation S8617B/A10832 signed by the Governor of New York State on September 7, 2020, requires public employers to adopt a plan for operations in the event of a declared public health emergency involving a communicable disease. The plan includes the identification of essential positions, facilitation of remote work for non-essential positions, provision of personal protective equipment, and protocols for supporting contact tracing.

Scope

This plan was developed exclusively for and is applicable to the Schodack Central School District. This plan is pertinent to a declared public health emergency in the State of New York, which may impact our operations; and it is in the interest of the safety of our employees and contractors, and the continuity of our operations that we have promulgated this plan.

Planning Assumptions

This plan was developed based on information, best practices, and guidance available as of the date of publication. The plan was developed to largely reflect the circumstances of the current Coronavirus pandemic but may also be applicable to other infectious disease outbreaks.

The following assumptions have been made in the development of this plan:

- The health and safety of our employees and contractors, and their families, is of utmost importance
- The circumstances of a public health emergency may directly impact our own operations.
- Impacts of a public health emergency will take time for us to respond to, with appropriate safety measures put into place and adjustments made to operations to maximize safety
- The public and our constituency expects us to maintain a level of mission essential operations
- Resource support from other jurisdictions may be limited based upon the level of impact the public health emergency has upon them
- Supply chains, particularly those for personal protective equipment (PPE) and cleaning supplies, may be heavily impacted, resulting in considerable delays in procurement
- The operations of other entities, including the private sector (vendors, contractors, etc.), non-profit organizations, and other governmental agencies and services may also be impacted due to the public health emergency, causing delays or other disruptions in their services
- Emergency measures and operational changes may need to be adjusted based upon the specific circumstances and impacts of the public health emergency, as well as guidance and direction from public health officials and the governor
- Per S8617B/A10832, 'essential employee' is defined as a public employee or contractor that is required to be physically present at a work site to perform their job
- Per S8617B/A10832, 'non-essential employee' is defined as a public employee or contractor that is not required to be physically present at a work site to perform their job

Concept of Operations

The Superintendent of Schools of the Schodack Central School District, their designee, or their successor holds the authority to execute and direct the implementation of this plan. Implementation, monitoring of operations, and adjustments to plan implementation may be supported by additional personnel, at the discretion of the Superintendent of Schools.

Upon the determination of implementing this plan, all employees and contractors of the Schodack Central School District may be notified by phone, email, or any other means determined to be necessary, with details provided as possible and necessary, with additional information and updates provided on a regular basis. Parents, students, and other community members will be notified of pertinent operational changes by way of email notifications, social media messaging, and local news outlets, amongst others. Other interested parties, such as vendors, will be notified by phone and/or email as necessary. The district's Communications Specialist will maintain communications with the public and constituents as needed throughout the implementation of this plan.

The Superintendent of Schools of the Schodack Central School District, their designee, or their successor will maintain awareness of information, direction, and guidance from public health officials and the Governor's office, directing the implementation of changes as necessary. Updates of this plan will be published on the District Website and posted conspicuously in all school buildings.

Upon resolution of the public health emergency, the Superintendent of Schools of the Schodack Central School District, their designee, or their successor will direct the resumption of normal operations or operations with modifications as necessary.

Mission Essential Functions

When confronting events that disrupt normal operations, the Schodack Central School District is committed to ensuring that essential functions will be continued even under the most challenging circumstances.

Essential functions are those functions that enable an organization to:

1. Maintain the safety of employees, contractors, and our constituency
2. Provide vital services
3. Provide services required by law
4. Sustain quality operations
5. Uphold the core values of the Schodack Central School District

The Schodack Central School District has identified as critical only those priority functions that are required or are necessary to provide vital services. During activation of this plan, all other activities may be suspended to enable the organization to concentrate on providing the critical functions and building the internal capabilities necessary to increase and eventually restore operations. Appropriate communications with employees, contractors, our constituents, and other stakeholders will be an ongoing priority.

Essential functions are prioritized according to:

- The time criticality of each essential function
- Interdependency of a one function to others
- The recovery sequence of essential functions and their vital processes

The mission essential functions for the Schodack Central School District have been identified as:

| Essential Function | Description |
|---|---|
| Teachers/Support Staff | In the event of a school closure, and when authorized by state and local health officials, the Schodack Central School District may assign teaching as a mission essential function of the organization. During a closure, having teachers and other educators on-site, in their own workspace, may facilitate safety and be favorable for accessibility to resources, technology, and internet connection. |
| Information Technology/Continuity of Operations and Instruction | Provides hardware and software for staff and students to facilitate continued education in remote learning environments necessary for continuity of instruction and education. Also responsible for troubleshooting technical issues that may arise during the distance learning process, the offering of best practices in communication to ensure that students are able to access curricular materials, and for helping staff members disseminate information related to both academic and social-emotional education. |
| Buildings and Grounds | Continues to upkeep the campus during remote work and learning and ensures that all buildings and grounds are properly maintained, regularly cleaned, and disinfected as necessary to ensure the safety of school community members. |
| District Office | Oversight and management of the functions performed by employees in the district office to ensure that regular business operations and services continue as necessary and/or mandated. |
| Health Office/Health Services | Upon consultation with the district physician and the County Department of Health, school nurses may be responsible for assessing ill staff and students, providing consultation to the district office, following up with healthcare providers, and providing assistance with contact tracing efforts as necessary. |
| School Building Main Office Staff | Oversight of mail, phones, sign-in procedures, and building utilization and operations. |
| Food Service | Ensure that food can be provided to students |
| Transportation | To ensure that meals may be delivered to students |
| Building Administrators | Responsible for overseeing the day-to-day functioning of the school community and supporting the academic success of students, promoting a positive school climate, and assisting educators. |

