



## North Providence Public Schools

### Information on School Safety Drills and Procedures

The safety and wellbeing of students and staff is the top priority of North Providence Public Schools. To ensure that our students and staff are prepared for emergencies, each school will be conducting a series of safety drills throughout the school year. These drills are designed to familiarize students with the procedures they need to follow in various emergency situations.

Schools will be practicing the following drills:

1. Fire drills: Each school will practice a fire drill monthly. Students will practice evacuating the building quickly and safely in the event of a fire. Students will move to a location outside of the building. This location is on school grounds and monitored by our entire staff. Students will practice moving to this location when returning to school.
2. Lockdown Drills: In the event of an intruder or other immediate danger, students will practice securing themselves in the classrooms. Schools will hold at least two lockdown drills each year.
3. Evacuation Drills: In the event there is immediate danger on school property, the students and staff will relocate to a different location for safety. Schools will practice at least two evacuation drills each year.
4. Stay In: In the event there is some type of restriction/emergency in the hallway of schools, students and staff refrain from moving around the building.

These drills are an important part of our commitment to keeping your children safe. We understand that some students may find these drills a bit unsettling, so our teachers and staff explain the purpose of each drill and practice within their classrooms. Students always have an opportunity to ask questions regarding safety drills. Our goal is to make sure they feel comfortable and confident in knowing what to do in an emergency.

We encourage you to talk to your children about these drills at home. Reassure them that these drills are just like any other school activity designed to keep them safe, and that by practicing, they are helping protect themselves and others.

In addition to our safety drills, North Providence Public Schools has developed various protocols and procedures to ensure school safety.

A safety plan with detailed information about building safety procedures is followed by all staff. This plan is updated on an annual basis as well as throughout the year if necessary. School Safety Teams including teachers, administrator, school nurse, maintenance director, and SRO meet monthly to review safety procedures. Revisions/concerns are discussed and addressed.

#### **How do we ensure the School Safety Plan and Procedures are research based and up to date?**

A District Safety Committee which includes administrators, police, and municipal safety experts meets regularly to review our school plans and procedures. Various Protocols are required by



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the state including threat assessment procedures, threat assessment teams, lockdown drill requirements, and other research based/recommended training and protocols.

#### **Safety Features of Our Building**

Every school in the district has special buttons/communication tools to alert authorities.

All schools have gunshot detection and bullet proof glass. The front office is secured with a bullet proof glass window and locking door features. A radio that communicates directly with the police department is housed in each building. Weekly checks are done to ensure radio works properly. Live stream camera surveillance in buildings. Classroom doors are kept shut and locked at all times throughout the school day. Classroom door windows are covered. Main doors in buildings are only unlocked using a key fob system.

#### **What support is provided to teachers, students, and families regarding safety situations that occur?**

The District has support services staff including social workers and school psychologists, on site to assist all personnel with these issues. Additionally, all administrators have been and are continually trained to support all staff relative to school safety issues and procedures. We also have two administrator district safety coordinators as well as certified ALICE/school safety trainers. All teachers participate in yearly ALICE training sessions. Necessary school staff also receive Safety Care Training annually.

#### **Do substitute teachers and staff know what to do in safety situations?**

All substitutes are required to review and sign off on safety procedures in our schools' front office upon arrival.

We hope you find this information is helpful. If you have questions or concerns about the safety drills and our school procedures, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Principal.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support in making North Providence Public Schools a safe environment for all.