

# Schoharie Central School District



## DISTRICT-WIDE SCHOOL SAFETY PLAN

**2024-2025 School Year**

**Public Comment Period: 7/16/2024 through 8/14/2024**  
**Anticipated BOE Approved: 8/15/2024**

**Schoharie Central School District**  
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**Schoharie Central School District**  
**DISTRICT – WIDE SCHOOL SAFETY PLAN**  
**PROJECT SAVE (Safe Schools Against Violence in Education)**  
**Commissioner’s Regulation 155.17**

**Introduction**

Emergencies and violent incidents in school districts are critical issues that must be addressed in an expeditious and effective manner. 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 the district with local and county resources in the event of such incidents or emergencies. The district-wide plan is responsive to the needs of all schools within the district and is consistent with the more detailed emergency response plans required at the school building level. Districts stand at risk from a wide variety of acts of violence, natural, and manmade disasters. To address these threats, the State of New York has enacted the Safe Schools Against Violence in Education (SAVE) law. Project SAVE is a comprehensive planning effort that addresses prevention, response, and recovery with respect to a variety of emergencies in each school district and its schools.

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

**Section I: General Considerations and Planning Guidelines**

**A. Purpose**

The Schoharie Central School District district-wide school safety plan was developed pursuant to Commissioner’s Regulation 155.17. At the direction of the Schoharie Central School District Board of Education, the Superintendent of the Schoharie Central School District appointed a district-wide school safety team and charged it with the development and maintenance of the district-wide school safety plan.

**B. Identification of Chief Emergency Officer**

The Schoharie Central School designates the School Superintendent as the district’s 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 plan;
- 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 policies for the use of such technology;
- f. Coordinate appropriate safety, security, and emergency training for district and school staff, including required training in the emergency response plan yearly and;
- g. Ensure the conduct of required evacuation and lock-down drills in all district buildings as required by Education Law section 807.

### **C. Identification of School Teams**

The Schoharie Central School District has created a district-wide school safety team appointed by the board of education consisting of, but not limited to, representatives of the school board, teacher, administrator, and parent organizations, school safety personnel and other school personnel. The members of the team by title are as follows:

- Superintendent
- School Business Administrator
- Director of Facilities III
- Transportation Director
- Jr./Sr. High School Building Principal
- Elementary School Building Principal

### **D. Concept of Operations**

- The district-wide school safety plan is directly linked to the individual building-level emergency response plan to the school. Protocols reflected in the district-wide school safety plan guide the development and implementation of individual building-level emergency response plan.
- In the event of an emergency or violent incident, the initial response to all emergencies at an individual school is by the building-level emergency response team.
- Upon the activation of the building-level emergency response team, the Superintendent of Schools or their designee is notified and, where appropriate, local emergency officials are notified.
- Efforts may be supplemented by County and State resources through existing protocols.

### **E. Plan review and public comment**

- This plan shall be reviewed and maintained by the Schoharie Central School District district-wide school safety team and reviewed on an annual basis. A copy of the plan is available in the Superintendent's office.
- Pursuant to Commissioner's Regulation 155.17 (e)(3), this plan was made available for public comment, on July 17, 2023, 30 days prior to its initial adoption. The district-wide school safety plan will be adopted by the School Board on **August 17, 2023**, following the required 30 day public comment period that provides for the participation of school personnel, parents, students and any other interested parties to communicate any questions via [PublicComments@schoharieschools.com](mailto:PublicComments@schoharieschools.com) from 7/17/23 through 8/17/23, or calling 518-295-6679.
- While linked to the district-wide school safety plan, the building-level emergency response plan shall be confidential and shall not be subject to disclosure under Article 6 of the Public Officers Law or any other provision of law, in accordance with Education Law Section 2801-a. The building-level emergency response plan shall be kept confidential and shall not be disclosed except to authorized department staff and law enforcement officers.
- Full copies of the district-wide school safety plan and any amendments are submitted to the New York State Education Department within 30 days of adoption by posting this public plan on the district's website. The building-level emergency response plan is supplied to the Schoharie County Sheriff and NYS State Police within 30 days of adoption.

## **Section II: General Emergency Response Planning**

The district-wide school safety plan provides the framework for the building-level emergency response plan. The purpose of a uniform plan is to ensure district-wide continuity for emergency responses. These general emergency responses are used to assist school employees, students, parents and emergency responders learn one system that can be used in the Schoharie Central School District.

### **A. Identification of sites of potential emergency, including:**

- The district-wide school safety team in conjunction with local officials has identified areas outside of school property that may impact a district facility during an emergency. Factors that were considered included population, presence of hazardous materials, and potential for emergency based on national trends and proximity to district property.
- A list of areas has been identified as having the potential to impact within the district. This list has been created for reference and awareness. The list is not all-inclusive for every emergency. However, these areas have been identified as having the most probable impact on district facilities or district boundaries should they have or create an emergency. A list of potential community-based hazards or emergency situations has been noted in the building-level emergency response plan
- The district-wide school safety team has recognized that there are many factors that could cause an emergency within our school building. There are also factors that need to be considered when responding to an emergency. A list of potential internal and external hazards or emergency situations has been noted in the building-level emergency response plan.