Essential Positions

Each essential function identified above requires certain positions on-site to effectively operate. The table below identifies the positions or titles that are essential to be staffed on-site for the continued operation of each essential function. Note that while some functions and associated personnel may be essential, some of these can be conducted remotely and do not need to be identified in this section.

| Essential Function | Essential Positions/Titles | Justification for Each |
|---|----------------------------|---|
| Information Technology/Continuity of Operations and Instruction | Director of Technology | Responsible for overseeing the local area network and the subsequent ongoing maintenance of this network for the district. Oversees the district's internet access, phone systems, and cell phone plans |

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| | Network Administrator | Responsible for providing support to teachers and students in regards to computer hardware and software. Will respond to "help desk" and troubleshooting concerns. |
| Buildings and Grounds | Director of Facilities Facilities Secretary | Responsible for overseeing and providing direction to the B&G department and employees to ensure a safe working environment. |
| | Custodial Workers Building Mechanics Groundskeeper | Responsible for routine cleaning, disinfecting, and maintenance tasks. Responsible for performing a wide variety of tasks related to the maintenance and upkeep of campus grounds, parking lots, and fields. |
| District Office | Superintendent of Schools | Responsible for making day-to-day decisions about educational programs, budget/spending, staff, and facilities |
| | Director of Teaching and Learning | Responsible for assisting the Superintendent in the administration of educational programming and the development of goals to foster school improvement |
| | Business Administrator | Responsible for assisting the Superintendent in the administration of business affairs in such a way to provide the best services with the financial resources available |
| | Treasurer, Payroll Clerk, Account Clerk, Superintendent's Secretary, Admin Assistant, and General Office Staff | As needed for the processing of Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, Payroll, Tax Collection, Registration of Students, and general office work that requires interaction with the public via the phone or potentially in-person. |
| Health Office/Health Services | School Nurse(s) | Assists building and district administrators by communicating with the local health department for guidance, may act as the liaison to the school physician, and is responsible for assisting other nurses in assessing ill students and staff |
| School Building Main Office Staff | Secretary | Responsible for answering phones, providing support to building administrators, responding to emails, greeting visitors, assisting in building sign-in procedures, accepting deliveries, and helping disseminate mail. |
| Food Service | Food Service Manager | Responsible for overseeing the preparation of meals and coordinating with the Transportation Director to ensure that meals are disseminated. |
| | Food Service Staff | Responsible for the preparation of and making of meals for students. |
| Transportation | Transportation Director | Responsible for the safety and efficient operation and maintenance of the transportation |

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|--|
| | | Coordinates with the Food Service Manager on meal deliveries. |
| Building Administrators | Building Principals | Responsible for overseeing the day-to-day functioning of the school community and supporting the academic success of students, promoting a positive school climate, and assisting educators. |

Reducing Risk through Remote Work and Staggered Shifts

Through assigning certain staff to work remotely and by staggering work shifts, we can decrease crowding and density at work sites and on public transportation

Remote Work Protocols

Non-essential employees and contractors able to accomplish their functions remotely will be enabled to do so at the greatest extent possible. Working remotely requires:

1. Identification of staff who will work remotely
2. Approval and assignment of remote work
3. Equipping staff for remote work, which may include:
 - a. Internet capable laptop
 - b. Necessary peripherals
 - c. Access to VPN and/or secure network drives
 - d. Access to software and databases necessary to perform their duties
 - e. A solution for telephone communications
 - i. Note that phone lines may need to be forwarded to off-site staff

Remote work protocols shall be developed and facilitated through coordination with district administrators, building administrators, and the IT department to ensure that all needs are met and that safety, security, and functionality are at the forefront of any and all discussions.

Approval and Assignment of Remote Work

The Superintendent of Schools or their designee, in consultation with the Business Administrator and other administrators and/or supervisors as needed, will review requests for remote work and corresponding work assignments to aid in the decision making process. Final decisions will be communicated to the Business Administrator and building/department administrators for dissemination to their respective staff. The Business Administrator will notify payroll of such decisions to ensure employee time and attendance is tracked accurately.

Equipping Staff and Students for Remote Learning

The school district shall work with the Director of Technology to support non-essential employees and students during an extended school closure. In order to support this, students K-12 and instructional faculty and staff shall be provided with Chromebooks/laptops as possible to ease the transition to remote learning/working. Non-instructional staff who work remotely will have access to Chromebooks/laptops based on their individual needs for them to effectively perform their job duties remotely. In addition, the IT Department has established protocols for the repair of Chromebooks/laptops, as well as protocols for assisting in the procurement of internet access at an individual's home, if they do not have internet. The IT Department will also be responsible for

assisting individuals in the procurement of VPN or other secure network drives as is deemed necessary and for providing access to software and databases that are deemed necessary for somebody to perform their duty.

Staggered Shifts

Implementing staggered shifts may be possible for personnel performing duties, which are necessary to be performed on-site but perhaps less sensitive to being accomplished only within core business hours. As possible, management will identify opportunities for staff to work outside core business hours as a strategy of limiting exposure. Regardless of changes in start and end times of shifts, the Schodack Central School District will ensure that employees are provided with their typical or contracted minimum work hours per week. Staggering shifts requires:

1. Identification of positions for which work hours will be staggered
2. Approval and assignment of changed work hours

Identification of Positions with Staggered Work Hours and Approval Process

District buildings and grounds staff may be assigned to staggered shifts to ensure coverage before, during, and after core business hours. Nurses and other building positions may also be realigned to ensure greater coverage during the day and to line up with the needs of our population.

