

CRISIS INTERVENTION PLAN

Introduction

Unanticipated events such as suicide, accidental death, rape, school bus crashes, natural disasters, or other traumatic events can quickly escalate into district wide catastrophes if not addressed quickly and effectively. Crisis situations are often unavoidable but, a planned school wide response can significantly reduce disruption during times of high stress.

A crisis in a school is any occasion when a student's behavior requires immediate attention to protect the physical and psychological safety of that student or of others. When such a situation develops there should be a plan in place for managing this crisis. Lack of planning can result in confusion, an escalation of the crisis and be potentially harmful to students, staff and the community. A crisis plan can minimize confusion, quell rumors and reduce the impact of the event on others. A structured response by a trained team of staff members can facilitate the return to normalcy in a school. In addition, the establishment of a crisis plan can provide the framework and structure to assess the potential impact of the crisis and to allow for the development of activities to bring closure to a situation. Also, adequate crisis management can reduce the probability that additional incidents will surface.

Overview

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall act as the spokesperson during all crisis situations.

The Superintendent shall be informed of all developments in a crisis situation and he/she will communicate with the School Committee and Town Officials.

A public statement regarding the situation will be provided to the media by the Superintendent.

Inform the media of any restrictions the district is requesting they adhere to.

The district will respond to the media in writing when appropriate.

Crisis Team Protocol and Procedures will be enacted as written in the Crisis Intervention Plan.

All team participants will be debriefed and assess the response procedures at the conclusion of crisis.

Crisis Team will review policies and procedures at least annually.

LEGAL REF.: Franklin Public School Crisis Intervention Plan (1999)

CROSS REF.: EBCF, Safety/Crisis Intervention Policy