### **B. The district has developed multi-hazard response guides. These guidelines are located in the building-level emergency response plan and are in ICS (Incident Command System) format. Plans for taking the following actions in response to an emergency where appropriate are, including but not limited to:**

- Initial Actions
- Command Post Location (primary and secondary)
- **Shelter in Place:** Used to shelter students/staff inside the school
  - Severe Weather
  - Bomb Threat
  - HazMat Incident
- **Hold-In Place:** Limits student/staff movement while dealing with short term emergencies
- **Evacuation:** Used to evacuate students/staff from the school
  - Before, during and after school hours, including security during evacuation and evacuation routes
  - Evacuation/Relocation Sites (internal and external)
- **Lockout:** Used to secure school buildings and grounds during incidents that pose an imminent concern outside of the school
- **Lockdown:** Used to secure school buildings and grounds during incidents that pose an immediate threat of violence in or around the school.
- School Cancellation
- Early Dismissal

Emergencies include, but are not limited to:

Air Pollution	Epidemic	Medical Emergency
Anthrax/Biological	Explosion	Natural Gas Leak
Aviation Crash	Fire Alarm Activation	Radiological
Bldg. Structural Failure	Flood	Roof Leak/Failure
Bomb Threat	Heating System Failure	School Bus Accident
Civil Disturbance	Hostage Situation	Severe Weather Emergency
Crimes Against People	Intruder Situation	Threats of Violence
Earthquake	Loss of Building	Water Emergency
Elec. System Failure	Loss of Buses	
Energy Supply Loss	Mass Casualty	

C. The district has identified various district resources that may be available for use during an emergency, including the identification of personnel, equipment and shelters.

D. Using the ICS (Incident Command System) the district has identified the school officials authorized to make decisions during an emergency. Through ICS, the procedures to coordinate the use of school district resources and manpower during emergencies are clearly defined. ICS also identifies the staff members and their backups assigned to provide assistance during emergencies.

E. The district has policies and procedures for annual multi-hazard school safety training for staff and students, including the strategies for implementing training related to multi-hazards. Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, all staff will undergo annual training by September 15, 2016 and each subsequent September 15 thereafter on the building-level emergency response plan which includes components on violence prevention and mental health. New employees hired after the start of the school year receive this training within 30 days of hire or as part of the district’s existing new hire training program, whichever is sooner. The district certifies that this training is completed during the October NYSED BEDS data collection.

The following procedures have been established to provide this training on an annual basis to include but not limited to: early dismissal/go home drill, shelter-in place, hold-in-place, evacuation/fire drills, lockout, lockdown, tabletop exercises and Incident Command System training.

F. The district conducts drills and other training exercises to test components of the emergency response plan, including the use of tabletop exercises, in coordination with local, county, and state emergency responders and preparedness officials. A debriefing concludes each test to determine if changes to the plan are necessary.

Fire and Emergency Drills. The school district, at least once every school year, and where possible in cooperation with local county emergency preparedness plan officials, conducts one test of its emergency response procedures under its building-level emergency response plan, including sheltering, lock-down, or early dismissal, at a time not to occur more than 15 minutes earlier than the normal dismissal time.

**Education Law §§ 807(1-a), 807 (b): Fire and Emergency Drills**

The July 2016 amendments expanded fire drill requirements to also include emergency drills to prepare students to be able to respond appropriately in the event of a sudden emergency. The statute now requires twelve drills be conducted each school year, four of which must be lock-down drills, the remaining eight are required to be evacuation drills. There is still a

requirement that eight of the required twelve drills must be completed in the first half of the school year. However, the date of completion has been changed from December 1 to December 31 of each school year.

The statute now explicitly requires schools to conduct lock-down drills, which are essential, because they prepare students and staff to respond to the highest level of threat with the most urgent action and the least margin for error. The goal is to have schools conduct drills where they immediately clear hallways, lock doors and take positions out of sight to practice their ability to put the building into a protective posture as quickly as possible. These emergency measures allow time for responding law enforcement to arrive on scene and neutralize the threat. If possible, law enforcement should be involved in the drills to help prepare students and staff for their interactions and release from lock-down by uniformed officers. However, law enforcement involvement is not required by the new legislative mandate. Other protective actions such as lock-out or shelter in place are emergency actions that are usually preceded by some degree of warning time and do not require the immediate response necessary for a lock-down. While the school should be well versed in their lock-out and shelter in place protocols, lock-down is the only type of protective action that is specifically required by the statute.

### **Section III: Responding to Threats and Acts of Violence**

- A. The school refers to its **Crisis Intervention Plan** via the post-incident response team and the Multi-Hazard Emergency Response Guides located in the building-level emergency response plan. These are reviewed by the district-wide school safety team to ensure content and consistency throughout the district. These policies and procedures are for responding to implied or direct threats of violence by students, teachers, other school personnel and visitors to the school, including threats by students against themselves, which includes suicide. The following types of procedures are addressed in the plan:
- The use of staff trained in de-escalation.
  - Informing the Superintendent or designee of implied or direct threats.
  - Determining the level of threat with the Superintendent and building-level emergency response team members.
  - Contacting appropriate law enforcement agency, if necessary.
  - Monitoring the situation, adjusting the district's responses as appropriate to include possible implementation of the building-level emergency response team.
  - Communication with parents/guardians. When a student implies or specifically threatens self-inflicted violence including suicide, the school's social worker directly contacts the respective parents/guardians.
- B. The Multi-Hazard Emergency Response Guides in the building-level emergency response plan provide guidance on the district's policies and procedures for responding to direct acts of violence (i.e., Crimes Against Persons, Hostage Taking, Intruder and Kidnapping) by students, teachers, other school personnel and visitors to the school, including consideration of zero-tolerance policies for school violence. The following types of procedures are addressed in the plan:
- Inform the Superintendent/designee.
  - Determine the level of threat with the superintendent/designee and the building-level emergency response team.
  - If the situation warrants, isolate the immediate area.

- Monitor the situation; adjust the level of response as appropriate; if necessary, initiate lockdown, evacuation, sheltering and/or early dismissal procedures as needed, if needed.
- Contact appropriate law enforcement agency.

NOTE: The **Schoharie Central School District** “Code of Conduct” describes policies and procedures for responding to acts of violence by students, teachers, other school personnel and visitors to the school.

**C.** Response protocols are identified in the Building-level Emergency Response Plan in the ICS format along with definitions of ICS Roles and Responsibilities. The Multi-Hazard Emergency Response Guides address specific procedures for responding to bomb threat, intruders, hostage takings and kidnapping.