The approval and assignment of changed work hours must be reviewed by the district's Building Administrator. Factors such as staffing levels, the ability to provide physical distancing, and ways to improve efficiency and/or effectiveness will be considered in the decision making process.

Personal Protective Equipment

The use of personal protective equipment (PPE) to reduce the spread of infectious disease is important to supporting the health and safety of our employees and contractors. PPE, which may be needed, can include:

- Masks
- Face shields
- Gloves
- Disposable gowns and aprons

Note that while cleaning supplies are not PPE, there is a related need for cleaning supplies used to sanitize surfaces, as well as hand soap and hand sanitizer. The Coronavirus pandemic demonstrated that supply chains were not able to keep up with increased demand for these products early in the pandemic. As such, we are including these supplies in this section, as they are pertinent to protecting the health and safety of our employees and contractors.

Protocols for providing PPE include the following:

1. Identification of need for PPE based upon job duties and work location
2. Procurement of PPE
 - a. As specified in the amended law, public employers must be able to provide at least two pieces of each required type of PPE to each essential employee and contractor during any given work shift for at least six months
 - b. Public employers must be able to mitigate supply chain disruptions to meet this requirement
3. Storage of, access to, and monitoring of PPE stock

- a. PPE must be stored in a manner which will prevent degradation
- b. Employees and contractors must have immediate access to PPE in the event of an emergency
- c. The supply of PPE must be monitored to ensure integrity and to track usage rates

To meet these requirements, the District has purchased both cloth and disposable masks to supply to students and staff as needed. In addition, a stock of face shields, gloves, and disposable gowns are on hand in the District supply area in the basement of the District Office Building. The Director of Facilities will be responsible for the monitoring of PPE, which will be on going, to ensure a sufficient supply is available when needed and that the supply has not been damaged or deteriorated. The District is purchasing products from vendors that have supplied the District with PPE products. All PPE will be stored at a location that is easily accessible to distribute to all buildings should the need arise in the central storage area located in the basement of the District Office Building.

Identification of Personal Protective Equipment Based on Job Duties

Students, employees, contractors, and/or visitors shall provide each building with a supply of disposable masks and hand sanitizer for use, as necessary. The Director of Facilities shall be responsible for monitoring and replenishing those supplies as necessary. Individuals with a medical necessity and an approved reasonable accommodation will be provided N-95 respirators as necessary.

Given the nature of their work, buildings and grounds staff and health office staff will be supplied daily access to disposable masks, disposable gloves, face shields, and gowns as necessary. Individuals who have a job position that requires the wearing of an N-95 respirator shall be entered into a respiratory protection program, be fit tested, medically cleared, and provided N-95 respirators as required.

Procurement of Personal Protective Equipment

The Director of Facilities shall track PPE inventory in their building in the form of an inventory report that will be submitted to the Business Administrator for review each week. When inventory gets low (i.e., having less than two pieces of PPE for each essential employee for at least a six-month period), the Director of Facilities will notify the Business Administrator who will contact one or more of the vendors on the District-approved supplier's list to procure the necessary PPE. The district maintains a supplier list with backup suppliers listed in an effort to mitigate any supply chain disruption. For unforeseen disruptions or shortages, the district shall work with the Rensselaer County Department of Health for assistance. Personal protective equipment shall be stored within the buildings where they can be tracked and accessed in the event of an emergency and maintained in a way that prevents degradation.

Staff Exposures, Cleaning, and Disinfection

Staff Exposures

Staff exposures are organized under several categories based upon the type of exposure and presence of symptoms. When/if a staff member is exposed, we will follow applicable Rensselaer County Department of Health, New York State Department of Health, and CDC guidelines as is required and best practices.

We recognize there may be nuances or complexities associated with potential exposures, close contacts, symptomatic persons, and those testing positive. We will follow CDC/public health recommendations and requirements and coordinate with our local public health office for additional guidance and support as needed.

In the event that a staff member is working remotely and contracts a communicable disease, the District will be notified by the local Department of Health. Additionally, contact tracing may occur to assist the Department of Health with tracking of the disease.

Staff are eligible to use sick leave accruals in the event of testing, treatment, isolation, or quarantine. All health information privacy requirements will be followed and no protocols shall violate any existing federal, state, or local laws.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

CDC/public health guidelines will be followed for cleaning and disinfection of surfaces/areas. Present guidance for routine cleaning during a public health emergency includes:

1. As possible, employees and contractors will clean their own workspaces in the beginning, middle, and end of their shifts, at a minimum.
 - a. High traffic/high touch areas and areas which are accessible to the public/constituents will be disinfected according to a preset schedule that emphasizes their cleaning and disinfection.
 - b. Buildings and grounds staff, with possible assistance from others, will be responsible for cleaning and disinfecting common areas, based on the requirements of each individual situation and influenced by factors such as frequency of use, the specifics of the communicable disease, and recommendations from local, state, and federal authorities.
2. Staff tasked with cleaning and disinfecting areas will be issued and required to wear PPE appropriate to the task.
3. Soiled surfaces will be cleaned prior to being disinfected.
4. Surfaces will be disinfected with products that meet EPA criteria for use against the virus in question and which are appropriate for that surface.
5. Staff will follow instructions of cleaning products to ensure safe and effective use of the products.

Employee and Contractor Leave

Public health emergencies are filled with extenuating and unanticipated circumstances in which the Schodack Central School District is committed to reducing the burden on our employees, contractors, and families. The Schodack Central School District is committed to working with its community to ensure that our leave policies meet all local, state, and federal requirements and that additional provisions may be enacted upon need and the guidance and requirements that are put in place by local, state, and federal employment laws, FMLA, executive orders, and other potential sources as deemed necessary.

