

# AP 165 – SAFE SCHOOLS

---

## Background

The Division shall strive to ensure that each student and staff member is provided with a safe environment. It is committed to creating and maintaining an environment in schools where students, staff, parents and others feel safe. To this end, the Division shall establish a protocol for responding to immediate risks within a building, student threatening behaviors and critical incidents.

## Procedures

1. The Director will ensure that Division administrative procedures and crisis plans, and related handbooks are reviewed on an annual basis and revised as required.
2. The Director will ensure that Principals and Division Office administrators are involved in crisis management training on at least an annual basis.
3. The Director or designate will develop and maintain a Division Safety/Crisis Plan which:
  - 3.1 Establishes a community and school Critical Incidents Response Team (CIRT) with assigned roles and responsibilities.
  - 3.2 Is fully coordinated with other community crisis response services such as the RCMP and Mental Health.
  - 3.3 Provides for a safe and caring working and learning environment.
  - 3.4 Maintains a focus on prevention and early intervention as well as crisis management.
  - 3.5 Outlines emergency procedures to follow in dealing with specific critical incidents.
  - 3.6 Provides Division level support to schools as required.
  - 3.7 Uses, as a guide for action, appropriate consequences; decided collaboratively.
4. When a crisis or perceived threat of a crisis occurs in one of the areas below, the Principal will immediately activate the appropriate response as outlined in Crisis Response Procedure. The areas governed by these procedures include:
  - 4.1 Immediate Risk To Students and Personnel in a Building
    - 4.1.1 Bomb Threat
    - 4.1.2 Fire
    - 4.1.3 Chemical Spill, Explosion, Gas Leak
    - 4.1.4 Severe Electrical Storms, Wind Storms, Tornado
    - 4.1.5 Intruder/Unidentified Visitor
    - 4.1.6 Weapons

4.2 Student Threatening Behaviors

4.3 Critical Incidents Response

5. At the beginning of the school year, Principals shall review with staff members, procedures to ensure that they remain consistent with the philosophy and intent of safe and caring schools. Provisions will be made to inform new staff members. Fair Notice Letters will be sent to all students from the school on behalf of the Division.
6. The Director or designate shall be notified of all crisis situations impacting or with the potential of impacting a school or the Division. The notification will be made as quickly as possible after other emergency responders such as the police and fire department have been contacted.
7. Critical incident reports shall be completed and filed with the Director's or designate's office immediately following an incident.
8. The Director or designate may call response team members together to plan a Division response to the crisis situation.
9. The Director or designate will act as the primary spokesperson for the Division with respect to the media. In the event of a school emergency situation, the Director, in conjunction with the Principal and School Response Team, will prepare a statement that will be circulated to inform parents and the media.
10. If appropriate, a press conference will be conducted under the direction of the Director, who will designate any other spokespersons.
11. When a crisis situation occurs at the school level, the Initial Response Team, consisting of school personnel will be the first responders to the incident and will take charge of managing the situation. The school team is responsible for notifying both the CIRT and other emergency service providers when necessary. The initial communication shall be directed to the:
  - 11.1 Superintendent in charge of crisis response.
  - 11.2 Director.
12. Upon receiving notification of a crisis situation, the Director will:
  - 12.1 Obtain all factual information available about the crisis situation.
  - 12.2 Prepare a preliminary statement including the Division response for use with the media, if appropriate.
  - 12.3 Coordinate with emergency responders, where possible.

Reference: Sections 85, 87, 108, 109, 175 Education Act