**D.** The following protocols for appropriate responses to emergencies are provided as examples of responses to bomb threats, hostage takings, intrusions and kidnappings:

- Identification of decision-makers.
- Plans to safeguard students and staff.
- Procedures to provide transportation, if necessary.
- Procedures to notify parents.
- Procedures to notify media.
- Debriefing procedures.

**E.** The district has established policies and procedures to contact parents, guardians or persons in parental relation to the students in the event of a violent incident or an early dismissal. In the Schoharie Central School District, the following communication methods are taken:

- For small-scale incidents, school personnel directly call the parents/guardians of all students directly impacted by any acts of violence. All other parents/guardians receive an informational letter. The Crisis Intervention Plan and post-incident response team are activated and available. If needed, as needed, community meetings are scheduled in a timely manner for further discussion.
- For any major incident, the district works with the media (TV, radio) to relay pertinent school related information (i.e., how and where can parents be reunited with children, etc.) It is unfortunate, but important to remember that major emergencies can quickly tie up phone lines with incoming and outgoing calls and roads can be quickly blocked by the traffic of emergency vehicles, concerned parents and community members. School personnel directly call the parents/guardians of all students directly impacted by any acts of violence. All other parents/guardians receive an informational letter. Community meetings are scheduled in a timely manner, for further discussion to include the Crisis Intervention Plan and post-incident response team.

#### **Section IV: Communication with Others**

The District-wide School Safety Plan provides the framework for the Building-Level Emergency Response Plan.

**A.** The Schoharie Central School District is fortunate to have substantial ties to the community of Schoharie and Schoharie County. If there were to be an emergency within our facility, that facility would call 911 for emergency assistance. If involvement is needed from other local



government agencies, then the Superintendent or designee would act as that contact person. Additional procedures for communications can be found in the Building-level Emergency Response Plan including local emergency contacts and phone numbers, and the NYS/BOCES Communication Flow Chart. These contacts provide guidance for obtaining assistance during emergencies from emergency services organizations and local government. The following examples are the types of arrangements that could be used by the district:

- Superintendent (IC-Incident Commander or backup IC) in an emergency would contact the county dispatch center for fire, EMS, or police by calling 911.
- Superintendent (IC or backup IC) contacts the highest-ranking local government official for notification and/or assistance.

**B.** Arrangements 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 is carried out through the protocols established in the NYS/BOCES Communication Flow Chart. The following are examples of the types of arrangements that could be used by the district during county-wide emergencies:

- Superintendent (IC or backup IC) in an emergency contacts the Schoharie County 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: Schoharie County Sheriff, Schoharie County Civil Defense Office, American Red Cross, Schoharie County Emergency Services Office, New York State Police, Schoharie County Sheriff, Schoharie County Mental Health Office and the Capital Region Health/Safety/Risk Management Office.
- If the emergency is within the school district boundaries and has the potential to impact the surrounding community, the Superintendent or designee notifies the appropriate city officials (Example: Mayor, Highway Dept., City Administrator, and/or Public Safety). Likewise, should there be an emergency within the community that has the potential to impact the school, the Superintendent should be notified immediately.

**C.** If there is a disaster within the district that has the potential to impact other educational agencies within the district boundaries, the Chief Emergency Officer activates a phone tree to inform all necessary parties. The phone tree is located in the Building-Level Emergency Response Plan.

**D.** Along with the phone tree, the district also maintains the following information about each educational agency located in the **confidential**, Building-Level Emergency Response Plan:

- School population
- Number of staff
- Transportation needs
- Business and home telephone numbers of key officials of each such educational agency

## **Section V: Remote Learning**

To help inform our Emergency Remote Instruction Plan, the district will complete an annual Student Digital Resources data collection report to better understand the level of access students have to devices (e.g., laptop, Chromebook, cell phone) and the Internet. A Digital

Access Survey will be placed online each year, and available in the SchoolTool Grade Portal. This data is then used to inform digital availability.

The purpose of this survey is to ensure that, to the extent possible, students can access the Internet and receive remote instruction, if necessary, under emergency conditions. This survey will be conducted on an annual basis. Students and families may update their access information at any time by contacting the student's school. It is our goal that this plan is aligned with the information provided by families in the Student Digital Resources data collection.

The district has also developed a plan for communicating all necessary information should a school or schools need to close. The district will use existing internal and external communications channels to notify staff, students, and families/caregivers about remote learning schedules with as much advance notice as possible. This communication will include information about how computing devices (e.g., computers, hot spots, etc.) are being disseminated to students and families who need them. The District will disseminate remote learning schedules via our website, social media outlets, and our SchoolMessenger service, which can be tailored to reach specific buildings/grade-levels.

The district will provide students and their families with multiple ways to contact schools and teachers during remote learning, including. Families will be communicated with via our School Messenger system, direct email, and will use print media/letters home via regular mail of digital access is unattainable. Communication via telephone will also be used.

#### A. Device, Internet and Platform Access

To support remote learning, the district will make computer devices available to all students and families who need them. *As Schoharie is a 1:1 District, each student is given a Chromebook or iPad at the start of the school year to take to and from school. If the Chromebook/iPad was left in school, the District would use our Transportation Department to deliver these individual devices to each home. Any lost devices (if the tracking software was not successful) would be replaced.*

To the extent possible, the district will also support students and families with accessing the Internet at home. Where that is not possible, the district will work with community partners to secure Wi-Fi access points for students and families so that they may participate in remote learning. *The District will distribute MiFi devices for those homes without a reliable internet connection. The District also has the capability to set up free remote wireless access via our parking lots and satellite fields, should families need access and not have the ability to access at home or via another public WiFi entity (i.e.- the public library).*

There will be those students in our community for whom remote learning through digital technology is not appropriate or possible. For these students, the district will assess each student's individual needs and whether in-person learning is an option. Other methods that will be considered include instruction by phone and/or the delivery of hard-copy materials to the student's home. While the District will utilize some common main software features (GoogleMeet, Schoology, GoogleClassroom, etc.), if individual phone conversations are required to enhance/reach instructional targets, such tools will be used at the discretion of the teacher.