Contractors, either independent or affiliated with a contracted firm, are not classified as employees of the Schodack Central School District, and as such are not provided with paid leave time by the Schodack Central School District, unless required by law.

Documentation of Work Hours and Locations

In a public health emergency, it may be necessary to document work hours and locations of each employee and contractor to support contact-tracing efforts. Identification of locations shall include on-site work, off-site visits. This information may be used by the Schodack Central School District to support contact tracing within the organization and may be shared with local public health officials.

Housing for Essential Employees

There are circumstances within a public health emergency when it may be prudent to have essential employees lodged in such a manner that will help prevent the spread of the subject communicable disease to protect these employees from potential exposures, thus helping to ensure their health and safety and the continuity of the Schodack Central School District's essential operations. If such a need arises, the school district shall work with local and state authorities to help identify and arrange for housing needs.

Appendix D: Memorandum of Understanding School Resource Officer Program

INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT, made by and between the **SCHODACK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**, with offices at 1477 South Schodack Road, Castleton, New York 12033 (hereinafter referred to as the "District"), the **TOWN OF SCHODACK**, a municipal corporation of the State of New York, with offices at 265 Schuurman Road, Castleton, New York 12033 (hereinafter referred to as the "Town", each, a Party collectively referred to as "the Parties").

WITNESSTH:

WHEREAS, the Town, through its Police Department, has the capacity to provide a Public Officer trained as a School Resource Officer (hereinafter referred to as "SRO") to the District;

WHEREAS, the Parties have determined it would be mutually beneficial for one (1) uniformed SRO to be assigned to work within the District; to have day-to-day contact with the students, faculty, parents, and other members of the community, to provide a safe and comfortable environment within the schools. The SRO will be available for students to assist in defusing and solving problems before they become a detriment to the learning environment and the health, safety, and welfare of the students and staff of the District; and

WHEREAS, it is the goal of the Parties to enter into a partnership to enhance the school environment by assigning an SRO to the District who will work to meet the following objectives:

- To work cooperatively with the District staff to address crime and disorder problems that jeopardize the safety of students, staff, and visitors, including, but not limited to drug activities affecting or occurring in or around any District building;
- To work with School Counselors and other student support staff to assist students and to provide services to students involved in situations where referrals to service agencies are necessary;
- To develop and/or expand crime prevention efforts for students;
- To assist District staff in training students in conflict resolution, restorative justice, and crime awareness;
- To make recommendations in connection with physical changes in the environment that may reduce crime in and around District buildings;
- To assist District staff in the creation of a safe school environment that is free of harm, intimidation, bullying, weapons, and other illegal substances;
- To build working relationships with District staff as well as with students and parents;
- To present a positive role model of a law enforcement officer; and
- To encourage a positive perception of law enforcement within the community.

WHEREAS, the Parties, through Town Board and School Board Approval, are authorized to execute an agreement for services contained herein;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of mutual promises and agreements contained herein, the Parties hereto agree as follows:

1. SCOPE OF SERVICES

Attendance:

- A. In full uniform, the SRO shall provide services to the District each Monday through Friday, when school is in session (approximately one hundred eighty five (185) days, with hours coinciding with the District's school day, reporting to the District, in a marked patrol vehicle, with the exception of vacation, sick leave, personal leave, school holidays, winter and spring breaks, and the summer months when school is not in session.
- B. In the event of an emergency closing, snow day, or any scheduled holiday or conference day (not including any of the full week-long breaks), the SRO will report to the Schodack Police Department to work a shift in the patrol officer capacity that corresponds to the shift they would work during a normal School Day.
- C. During any consecutive 5-day scheduled break and summer break at the District, the SRO will report to the Schodack Police Department and assume a shift performing patrol duties consistent with the collective bargaining agreement.
- D. Vacation, personal and sick leave are defined by the collective bargaining agreement within the Police Department. The SRO will be in attendance when students are present for the school day.
- E. It is understood that due to staffing shortages across law enforcement, the Town may not be able to backfill the SRO position if the SRO is unable to report to duty due to sickness, injury, or any other unforeseen circumstance. All parties acknowledge the failure of the Town and the SRO to adequately provide coverage suitable to the District's needs could result in immediate termination of this agreement.
- F. The Chief of Police will make every reasonable effort to provide the SRO with all mandatory police trainings during times that school is not in session.
- G. When possible, with 24 hour notice the SRO will attend, upon District request, any sporting events, community events, or any other such function deemed appropriate by the District as approved by the Chief of Police for up to an additional 100 hours per school year with any costs incurred to be invoiced to the District as part of the normal billing cycle.

Responsibilities of the SRO: (See *Appendix A* for a more detailed breakdown):

- A. The SRO will move freely to the various buildings within the District throughout the day, making sure to be visible during high traffic and transition times both inside and outside of the buildings. Upon arrival at a particular school building, the SRO will advise the main office of his/her presence so that the District will be able to track his/her location throughout the District.
- B. Mediate negative situations that occur between students or between students and staff in consultation with Building or District Administration.
- C. Investigate any situations as requested by District or Building Administration.
- D. Take part in any District Safety planning and drills.
- E. Work with students and families to address issues of truancy, making home visits when appropriate, or by request of the District or Building Administration.

