

NOTE: FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR, SAFETY DRILLS WILL COMMENCE AFTER THE RESUMPTION OF IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION IN ACPS FACILITIES.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS RESPONSE DRILLS

FIRE DRILLS

Each school in Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) ~~shall~~ holds at least two fire drills during the first twenty school days of the school year, in order that students and staff members may be ~~thoroughly practiced in such drills~~ prepared in case of a fire emergency. During the remainder of the school year, fire drills ~~shall be~~ held at least monthly.

The principal/~~designee~~ will sends a copy of the Virginia Department of Education and State Fire Marshall School Exit Drill Form to the Educational Facilities Department within five (5) days of holding a fire drill.

An emergency operations and procedures plan ~~shall be~~ developed for each ACPS building. Each teacher must be acquainted with the emergency safety plan that has been developed as it applies to each room in which he/she teaches.

Placards describing the nearest exits, evacuation routes for students and important instructions ~~shall be~~ posted prominently in each room. A plan for evacuation of any student with physical disabilities ~~shall be~~ developed and reviewed annually. Parents/guardians of such students ~~will be~~ notified of the evacuation plans for their child.

LOCKDOWN DRILLS THREAT RESPONSE DRILLS

In every ACPS school there ~~shall are be~~ at least two lockdown and/or “Secure the Building” drills during the first twenty school days, in order that students and staff members may be ~~thoroughly practiced in such drills~~ prepared in the case of a lockdown situation.

In keeping with the model *School Crisis, Emergency Management, and Medical Emergency Response Plan* developed by the Virginia Board of Education and the Virginia Center for School Safety, ACPS ~~will~~ uses the following terms:

- “Lockdown” ~~is used in to respond~~ response to immediate threats of violence inside a school facility.
- “Secure the building” ~~will is be~~ used ~~to when~~ preventing unauthorized entry or exit if there is an external threat in proximity to a school facility.

Each school ~~shall~~ holds at least ~~two~~ one additional lockdown and/or “Secure the Building” drills ~~during the remainder after the first 60 days~~ of the school year. ~~Such plans and drills shall be in compliance with the Statewide Fire Prevention Code (Va. Code § 27-94 et seq.).~~ Each school provides the parents/guardians of enrolled students with at least 24 hours' notice before the school conducts any lockdown and/or “Secure the Building” drill. The notice is not required to include the exact date and time of the drill.

Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students are exempt from mandatory participation in lockdown and/or “Secure the Building” drills during the first 60 days of the school year. The Superintendent develops procedures to implement this exemption. Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students participate in each lockdown and/or “Secure the Building” drill after the first 60 days of the school year.

I. Active Threat/Violent Encounter Response Protocol

ACPS ~~will~~ provides an “options-based” ~~response~~ training approach to staff and students, ~~based onto be applied to~~ the specific circumstances at the time of the incident. Staff dealing with these events may need to consider different response methods, including lockdown, immediate evacuation, or related life-saving actions.

TORNADO DRILLS AND EARTHQUAKE DRILLS

There will be at least one tornado drill and one earthquake drill ~~every~~ each school year in every ACPS school.

SCHOOL BUS EMERGENCY DRILLS

Each school in ACPS ~~shall~~ holds a drill in leaving school buses under emergency circumstances at least once during the first ninety calendar days of each school year and more often if necessary.

ALL DRILLS

No emergency preparedness drills will be conducted during periods of mandatory testing required by the Virginia Board of Education.

SAFETY TRAINING

In addition to the drills mentioned above, the School Board provides training to each student and employee at least once each school year on safety procedures in the event of an emergency situation on school division-controlled property.

Adopted: June 11, 2015
Amended: September 15, 2016
Amended: September 28, 2017
Amended:

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, §§ 22.1-137, 22.1-137.1, 22.1-137.2, 22.1-137.3, 22.1-184, ~~27-94 et seq.~~

Acts 2006, c. 164.

[8 VAC 20-131-260.](#)

Virginia Board of Education and the Virginia Center for School Safety, *School Crisis, Emergency Management, and Medical Emergency Response Plan*, 2016.

Cross Ref.: EB School Crisis, Emergency Management and Medical Emergency Response Plan

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