The district will also take steps to ensure that school staff members have the necessary tools, i.e., computing devices and Internet access, to deliver emergency remote instruction from their place of residence. All teaching faculty are provided with a laptop to take to and from school. MiFi devices are also available for those faculty without appropriate internet access. To ensure high-quality remote learning experiences, the district has standardized the use of a single online learning platform (Schoology) to the extent possible, and developed a common, coordinated set of guidelines for teachers to follow when using the platform with students. *A full-time Instructional Technology Director, as well as an IT Department of three will be available to assist students with technical support (both hard and software).*

## **B. Teaching and Learning**

Our district has developed an emergency remote instruction plan that would support all students. When a remote learning model is necessary, certain groups of students will be prioritized for in-person learning to the greatest extent possible, depending on the nature of the emergency. This includes, but is not limited to, special education students, English language learners, and students with technology or connectivity needs.

Acknowledging that the typical content in each grade level or course may need to be adjusted, content will be prioritized to ensure that students receive instruction for the prioritized learning standards, key understandings, and skills necessary for students' success in future study.

Instruction will focus on “core” subject areas; however, elective courses will continue to be offered in a remote learning environment. All instruction will continue to be aligned to the New York State Learning Standards.

Virtual learning schedules have been developed by grade level. If an emergency requires the district to move to virtual learning, these schedules will be shared with students and families in accordance with the communication strategies outlined earlier in this plan. Students will be given opportunities to engage with teachers and classmates through live instruction, question and answer periods with teachers and group work (i.e., synchronous learning). Teachers will ensure that their students are directly engaged with them and their class peers in experiential learning on a regular basis. Supplementing this time will be self-guided projects, readings and other age-appropriate assignments that can be completed by the students remotely (i.e., asynchronous learning).

In terms of the learning model that we have established, teachers will spend three hours of live time online with students at the elementary level, and five hours at the secondary level (grades 7-12). Special education and ENL services will be provided online in the same service increments as if the student were in school. In between live instruction, asynchronous assignments will be completed in between online sessions for both assessment and reinforcement purposes.

The district recognizes that there will be students for whom remote instruction via digital technology is not appropriate. In an emergency, as the district is assessing which students need devices or access to the Internet, the district will also assess which students may require additional support. Depending on the nature of the emergency, this may involve some level of in-person instruction for these students either at a school building within the district or at a community location, as appropriate. These decisions will be made in partnership with local

health officials and emergency personnel, as applicable. Other instructional methods that will be considered include instruction by phone and/or the delivery of hard-copy materials to the student's home.

*All students will be expected to attend online instructional sessions, unless specifically tailored instruction is developed by the provider (i.e.- special education faculty). All faculty have been trained in the intricacies of using Schoology and Google Classroom, (the main online interfaces).*

### C. Support Services

Based on the learning model we have developed, students with disabilities and/or an Individualized Education Plans will continue to receive support services in accordance with their individualized education plans (IEP) should remote learning become necessary. It is the expectation that all service providers (e.g., teachers, paraprofessionals, related service providers) will sign-on to the remote learning platform to support students as needed. This will include large classroom settings in the remote learning environment, as well as the use of breakout rooms or one-on-one virtual meetings as necessary.

*All special education and related services will be provided online, synchronously in the same frequencies as provided during in-person instruction.*

The district will follow its existing engagement and communication protocols with parents regarding the provision of special education services for their child. *All instruction will be delivered in the child's primary spoken language. If the services of a translator are needed, such will be provided at the District's expense. The District is responsible for providing all technological resources and support for students. If students require assistive technology as per their IEP, such will be provided at the District's expense.*

### D. Funding Requirements

The District would seek six hours of instruction per day for the purposes of State Aid Funding.

## **Section VI: Prevention and Intervention Strategies**

The District-wide School Safety Plan provides the framework for the Building-Level Emergency Response Plan.

- A. The district has developed policies and procedures related to school building security, including, where appropriate: visitor sign-in and badge procedures, employee badges, security procedures.
- B. The Schoharie Central School District has implemented procedures 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, parents and other persons in parental relation to students of the school district or board, students and other persons deemed appropriate to receive such information. The district has and continues to participate in programs such as: child abuse and prevention workshops, programs designed to provide staff on how to identify potentially violent behaviors and other risk factors. The district additionally employs school psychologists, social worker, special education staff and a school nurse who are instrumental

in assisting the district in identifying early warning signs in students, early intervention/prevention strategies and the development of violence prevention instruction for staff.

- C. Appropriate prevention and intervention strategies such as:
- Collaborative agreements with state and local law enforcement officials designed to ensure that school safety officers and other security personnel are adequately trained including being trained to de-escalate potentially violent situations
  - Non-violent conflict resolution training programs
  - Peer mediation programs
  - Extended day and other school safety programs
- D. The district has created and supported strategies for improving communication among students and between students and staff and reporting of potentially violent incidents, such as the establishment of:
- Peer mediation;
  - Conflict resolution;
  - Creating a forum or designating a mentor for students concerned with bullying or violence, Establishing anonymous reporting mechanisms for school violence;
  - Others based on district need.
- E. **The Schoharie Central School District** has descriptions of duties, hiring and screening process, and requirements for the training of hall monitors and other school safety personnel. Currently, the school does not have hall monitors but will add descriptions to this plan if needed.

## **Section VII: 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.

Recovery plans include mental health/emotional recovery, academic, physical and business recovery, and can continue long after the actual emergency. The District has social worker and school psychologist resources and support systems. The District has the ability to coordinate with school, local, Schoharie County and State disaster mental health services. The District’s role with mental health services includes looking at the school culture and climate, providing student access to services and following threat assessment procedures.

### **A. District Support for Schoharie Central School District**

The Building-level Emergency Response Plan provides resources for supporting the building-level emergency response team and post-incident response team. The district’s Incident Command System (ICS) identifies back-ups to relieve team members. This provides team members the opportunity to rotate personnel, to fill in if assigned personnel are unavailable and to debrief in a supportive environment.