- F. Identify and develop students to serve as positive role models working with District clubs and activities.
- G. Prepare lectures/presentations and instruction when requested or when appropriate.
- H. Educate students and parents on bullying, internet safety, drug and alcohol awareness, vaping and e-cigarette health issues, and any other topics as requested by the District.
- I. Assist with professional development of staff, particularly in areas such as drug and alcohol recognition, victims of abuse, etc.
- J. Speak with or provide lectures to community groups and parents as requested by the District.
- K. Use discretion when disseminating confidential information, particularly in light of the District's policies with respect to student records and its mandates pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Furthermore, the SRO agrees to comply with New York State Education Law, Section 2-d and the corresponding regulations promulgated by the Commissioner of Education of New York in all respects as it relates to "student data" as defined therein.
- L. Cooperate with any District disciplinary actions taken, assist the District in determining the need for school law enforcement interventions. However, the SRO shall not act as a school disciplinarian. School discipline is the sole responsibility of the District.
- M. Comply with the Schodack Police Department's rules and regulations governing arrests, juvenile operations, interrogations, and interviews. The SRO shall be prohibited from detaining or questioning students for the purpose of determining the students' or their families' immigration status.
- N. Provide notice of arrests, interrogations, or questioning of students to the building Principal(s). If the student to be questioned is under the age of 18, the student's parent or guardian must be notified prior to questioning.
- O. The SRO will not discriminate against any District students, agents, officers, or employees on the basis of age, gender, color, creed, disability, national origin, sexual orientation, or any other class protected by law.

Supervision of the SRO:

The SRO will report directly to the District's Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee. The SRO will work directly with the various building Principals on a day-to-day basis regarding situations and relationships in each of the District's buildings. The SRO shall be subject to the District's policies and procedures when performing functions in the District's schools, unless otherwise provided or given orders or directives by the Chief of Police. The District shall provide training, including, in the District's discretion, joint training with District staff, and oversight to the SRO in school policy, regulations, and procedures. The SRO will also be under the direct supervision of a Police Department supervisor, as assigned by the Chief of Police. The District will provide an annual performance evaluation of the SRO to the Chief of Police, to ensure all goals and objectives of the SRO program are being met, noting any and all deficiencies in the SRO's conduct or performance.

2. TERM OF AGREEMENT

This Agreement shall take effect on January 1, 2024, and subject to earlier termination as provided below, shall continue in full force and effect until June 30, 2025, which is a period to include the remainder of the 2023-24 school year and entirety of the 2024-25 school years. Prior to March 1, 2025, the Parties will renegotiate to continue or terminate the SRO program for the following school years. In addition, all Parties agree to meet annually to evaluate the effectiveness of the SRO program.

3. PAYMENT

The Town agrees to provide and pay the SRO's actual salary and cost of employment benefits in accordance with Town personnel policies and the applicable collective bargaining agreement. The District agrees to reimburse the Town for the cost of the SRO's salary and benefits accrued in the fulfillment of the SRO position, including any additional cost associated with the working of special details requested by the District relating to SRO duties that result in an overtime rate being paid. The District agrees to submit all payments to the Town within thirty (30) days of the invoice being submitted. The Town shall submit invoices to the District monthly by the 25th for the preceding month's services.

4. TERMINATION

Either Party may terminate this Agreement immediately upon notice to the other Parties, in the event of any Party failing to comply with the terms of this Agreement in any material respect and such failure not being cured within thirty (30) days after receipt of notice by the other Parties describing such failure. Either Party may terminate this Agreement without cause, upon sixty (60) days written notice to the other Party. The Town may terminate this Agreement upon written notice to the District for failure by the District to appropriate funds for the services rendered by the Town and the Police Department under this Agreement.

5. SELECTION OF THE SRO

All interested candidates for the SRO position will apply and submit written notification to the Chief of Police upon posting of the available position. Eligibility will be limited to full-time sworn police officers of the Police Department. Supervisors will not be eligible for consideration. All interested candidates for the SRO position will be considered by the Chief of Police based upon the Chief of Police's judgement and discretion, taking into consideration, among other criteria, the Officer's training, qualifications, experience, interest in the position, and their ability to effectuate the goals and objectives set forth herein. The Chief of Police will take into consideration, any requests made by the District to have a specific Officer serving as the SRO. Upon receiving a list of qualified candidates, the Chief of Police will assist in facilitating an interview board comprised of the:

- Chief of Police
- Town Supervisor
- Town Board Liaison to the Police Department
- Superintendent of Schools
- Superintendent Designee
- Teachers Union Representative
- School Board Representative

- Police Department Union Representative

Upon completion of the review of the candidates by the interview board, the Chief of Police shall select the SRO. Within one year of selection, the SRO will be required to successfully complete the Basic School for School Resource Officers and the NYS DCJS Instructor Development Course.

The Superintendent of Schools reserves the right to disqualify any selected candidate having no obligation to show cause.

6. BODY WORN CAMERAS

The Schodack Police Department will issue body worn cameras ("BWC") to the SRO assigned to the District. The Schodack Police Department will bear the full cost of the cameras and related software expenses.

The SRO will be required to wear and operate the issued BWC consistent with the Schodack Police Department Policy governing BWC, a copy of which is attached hereto in Appendix B. In compliance with the Schodack Police Department Policy, federal, state, and local law, including but not limited to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, upon the District's request, the Police Department shall make available to the District copies of BWC footage taken by SROs in furtherance of this Agreement and shall permit the District to view such footage, unless the Police Department determines that such access would impair an ongoing law enforcement investigation, criminal prosecution, or would be contrary to any applicable laws, rules or regulations. Such access will be subject to any redactions required by applicable law, policy, or contract. BWC recordings taken by an SRO in furtherance of this Agreement shall be retained by the Schodack Police Department for a period of time and manner consistent with all applicable laws, rules or regulations.

