Welcome Back

We at Regional Safety Services (RSS) hope that you all had a safe and productive summer. Those of you who were working to get the buildings cleaned, repaired and ready for a new year are the unsung heroes of the school district. Let's work together to make this a safe and healthy school year.

Legislative Updates

SCHOOL BUS CAMERAS

As of September 5, schools in New York State can now install cameras on the stop arms of school buses to catch motorists who put students at risk.

AMENDMENT TO EDUCATION LAW SECTION 2801-a

Beginning this school year, school districts who use SROs or SPOs must have formal agreements/contracts/memoranda of understanding.

DID YOU KNOW?

Chemical Waste Management

Noel Russ at Miller Environmental Group is our go-to person for advice and expertise in the more difficult waste management needs.

If your district is due for a chemical cleanout, please remember that it takes almost a month from the time we give them the disposal inventory to the actual pick up date.

Why you may ask, the staff at Miller Environmental Group
“A school district or charter school that employs, contracts with, or otherwise retains law enforcement or public or private security personnel, including school resource officers, shall establish a written contract or memorandum of understanding that is developed with stakeholder input, including, but not limited to, parents, students, school administrators, teachers, collective bargaining units, parent and student organizations and community members, as well as probation officers, prosecutors, defense counsels and courts that are familiar with school discipline. Such written contract or memorandum of understanding shall define the relationship between a school district or charter school, school personnel, students, visitors, law enforcement, and public or private security personnel. Such contract or memorandum of understanding shall be consistent with the code of conduct, define law enforcement or security personnel’s roles, responsibilities and involvement within a school and clearly delegate the role of school discipline to the school administration. Such written contract or memorandum of understanding shall be incorporated into and published as part of the district safety plan; …”

If a district already has an MOU with the law enforcement that provides the SROs, they do not have to rewrite the MOU. A copy of the MOU should be retained in the appendices of the emergency plans.

**CHANGES TO 8CRR-NY 155.17**

Several changes were made to the regulation regarding your district and emergency plans in this regulation. In addition to the change stated above, there were some modifications to attempt to clarify requirements for your emergency plans.

1. The School BOE shall adopt your Building Level Emergency Response Plans and your District Wide Safety Plan by September 1 each year. The building plans are still confidential so any discussion of the details should occur in executive session.
2. They worded the submission of the plans sections to read, "in a manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Education." This allows for more flexibility on the part of NYSED.
3. Plan submission is due October 1 for the district plans and October 15 for the building.
EMERGENCY PLANNING

The District Wide Safety Plan must be made available for public comment at least 30 days prior to its adoption.

- There must be at least one public hearing that provides for the participation of school personnel, parents, students and any other interested parties.
- Each district shall post the District Wide Safety Plans to their webpage 30 days after adoption and no later than October 1, 2019
- District Wide Safety Plans need to be uploaded to the district webpage and the URL must be reported to the state in the BEDS.

The building level emergency plans should have been presented to your Board of Education as of September 1. If they have not been adopted, remember to have them before the board at your next BOE meeting. School plans must be uploaded to the business portal before October 15. (Beginning next school year, this date will be October 1.)

All staff must be trained in the emergency plans and elements of mental health prior to Sept. 15.

To assist you in reviewing your emergency plans, NYSED has developed self assessment checklists. These can be accessed using the button below.

We will be happy to facilitate your emergency planning. Contact our office at 914-248-3692 if you have questions.

Emergency Plan Checklists

NEWS FROM RSS

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM TRAINING PROGRAM

RSS has developed a modular training program for your emergency response teams. This program begins with the basics and moves the team deeper into the planning and response process. Teams do not have to begin at the beginning if they are experienced, but might want to have the opportunity to review.

Visit the CDC "Preptember" Page

Be prepared at home by visiting the CDC "Preptember" page for great tips on home readiness.

SAVE THE DATE

Reunification Workshop

Sept. 19, 2019
8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Does your school have a plan for reunifying students with their families after an emergency?

Plan to join us as we discuss this important protocol.

CONTACT US

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Carol Sneyd
The program is moderated by a member of our RSS team but is designed to proceed at the pace determined by the progress made by the team. We have new modules planned, but below are the ones completed thus far.

Module 1 - Incident Command System and Introduction

Module 2 - Expansion of ICS Roles and ERP Evaluation

Module 3 - Expansion of ICS Roles and Communications

Module 4 - Threat and Hazard Analysis

Module 5 - SHELL for ERT

Module 6 - Reunification

Visit our website