The district realizes that some emergencies may overwhelm an individual school’s ability to manage an extreme crisis. If/when the school is faced with an emergency such as

threats of violence or actual violent incidents, the district-wide school safety team assists as follows:

- Acting as a sounding board regarding the implied or direct threats and/or violent acts.
- Assisting in determining the level of threat and appropriate response.
- Monitoring the situation and adjusting the district’s response as appropriate.
- Assisting with parent/guardian, faculty/staff, and media communication.
- Assisting with coordinating building and grounds security in conjunction with local and State Police.
- Assisting with offering a backup post-incident response team (i.e., another school district’s team and/or an outside group) as needed, if needed.
- Offering debriefing sessions as needed working in conjunction with local, Schoharie County and/or State emergency responders.

**B. Disaster Mental Health Services**

If/when a building-level emergency response team or post-incident response team is faced with an emergency that may overwhelm the school’s ability to manage an extreme crisis, the district-wide school safety team assists as follows:

- Activating the district-wide post-incident response team. The district has a school social worker, a school psychologist, four counselors, and two school nurses who have local connections to:
  - Neighboring school districts
  - Schoharie County Department of Mental Health
- Offering district support and looking for continued feedback from those directly impacted during the incident, with projected plans to assist if needed during heightened stressful times such as a re-occurrence of a similar event and anniversaries of the original event.
- Assisting with parent/guardian, student, and faculty/staff debriefing and/or post-incident crisis intervention. The debriefing is also used in part to evaluate the district’s plan for possible revisions. If needed, assisting in contacting additional outside mental health resources such as the National Organization for Victim Assistance (1-800-try-nova; [www.try-nova.org](http://www.try-nova.org)).
- Assisting the schools with written statements going out to faculty/staff, parents/guardians, press releases and media requests through the district’s Public Information Officer.

The district supports the recovery phase and reevaluates current multi-hazard and violence prevention practices and school safety activities.

**APPENDICES**

**APPENDIX A:** The following is a listing of all school buildings covered by the district-wide school safety plan:

<b>BUILDING</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>CONTACT TITLE</b>	<b>PHONE</b>
Schoharie Elementary School	136 Academy Drive	Andrea Polikoski	518-295-6651
Schoharie Jr/Sr High School	136 Academy Drive	Dr. Kevin Calacone	518-295-6601
Schoharie District Office	136 Academy Drive	David Blanchard	518-295-6679

## **APPENDIX B: Identification of Potential Hazardous Sites**

- **COMMUNITY BASED LIST:** A list of areas have been identified as having the potential to impact within the district. This list was created for reference and awareness. It is not all-inclusive for every emergency. However, these areas have been identified as having the most probable impact on district facilities or district boundaries should they have or create an emergency. A list of potential community-based hazards or emergency situations has been noted in the building-level emergency response plan.
- **SCHOOL BASED LIST:** The district team has recognized that there are many factors that could cause an emergency within our school building. There are also factors that need to be considered when responding to an emergency. A list of potential internal and external hazards or emergency situations has been noted in the building-level emergency response plan.

## **APPENDIX C: Communicable Disease – Pandemic Continuity of Operations Plan**

This Continuity of Operations Plan (plan) has been developed to meet the requirements of subsection (2)(m) of Education Law §2801-a which requires public employers to prepare a plan for the continuation of operations in the event that the Governor declares a public health emergency involving a communicable disease. This plan is built upon the components of the District-Wide School Safety and the Building-Level Emergency Response Plan(s). The Plan includes elements of COVID-19 Reopening Plan and will be updated regularly to reflect current guidance and best practices. The District-Wide School Safety Team assumes responsibility for development and compliance with all provisions of this plan and implementation at the building level through the Building-Level Emergency Response Team.

The district will work closely with the Schoharie County Department of Health (local health department) to determine the need for activation of this plan. The district will report suspected and confirmed cases of communicable diseases (e.g., influenza, coronavirus, etc.) on the monthly Communicable Disease Report, (DMS-485.7/93; HE-112.4/81) and submit it to the local health department. Depending on the severity of the disease, the district may be required to report information more frequently and in another format (i.e., daily for COVID-19).

The local health department will monitor county-wide communicable disease cases and inform school districts as to appropriate actions.

When this plan is activated, the District-Wide School Safety Team may invite additional people to the meetings to aid in the planning efforts:

- District Medical Coordinator
- School Nurse(s)
- Technology Director
- Business Official
- Facility Director
- Food Service Director
- Transportation Director
- Public Information Specialist
- Curriculum Director

Communication with parents, students, staff, and the school community is important throughout a pandemic outbreak. Communication methods will include postings to the district website, general mailings, email, social media, school communication apps, and the public media. The district’s Public Information Specialist has been designated to coordinate this effort. Communications will work closely with the Superintendent and the IT Department to ensure proper function of all communication systems.

**A. Essential Positions/Titles**

The district has developed this plan to prepare for any future government ordered shutdowns that may occur, similar to the coronavirus shutdown in the spring of 2020. Attachment 1 includes a list of essential positions that would be required to be on-site or in district to continue to function as opposed to those positions that could work remotely. The list includes:

- Title – a list of positions/titles considered essential (i.e., could not work remotely) in the event of a state-ordered reduction of in-person workforce.
- Description – brief description of job function.
- Justification - brief description of critical responsibilities that could not be provided remotely.
- Work Shift – brief description of how work shifts of essential employees and/or contractors will be staggered in order to reduce overcrowding in the district.
- Protocol – how precise hours and work locations, including off-site visits, will be documented for essential employees and contractors.

Continuity of operations could be severely impacted by a loss of staff. The table below describes the procedures for maintaining essential functions and services by planning for backup personnel.