There may be circumstances when the respect for an individual's privacy or dignity outweighs the need to record a law enforcement activity. In these circumstances, the officer is permitted to exercise limited discretion to decide to not record or cease recording. This discretion may only be applied when a reasonable officer would conclude that such privacy interests outweigh any legitimate law enforcement interest in recording. Such circumstances may child victim interviews, cultural or religious objections to being recorded, and when the use of BWC would impede or limit the cooperation of a victim or witness. The SRO shall not record in the interior of restrooms or locker rooms. Any public release of BWC footage, either in response to a Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request or otherwise, will comply with applicable laws concerning student privacy.

7. REMOVAL OF THE SRO

The District shall have the right to request the removal and/or replacement of the SRO upon written notice to the Chief of Police upon the District's determination that the SRO has failed to meet or comply with the goals and objectives of the program. The Chief of Police has the sole authority to remove the SRO at any time for discipline or discharge in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement between the Town and the United Public Service Employees Union [Schodack Police Department]. Removal or replacement of the SRO, upon District request, will not be unreasonably denied by the Chief of Police, and shall occur as soon as practicable from the date of the request. Upon such a request, the Chief of Police will consult with the District,

and immediately determine whether the SRO should report for duty at the District after a request has been made.

8. NOTICES

All notices shall be in writing and sent by certified mail, registered mail, overnight mail, courier or transmitted by facsimile, to the addresses indicated on the first page of this Agreement, or such other address as either Party, or its officials, employees, or agents, may provide to the other party.

9. INDEMNIFICATION

Each Party agrees to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the other Parties, including its officials, employees and agents, against all claims, losses, damages, liabilities, costs or expenses (including without limitation, reasonable attorney fees and costs of litigation and/or settlement), whether incurred as a result of a claim by a third party or any other person or entity, arising out of the performance of its obligations pursuant to this Agreement, that any Party, or its officials, employees or agents, may suffer by reason of any negligence, fault, act or omission of the other Parties, its employees, representatives, subcontractors, assignees or agents.

10. INSURANCE

All Parties shall provide the other Parties with proof of General Liability, Workers Compensation, Disability, and Auto Insurance Coverage, and shall name the other Parties as an additional insured with respect to General Liability coverage.

11. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR

The SRO shall be a full-time sworn police officer of the Town of Schodack Police Department. Each Party agrees to be solely responsible for all matters relating to compensation of its employees, including, compliance with local, state and federal laws governing its personnel, including workers' compensation, Social Security, withholding and payment of any and all federal, state, and local personal income taxes, disability insurance, unemployment, and any other taxes for such persons, including any related employer assessment or contributions required by law, and all other regulations governing such matters, and the payment of all salary, vacation, and other employee benefits.

12. NO ARBITRATION

Any and all disputes involving this Agreement, including the breach or alleged breach thereof, may not be submitted to arbitration unless specifically agreed thereto in writing by the Town Supervisor or his or her designee, in consultation with the town attorney or designees, but must instead only be heard in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, with closest venue to Rensselaer County or if appropriate, in the Federal District Court with venue in the Northern District of New York, Albany Division.

13. CORPORATE COMPLIANCE

All Parties agree to comply with all Federal, State, and local laws, rules, and regulations governing the provision of goods and /or services under this Agreement.

14. NO ASSIGNMENT WITHOUT CONSENT

This Agreement may not be assigned by any of the Parties, nor its rights, title or interest therein assigned, transferred, conveyed, sublet or disposed of without the previous written consent of the other Parties and any attempt to do so without first obtaining such written consent will be void and of no force and effect.

15. GOVERNING LAW

This Agreement and the performance of the Parties hereunder shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York.

16. MODIFICATIONS TO BE IN WRITING

No changes, amendments or modifications of any of the terms and/or conditions of the Agreement shall be valid unless reduced to writing and signed by the Parties to this Agreement. Changes in the SCOPE OF SERVICES in this Agreement shall not be binding, unless prior to the performance of any such services, the Town and Chief of Police, with appropriate consultations, execute an amendment or modification to this agreement, which amendment or modification shall specifically set forth the scope of such extra or additional services, the amount of compensation, and the extension of time for performance, if any, for such services. Unless otherwise specifically provided for therein, the provisions of the Agreement shall apply with full force and effect to the terms and conditions contained in such amendment or modification.

17. ENTIRE AGREEMENT

The rights and obligations of the Parties and their respective agents, successors and assignees shall be subject to and governed by this Agreement, which supersedes any other understandings or writings between or among the Parties to the Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Agreement has been executed by the duly authorized officers of the respective Parties.

SCHODACK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BY: Jason M. Chauver DATE: 1/26/2024
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

STATE OF NEW YORK)
)ss:
COUNTY OF RENSSELAER)

On this 26th day of January, 2024, before me, the above signed, Jason Chauver, personally appeared, personally known to me or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the individual whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she executed the same in his/her capacity, and that by his/her signature on the instrument, the individual or the person upon behalf of which the individual acted, executed the instrument.

Dawne M. Kelly
NOTARY PUBLIC
DAWNE M. KELLY
Notary Public, State of New York
No. 01KCE124794
Qualified in Rensselaer County
My Commission Expires April 4, 2025

TOWN OF SCHODACK

BY: Charles Peter DATE: 1/26/24
TOWN SUPERVISOR

STATE OF NEW YORK)
)ss:
COUNTY OF RENSSELAER)

On this 26th day of January, 2024, before me, the above signed, Charles Peter, personally appeared, personally known to me or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the individual whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she executed the same in his/her capacity, and that by his/her signature on the instrument, the individual or the person upon behalf of which the individual acted, executed the instrument.