Role/Topic	Task	Backups
Overall Operations	Have decision-making authority for the district.  Make district policies and procedures to reflect crisis response.  Maintain overall function and facilities operation.  Review essential functions and responsibilities of back-up personnel.  Monitor utilization of supplies, equipment, contracts, and provided services and adjust as necessary.	Superintendent  Business Official  Director of Facilities
Business Office	Monitors absenteeism and ensures appropriate delegation of authority.  Work with bargaining units to develop the plan for emergency use of personnel in non-traditional functions and changes in the normal work-day such as alternate or reduced work hours, working from home, etc.	Superintendent  Business Official  Senior Account Clerks



Facilities	Keep the Business Office informed of staffing issues and of the point at which buildings can no longer be maintained	Director of Facilities
	Provided building administrators with procedures for maintaining essential building functions (e.g., HVAC system operation, alarms, security, etc.) along with a list of telephone numbers of outside companies and alternates for repair and maintenance of these systems	Director of Facilities
	Meet with staff and monitor their ability to maintain essential function	
Continuity of Instruction	<p>Will be implemented in the event of significant absences or school closure. Alternate learning strategies will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hard copy, self-directed lessons</li> <li>• Use of mobile media storage devices for lessons (CDs, Jump Drives, iPads)</li> <li>• On-line instruction; on-line resources; on-line textbooks</li> <li>• Communication modalities for assignment postings and follow-up: telephone; Postal Service; cell phone, cell phone mail, text messages; e-mail; automated notification systems; website postings</li> </ul>	

## **B. Working/Learning Remotely**

The District will assess devices and technology needs of all non-essential employees and contractors in order to enable telecommuting.

Options for assessing district needs include stakeholder meetings or surveys to ascertain:

- Who will need devices and/or peripherals at home,
- What programs will need to be added to these devices, and
- The availability of viable existing at-home Internet service.

The information from these surveys will be used to determine what items need to be purchased, which programs need to be installed on devices and if appropriate Internet bandwidth can be provided to those in need.

## **C. Staggered Shifts**

Depending on the exact nature of the communicable disease and its impact, the district is prepared to use the strategies below to reduce traffic congestion and maintain social distancing:

- Limiting building occupancy to 25%, 50% or 75% of capacity or the maximum allowable by state or local guidance.
- Forming employee work shift cohorts to limit potential contacts.
- Limit employee travel within the building and/or between buildings.
- Limit restroom usage to specific work areas.
- Stagger arrival and dismissal times.
- Alternate work-days or work weeks.
- Implement a four-day work week.
- Limit or eliminate visitors to the building.

The district may need to include additional strategies based on updated federal, state, and local guidance.

#### **D. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Face Coverings**

The district will procure a six-month supply of face coverings and PPE required for essential work tasks. Disposable PPE will be provided in quantities of at least two pieces per work day.

<b>PPE Type</b>	<b>Task/Role</b>
N-95	Nurses/Nurses' Aides Cleaners/Custodians (based on disinfectants used)
Face Shields	Nurses/Nurses' Aides Special Education
Gowns	Nurses/Nurses' Aides Special Education
Gloves	Nurses/Nurses' Aides Special Education Cleaners/Custodians Maintenance/Mechanics
Cloth Face Coverings*	All faculty, staff and students

*\* Cloth face coverings are not considered personal protective equipment by OSHA because their capability to protect the wearer is unknown. However, cloth face coverings are important as a source control for COVID-19 and provides some protection to the wearer. As such, OSHA strongly encourages workers to wear face coverings.*

Those individuals that are required to wear N-95 respirators will be fit-tested and medically screened prior to use to ensure they are physically able to do so.

The use of cloth face coverings to reduce the spread of communicable diseases is important to the health and safety of faculty, staff and students. Cloth face coverings are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected (asymptomatic) and are essential when physical distancing is difficult. Information will be provided to faculty, staff and students on proper use, removal, and cleaning of cloth face coverings. All faculty, staff and students will be encouraged to utilize their own personal face coverings but the district will secure and provide face coverings as needed.

PPE and face coverings will be stored in a manner which will prevent degradation. These supplies will be monitored to ensure integrity and track usage rates. District communication on how to access PPE will be provided.

#### **E. Response Protocols for Preventing Spread**

The District-Wide School Safety Team will meet to determine the need for activation of a pandemic response based on internal monitoring and correspondence with the local health department and other experts.

- The Incident Command Structure at both the District and Building level will be informed that the response effort has been enacted. These individuals will meet to discuss the plan's activation and review responsibilities and communication procedures.
- Communications will work closely with the IT department to re-test all communication systems to ensure proper function. The District-Wide School Safety Team and Building-Level Emergency Response Teams will assist in this effort.

- An alert will be sent to the school community upon activation of this plan. The communication will be based on the latest information from federal, state and local health authorities.
- If the decision is made to close a school building, the district will notify the NYS Education Department and District Superintendent.

The district will assign a communicable disease safety coordinator, Nurse Suzan Weber, Jr./Sr. High School; Nurse Lori Warner, Elementary School, whose responsibilities include continuous compliance with all aspects of the district’s reopening plan and any phased-in reopening activities necessary to allow for operational issues to be resolved before activities return to normal or “new normal” levels. The coordinators shall be the main contact upon the identification of positive communicable disease cases and are responsible for subsequent communication. Coordinators shall be responsible for answering questions from students, faculty, staff, and parents or legal guardians of students regarding the public health emergency and plans implemented by the school.

### **Hand Hygiene**

Faculty, staff, and students will be trained on proper hand hygiene. Information will be provided to parents and/or legal guardians on ways to reinforce hand hygiene at home. The district will provide stations around the school buildings:

- For hand washing: soap, running water, and disposable paper towels.
- For hand sanitizing: an alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol for areas where hand washing facilities may not be available or practical.
- Accommodations for students who cannot use hand sanitizer will be made.