Dawne M. Kelly
NOTARY PUBLIC
DAWNE M. KELLY
Notary Public, State of New York
No. 01KEC124794
Qualified in Rensselaer County
My Commission Expires April 4, 2025

APPENDIX A

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

1. OBJECTIVES OF AN SRO PROGRAM

- a. To maintain a safe campus environment conducive to learning.
- b. To create unity between law enforcement and school Districts.
- c. To improve relationships between youth, communities and law enforcement.
- d. To serve as consultants to school, staff, parents and youth on safety matters.
- e. To serve as positive role models for all.

2. PRIMARY FUNCTIONS OF THE SRO

- a. To be a visible, active law enforcement figure for the District, dealing specifically with law enforcement matters that originate on campus.
- b. To serve as a resource for students, allowing them to associate with law enforcement in the students' environment.
- c. To serve as a resource for teachers, parents and students by scheduling conferences to deal with individual or group problems and questions, particularly those that may lead to criminal activity.
- d. To appear before classrooms, community groups, PTO's, or any other group requesting lecture or information regarding a particular topic of interest within the District.
- e. To work with Building Administrators and assist in forming safety plans or other relevant school policies and procedures.
- f. To effectively communicate with all District staff when action is needed.
- g. To be available upon request for crime prevention presentations.
- h. To serve as a liaison between the District and law enforcement when law enforcement has a need to conduct business with students, staff or parents when school is in session.
- i. To not serve as a disciplinarian. The school is responsible for discipline unless an incident is deemed to be of a criminal nature. The SRO will advise the school and take action if they believe criminal activity has occurred.
- j. To serve as a crisis intervention officer, assisting in the mediation process or restorative justice process.

3. THE TRIAD APPROACH TO AN SRO PROGRAM

a. LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

- i. Maintaining law and order.
- ii. Conducting criminal investigations (may include assisting building administrators conducting investigations and advising if criminal activity has occurred).
- iii. Make arrests if appropriate (criminal mischief, drugs, aggravated harassment, etc.). In an effort to minimize disruption to the learning environment, the SRO should avoid making arrests on District property while school is in session. If an arrest situation presents itself the SRO should consider the following factors when determining the best course of action: (1) whether the arrest is related to a school-related offense; (2) the seriousness of the offense; (3) whether there is an imminent threat to public safety; and (4) whether the arrest can be accomplished in an alternative manner. Unless exigent circumstances exist, the SRO should consult with a building or District administrator before making an arrest on District property.
- iv. Assist building safety teams in formulating appropriate safety policies and procedures.
- v. Assist in coordinating building safety drills, obtaining additional law enforcement assistance when needed.
- vi. Investigate truancy cases, make home visits if necessary, and advise when PINS petitions are appropriate.
- vii. Assist with investigations regarding child sexual assault cases or domestic violence issues.

b. LAW RELATED COUNSELOR

- i. Provide guidance to students, parents, teachers and staff on how to seek support services within and outside of the school.
- ii. Work with appropriate staff to identify "at risk" students based on the SRO's knowledge of the student's family and community.
- iii. Serves as a mentor and role model to students identified by the school as needing assistance or through interpersonal relationships developed.
- iv. Assists in the transportation of students to a hospital if they are deemed a threat to themselves or others.
- v. Assists families in identifying appropriate community resources.

c. LAW RELATED PRESENTER

i. Presents law enforcement expertise via classroom presentations or group assemblies to help students, teachers, parents and community members better understand the law. Topics may include, but are not limited to;

1. Sexual Harassment and Sexual Abuse
2. Bullying
3. Child Abuse
4. Underage Drug or Alcohol Abuse
5. NYS Graduated Driver's License Program
6. Zero Tolerance Laws
7. Relevant Legal Statutes (Vehicle and Traffic Law, ABC Law, Penal Law, etc.)
8. Internet Safety
9. Sportsmanship
10. The NYS Court System (Criminal, Family, Civil)

ii. Actively participates with the District's Safety Committee or any other inter-disciplinary teams deemed appropriate.

iii. Promotes programs that stress good citizenship and positive moral development.



Portable Audio/Video Recorders

424.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for the use of portable audio/video recording devices by members of this department while in the performance of their duties. Portable audio/video recording devices include all recording systems whether body-worn, hand-held or integrated into portable equipment.

This policy does not apply to mobile audio/video recordings, interviews or interrogations conducted at any Schodack Police Department facility, authorized undercover operations, wiretaps or eavesdropping (concealed listening devices).

424.2 POLICY

The Schodack Police Department may provide members with access to portable recorders, either audio or video or both, for use during the performance of their duties. The use of recorders is intended to enhance the mission of the Department by accurately capturing contacts between members of the Department and the public.

424.3 COORDINATOR

The Chief of Police or the authorized designee should designate a coordinator responsible for:

- (a) Establishing procedures for the security, storage and maintenance of data and recordings.
- (b) Establishing procedures for accessing data and recordings.
- (c) Establishing procedures for logging or auditing access.
- (d) Establishing procedures for transferring, downloading, tagging or marking events.

424.4 MEMBER PRIVACY EXPECTATION

All recordings made by members on any department-issued device at any time, and any recording made while acting in an official capacity of this department, regardless of ownership of the device it was made on, shall remain the property of the Department. Members shall have no expectation of privacy or ownership interest in the content of these recordings.

424.5 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Prior to going into service, each uniformed member will be responsible for making sure that he/she is equipped with a portable recorder, issued by the Department, and that the recorder is in good working order. If the recorder is not in working order or if the member becomes aware of a malfunction at any time, the member shall promptly report the failure to his/her supervisor and obtain a functioning device as soon as reasonably practicable. Uniformed members should wear the recorder in a conspicuous manner or otherwise notify persons that they are being recorded, whenever reasonably practicable.