### **Communicable Disease Exposures**

The district must be prepared for communicable disease outbreaks in their local communities and for individual exposure events to occur in their facilities, regardless of the level of community transmission. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) have provided recommendations for strategies to follow after an exposure:

- Close off areas used by a sick person and not using these areas until after cleaning and disinfection has occurred;
- Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area.
- Wait at least 24 hours before cleaning and disinfection. If waiting 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible;
- Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person suspected or confirmed to have a communicable disease, such as offices, classrooms, bathrooms, lockers, and common areas.
- Once the area has been appropriately cleaned and disinfected it can be reopened for use.
- Individuals without close or proximate contact with the person suspected or confirmed to have a communicable disease can return to the area and resume school activities immediately after cleaning and disinfection.
- If more than seven days have passed since the person who is suspected or confirmed to have a communicable disease visited or used the facility, additional cleaning or disinfection is not necessary, but routine cleaning and disinfection should continue.

### **Returning after Illness**

The district has established protocols and procedures, in consultation with the local health department(s), about the requirements for determining when individuals, particularly students, who screened positive for communicable disease symptoms can return to the in-person learning environment at school. This protocol includes:

- Documentation from a health care provider following evaluation
- Negative COVID-19 diagnostic test result
- Symptom resolution, or if positive for a communicable disease, release from isolation

The district will refer to the NYSDOH's "Pre-K to Gr 12 COVID-19 Toolkit" and other applicable guidance regarding protocols and policies for faculty, staff, and students seeking to return to work after a suspected or confirmed communicable disease case or after the faculty or staff member had close or proximate contact with a person with a communicable disease.

The district requires that individuals who were exposed to a communicable disease complete quarantine and have no symptoms before returning to in-person learning. The discharge of an individual from quarantine and return to school will be conducted in coordination with the local health department.

The school district has determined employee policies for available leave in the event of the need of an employee to receive testing, treatment, isolation, or quarantine. These policies are consistent with existing federal, state, or local law, including regarding sick leave or health information privacy. Employees may have available to them any federal or state mandated leave time. Employees may also have the option to use their available contractual leave time.

### **Cleaning/Disinfecting**

The district will ensure adherence to hygiene and cleaning and disinfection requirements as advised by the CDC and NYSDOH, including "Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfection - Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools and Homes" and other guidance, as applicable.

Attachment 2 describes cleaning and disinfection protocols and procedures for the district. Regular cleaning and disinfection of the facilities will occur, including more frequent cleaning and disinfection for high-risk and frequently touched surfaces. This will include desks and cafeteria tables, which will be cleaned and disinfected between each individual's use. Cleaning and disinfection will be rigorous and ongoing and will occur at least daily, or more frequently as needed.

The district will ensure regular cleaning and disinfection of restrooms. Restrooms will be cleaned and disinfected more often depending on frequency of use.

### **F. Contact Tracing Supports**

The district will notify the state and local health department immediately upon being informed of any positive communicable disease diagnostic test result by an individual within school facilities or on school grounds, including students, faculty, staff, and visitors of the district.

Districts may assist with contact tracing by:

- Keeping accurate attendance records of students and staff members
- Ensuring student schedules are up to date
- Keeping a log of any visitor which includes date and time, and where in the school they visited

- Assisting the local health departments in tracing all contacts of the individual in accordance with the protocol, training, and tools provided through the NYS Contact Tracing Program

The district, in consultation with the local health department, will determine what process will be followed when communicable disease cases are discovered in the school (e.g., how many individuals will be quarantined, closing of areas or classrooms, etc.).

Confidentiality must be maintained as required by federal and state laws and regulations. School staff should not try to determine who is to be excluded from school based on contact without guidance and direction from the local health department.

### **G. Housing for Essential Employees**

Emergency housing for essential workers is not considered to be required for school faculty and staff. The need for emergency housing will be determined with direction from the local department of health.

### **Recovery**

Re-establishing the normal school curriculum is essential to the recovery process and should occur as soon as possible. The district will

- Work toward a smooth transition from the existing learning methods to the normal process.
- Use the described communication methods to keep the school community aware of the transition process.
- Work closely with the New York State Education Department to revise or amend the school calendar as deemed appropriate.
- Evaluate all building operations for normal function and re-implement appropriate maintenance and cleaning procedures.

Each Building-Level Post-incident Response Team will assess the emotional impact of the crisis on students and staff and make recommendations for appropriate intervention. The District-Wide School Safety Team and Building-Level Emergency Response Teams will meet to de-brief and determine lessons learned with input from *all essential functions*. The District-Wide School Safety Plan and Building-Level Emergency Response Plans will be updated accordingly.

Curriculum activities that may address the crisis will be developed and *implemented*.

**Attachment 1 – Essential Positions**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Justification</b>	<b>Work Shift</b>	<b>Protocol</b>
Superintendent	School Management	Responsibilities Determined on an Individual Basis	As Needed	Receives Reports
Facilities Services	Facilities Management	Responsibilities Determined on an Individual Basis	As Needed	Reports to Superintendent
Transportation	Transportation Management	Responsibilities Determined on an Individual Basis	As Needed	Reports to Superintendent
Food Service	Food Service Management	Responsibilities Determined on an Individual Basis	As Needed	Reports to Superintendent
Communications	Communications Management	Responsibilities Determined on an Individual Basis	As Needed	Reports to Superintendent
Technology	Technology Management	Responsibilities Determined on an Individual Basis	As Needed	Reports to Superintendent
Instructional Programs	Instructional Programs Management	Responsibilities Determined on an Individual Basis	As Needed	Reports to Superintendent
Athletics	Sports Management	Responsibilities Determined on an Individual Basis	As Needed	Reports to Superintendent
Special Education	SPED Programs Management	Responsibilities Determined on an Individual Basis	As Needed	Reports to Superintendent
Messenger/Mail Services	Messenger/Mail Services Management	Responsibilities Determined on an Individual Basis	As Needed	Reports to Superintendent
Security	Security Management	Responsibilities Determined on an Individual Basis	As Needed	Reports to Superintendent

**Attachment 2: Cleaning and Disinfection Protocols and Procedures**

<b>Room Types/Areas</b>	<b>Cleaning Frequency</b>	<b>Disinfection Frequency</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Additional Information</b>
Classrooms	Daily	Daily	Custodial staff; staff and teachers	Doors, desks, chairs, and floors
Restrooms	2x daily	2x daily	Custodial staff	Doors and sinks will be done twice daily. Floors will be done once daily.
Health Offices/Isolation Rooms	Various	Various	Nursing staff; Custodial staff	Cots, bathrooms and health office equipment will be cleaned after each use. Floors will be done once daily.
Breakrooms	Daily	Daily	Custodial staff	Doors, tables, chairs and floors
Cafeterias/Kitchens	Various	Various	Custodial staff; staff and teachers	Tables and chairs will be cleaned/disinfected in between each group's use. Floors will be done once daily.
Outside Seating Areas	Various	Various	Custodial staff; staff and teachers	Tables and chairs will be cleaned/disinfected in between each group's use. Floors will be done once daily.
Computer Labs	Various	Various	Custodial staff; staff and teachers	Equipment to be cleaned/disinfected between each use. Doors, tables, chairs and floors will be done once daily.
Science Labs	Daily	Daily	Custodial staff; staff and teachers	Equipment to be cleaned/disinfected between each use. Doors, tables, chairs and floors will be done once daily.
Maintenance Office and Work Areas	Daily	Daily	Custodial staff	Doors, desks, chairs, and floors
Bus Garage	Daily	Daily	Custodial staff; Transportation staff	Bathroom, doors, desks, chairs, and floors
Libraries	Daily	Daily	Custodial staff; Librarians	Equipment to be cleaned/disinfected between each use. Doors, tables, chairs and floors will be done once daily.
Playgrounds	As needed	N/A	Custodial staff	
School Buses	Daily	Daily	Transportation staff	High contact spots will be cleaned after the morning (AM) runs and cleaned/disinfected after the afternoon (PM) run.
School Vehicles	After each use	After each use	Staff using vehicles	

<b>Room Types/Areas</b>	<b>Cleaning Frequency</b>	<b>Disinfection Frequency</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Additional Information</b>
Administrative Offices	Daily	Daily	Custodial staff	Doors, desks, chairs, and floors
Large Meeting Areas (e.g., gymnasiums, auditoriums, music rooms)	Daily	Daily	Custodial Staff & Teachers	
Athletic Training Rooms, Locker Rooms	Daily	Daily	Custodial Staff & Teachers	
Frequently touched surfaces (e.g., doorknobs, light switches, elevator buttons, copy machine buttons, handles, etc.)	2x daily	2x daily	Custodial staff	
Shared frequently touched surfaces (e.g., keyboards, desks, phones, laptops, tablets, remote controls, etc.)	After each use	After each use	Staff using shared surfaces	
Shared equipment (e.g., hand tools, facilities equipment, groundskeeping equipment, golf cart, etc.)	After each use	After each use	Staff using equipment	

Only district approved chemicals will be used. At no time will students be allowed to use cleaners or disinfectants.



**Attachment 3: Statement of Agreement Concerning Use of Facilities**

7217

STATEMENT OF AGREEMENT  
CONCERNING THE USE OF FACILITIES  
BY SCHOHARIE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

This agreement is made and entered into between the  
GUILDERLAND CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
And  
SCHOHARIE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

RECITALS

SCHOHARIE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT is required by New York State and Federal Regulations needs to identify potential resources and assets to care for it's students and staff as part of the facilities Emergency Preparedness Plan. This includes the need for the shelter of students, staff and equipment necessary for their care and well being in a situation that requires the quick evacuation of SCHOHARIE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT.

GUILDERLAND CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT is authorized to permit SCHOHARIE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT to use property, grounds, and equipment for the sheltering of students and staff in the event of an internal or external emergency requiring the evacuation of SCHOHARIE CENTRAL SCHOOLS as part of it's Emergency Preparedness Plan and wishes to cooperate with GUILDERLAND CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT for such purpose.

The parties hereto mutually desire to reach an understanding that will result in making the aforesaid facilities of the GUILDERLAND HIGH SCHOOL available to the SCHOHARIE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT for the aforesaid use.

Now therefore, it is mutually agreed between the parties as follows:

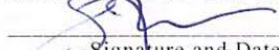
1. GUILDERLAND CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT agrees that it will permit, to the extent of its ability, and upon request of the SCHOHARIE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, the use of its facilities by the SCHOHARIE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT as a shelter for victims of disasters.

2. SCHOHARIE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT agrees that it shall exercise reasonable care in the conduct of its activities and further agrees to replace or reimburse GUILDERLAND CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT for any supplies and/or equipment used by SCHOHARIE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT in the conduct of its relief activities related to the emergency situation activating this agreement. SCHOHARIE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT will also reimburse GUILDERLAND CENTRAL SCHOOL for any labor costs associated with activation of this agreement.

3. SCHOHARIE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT shall indemnify and hold harmless the GUILDERLAND CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, its governing board, and all other elected, appointed, employed or volunteer representatives of the GUILDERLAND CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT from any and all claims, liability, judgments, costs, attorney's fees charges and expenses whatsoever, arising from the acts and omissions of the SCHOHARIE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT arising as a result of the activation and implementation of this Agreement, except to the extent that the GUILDERLAND CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT causes such claims, liability, judgments, costs, attorney's fees, charges or expenses by their own intentional neglect or default

In witness thereof the governing board of the GUILDERLAND CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT has caused this agreement to be executed by the President of the Governing Board, and SCHOHARIE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT has caused this agreement to be executed by the President of the Governing Board, said agreement to become effective and operative upon fixing of the last signature hereto.

SIGNATURES TO THE AGREEMENT:

  
Signature and Date 6/13/23  
Seema Rivera  
Printed Name  
Board of Education President  
Guilderland CSD

  
Signature and Date 5/16/2023  
Terry Burton  
Printed Name  
Board of Education President  
Schoharie CSD