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424.6.1 CESSATION OF RECORDING

Once activated, the portable recorder should remain on continuously until the member reasonably believes that his/her direct participation in the incident is complete or the situation no longer fits the criteria for activation. Recording may be stopped during significant periods of inactivity such as report writing or other breaks from direct participation in the incident.

424.6.2 SURREPTITIOUS USE OF THE AUDIO/VIDEO RECORDER

New York law permits an individual to surreptitiously record any conversation in which one party to the conversation has given his/her permission. Members may surreptitiously record any conversation during the course of a criminal investigation in which the member reasonably believes that such a recording will be lawful and beneficial to the investigation.

424.6.3 EXPLOSIVE DEVICE

Many portable recorders, including body-worn cameras and audio/video transmitters, emit radio waves that could trigger an explosive device. Therefore, these devices should not be used where an explosive device may be present.

424.7 PROHIBITED USE OF PORTABLE RECORDERS

Members are prohibited from using department-issued portable recorders and recording media for personal use and are prohibited from making personal copies of recordings created while on-duty or while acting in an official capacity.

Members are also prohibited from retaining recordings of activities or information obtained while on-duty, whether the recording was created with department-issued or personally owned recorders. Members shall not duplicate or distribute such recordings, except for authorized legitimate department business purposes. All such recordings shall be retained at the Department.

Members are prohibited from using personally owned recording devices while on-duty without the express consent of the Supervisor. Any member who uses a personally owned recorder for department-related activities shall comply with the provisions of this policy, including retention and release requirements, and should notify the on-duty supervisor of such use as soon as reasonably practicable.

Recordings shall not be used by any member for the purpose of embarrassment, harassment or ridicule.

424.8 IDENTIFICATION AND PRESERVATION OF RECORDINGS

To assist with identifying and preserving data and recordings, members should download, tag or mark these in accordance with procedure and document the existence of the recording in any related case report.

A member should transfer, tag or mark recordings when the member reasonably believes:

- (a) The recording contains evidence relevant to potential criminal, civil or administrative matters.

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- (b) A complainant, victim or witness has requested non-disclosure.
- (c) A complainant, victim or witness has not requested non-disclosure but the disclosure of the recording may endanger the person.
- (d) Disclosure may be an unreasonable violation of someone's privacy.
- (e) Medical or mental health information is contained.
- (f) Disclosure may compromise an undercover officer or confidential informant.

Any time a member reasonably believes a recorded contact may be beneficial in a non-criminal matter (e.g., a hostile contact), the member should promptly notify a supervisor of the existence of the recording.

424.9 RETENTION OF RECORDINGS

All recordings shall be retained for a period consistent with the requirements of the established records retention schedule but in no event for a period less than 180 days.

424.9.1 RELEASE OF AUDIOVIDEO RECORDINGS

Requests for the release of audio/video recordings shall be processed in accordance with the Records Maintenance and Release Policy.

424.10 REVIEW OF RECORDED MEDIA FILES

When preparing written reports, members should review their recordings as a resource (see the Officer-Involved Shootings and Deaths Policy for guidance in those cases). However, members shall not retain personal copies of recordings. Members should not use the fact that a recording was made as a reason to write a less detailed report.

Supervisors are authorized to review relevant recordings any time they are investigating alleged misconduct or reports of meritorious conduct or whenever such recordings would be beneficial in reviewing a member's performance.

Recorded files may also be reviewed:

- (a) Upon approval by a supervisor, by any member of the Department who is participating in an official investigation, such as a personnel complaint, administrative investigation or criminal investigation.
- (b) Pursuant to lawful process or by court personnel who are otherwise authorized to review evidence in a related case.
- (c) By media personnel with permission of the Chief of Police or the authorized designee.
- (d) In compliance with a public records request, if permitted, and in accordance with the Records Maintenance and Release Policy.

All recordings should be reviewed by the Records Access Officer prior to public release (see the Records Maintenance and Release Policy). Recordings that unreasonably violate a person's

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privacy or sense of dignity should not be publicly released unless disclosure is required by law or order of the court (Public Officers Law § 86).

Amendment to the Adopted 2025 – 2026 District Wide School Safety Plan

The following amendment to the adopted District Wide School Safety Plan was presented at the September 18, 2025 meeting of the Board of Education. After a 30-day public comment period, the amendment was formally adopted by the Board of Education on November 20, 2025.

Desha's Law On July 24, 2025, Governor Hochul signed Desha's Law (S.5539A/A.785A), which takes effect on September 1, 2025. This law mandates that school safety plans include a comprehensive cardiac emergency response plan. The plan must outline procedures and designate appropriate personnel to respond to sudden cardiac arrest or similar life-threatening emergencies occurring on school grounds or at school-sponsored events.

In addition to Desha's Law, the use of on-site Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) is required under the New York State Education Department Commissioner's Regulation CRR 136.4. In compliance, the district has adopted an AED Policy (Policy 5425) and implemented an AED Program that is available on our district website.

Heart attacks and sudden cardiac arrest are two different conditions. A heart attack is a circulation problem that occurs when blood flow to the heart is reduced or blocked. Sudden cardiac arrest is an electrical problem that occurs when the heart suddenly stops beating and the heart can't pump blood to the brain, lungs and other organs. Cardiac arrest causes a person to lose consciousness and pulse.

The AED Program has been developed to ensure a prompt, efficient, and effective response to sudden cardiac arrest or similar life-threatening emergencies in a school setting and outlines the emergency procedures to improve survival outcomes through early recognition and rapid response. A designated group of school staff will be trained in CPR and AED use, and AEDs shall be clearly marked, accessible, and maintained with guidelines set by the American Heart Association. The district will also incorporate the AED Program protocols for responding to sudden cardiac arrest into the 2025–2026 Building-Level Emergency Response Plan.