



## Code of Conduct and District-wide Safety Plan

The New York City Department of Education (DOE) is committed to ensuring that our schools are safe, secure, and orderly environments in which students can meet high academic standards, educators can teach toward those goals, and parents can be assured that their children are learning in a safe and positive school setting. A safe and supportive school depends upon the efforts of all members of the school community to treat one another with mutual respect.

State Law requires that the DOE develop a District-wide Safety Plan that addresses emergency management and crisis intervention, and a Code of Conduct that governs the conduct of students. In addition, each school is required to develop a building level safety plan, which establishes building safety procedures including visitor control, student evacuation and other school-specific emergency procedures.

The Code of Conduct and District-Wide Safety Plan was posted for public comment on July 10, 2025 and was adopted after a public hearing that was held on August 26, 2025.

The Code of Conduct and District-wide Safety Plan reflects the input and recommendations of the District-wide Safety Team, the composition of which is described below.

The following highlights key components of the DOE's Code of Conduct and District-wide Safety Plan. Additional information is found in the Chancellor's Regulations and other policy documents noted at the end of this document.

### 1 - District-wide School Safety Plan:

This Plan incorporates the DOE's policies and procedures for maintaining a safe and orderly learning environment. The Plan includes policies and procedures for: responding to acts of violence or other criminal activities; contacting and notifying parents; and contacting and notifying law enforcement officials. The Plan also addresses: strategies for detecting potentially violent behavior; intervention and prevention strategies; strategies to improve communications among students and between students and school staff; the role and responsibilities of school safety personnel; training of school safety personnel; school building security and security devices; emergency response protocols; safety training for staff and students, including training on the emergency response protocols; and drills and other exercises to test these protocols and other components of the Plan.

The DOE employs a Chief Emergency Officer, and a Deputy to serve in the Chief Emergency Officer's absence. The Chief Emergency Officer is responsible for coordinating: communication between staff and law enforcement and other first responders; annual review and update of the District-wide Safety Plan; completion of school safety plans, including emergency response plans, that are aligned and consistent with the District-wide Safety Plan; building level security and technology; safety, security and emergency training for staff and students; and emergency response drills.

The District-wide Safety Plan is reviewed annually by the Chief Emergency Officer together with the District-wide Safety Team. The Chief Emergency Officer is Mark Rampersant. In his absence, this role will be fulfilled by Jay Findling.

**a) District-wide Safety Team:**

The District-wide Team includes representatives from various agencies and divisions of the DOE, including:

- Panel on Education Policy (PEP)
- United Federation of Teachers (UFT)
- Council of Supervisors and Administrators (CSA)
- DOE's Office of Family and Community Empowerment (FACE)
- New York City Emergency Management (NYCEM)
- NYPD - School Safety Division (SSD)
- FDNY
- DOE Chancellor's Office of Safety and Prevention Partnerships (OSPP)
- DOE's Office of Safety and Youth Development (OSYD)
- DOE's Division of School Facilities (DSF)
- DOE's Office of Emergency Planning and Response
- DOE's Office of School Health (OSH)
- DOE's Office of Legal Services (OLS)
- DOE's Office of Pupil Transportation (OPT)
- NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH)

**b) General Response Protocols (GRP):**

The following are the emergency response protocols that schools must follow for conducting lockdowns, evacuations, hold, and shelter-in. Each protocol has specific staff and student actions that are unique to each response. These are the actions schools take until first responders arrive. For all four protocols, 911 must be called. If the principal/designee did not initiate the call, they must be advised immediately that the call was placed, in accordance with Chancellor's Regulation A-412, which sets forth the policies and procedures regarding contacting the New York City Police Department (NYPD) and 911 (see Key Documents below).

The NYC Department of Education and the NYPD School Safety Division created these protocols to allow schools to immediately and safely respond to various types of emergencies that may occur both inside schools, or within the surrounding community. GRP prepares schools for emergency situations such as fire, intruders inside the school, active shooters within the school or dangerous conditions outside the school building. These protocols outline the immediate response school staff and students will take until first responders arrive.

In all emergencies, situational awareness is important so that adults and students can make the best decision to remain safe and secure.

**Lockdown (Soft/Hard)**

Soft Lockdown implies that there is no identified imminent danger to the sweep teams. In a soft lockdown, administrative teams, Building Response Teams, and NYPD School Safety Agents (SSA) will mobilize to the designated command post for further direction.

Hard Lockdown implies that imminent danger is known, and NO ONE will engage in any building sweep activity. This includes responding to an active threat incident.

The following will be announced: "Attention: We are now in a Soft/Hard Lockdown. Take proper action." (Repeated twice over the PA system.)

All individuals, including SSA, will take appropriate lockdown action and await the arrival of first responders.

*Students are trained to:*

- Move out of sight and maintain silence.

*Teachers are trained to:*

- Check the hallway outside of their classrooms for students, lock classroom doors, and turn the lights off.
- Move away from sight and maintain silence.
- Wait for first responders to open door, or until hearing the "All Clear" message: "The Lockdown has been lifted," followed by specific directions.
- Take attendance and account for missing students by contacting the main office.

In a Hard Lockdown, there may be instances where additional action is needed to minimize the danger to individuals. Adults and students will also need to consider all available options during an incident. They may need to run out of the building to remain safe and contact 911 if they are in an area that allows them to do so. They may need to hide (remain in lockdown) to ensure that they are behind a locked door and remain silent, or if faced with an imminent threat in their room or office, they may need to confront their attacker.

## Evacuation

The fire alarm system is the initial alert for staff and students to initiate an evacuation. However, there may be times when the PA system and specific directions will serve as the alert initiating an evacuation.

Announcements will begin with "Attention," followed by specific directions. (Repeated twice over the PA system.)

*Students are trained to:*

- Leave belongings behind and form a single file line. In cold weather, students should be reminded to take their coats when leaving the classroom. Students in physical education attire WILL NOT return to the locker room. Students without proper outdoor attire will be secured in a warm location as soon as possible.

*Teachers are trained to:*

- Grab evacuation folder (with attendance sheet and Assembly Cards).
- Lead students to evacuation location as identified on Evacuation Posters. ALWAYS LISTEN FOR ADDITIONAL DIRECTIONS.
- Take attendance and account for students.
- Report injuries, problems, or missing students to school staff and first responders using Assembly Cards

## Shelter-In

The following will be announced: "Attention: This is a Shelter-In. Secure all exit doors." (Repeated twice over the PA system.)

Students are trained to:

- Remain inside of the building.
- Conduct business as usual.
- Respond to specific staff directions.

Teachers are trained to:

- Increase situational awareness.
- Conduct business as usual.

The Shelter-In directive will remain in effect until hearing the “All Clear” message: “The Shelter-In has been lifted,” followed by specific directions.

Building Response Team members, floor wardens, and Shelter-In staff will secure all exits and report to specific post assignments. These staff and their specific responsibilities are outlined in each Building Safety Plan.

**Hold**

Hold is initiated when there is a condition inside the school building, and the immediate need to address the condition requires staff, students, and visitors to remain in place and conduct business as usual until the “All Clear” is announced.

Hold might be initiated to manage an incident in the building that does not place the school community in danger, or whenever directed by First Responders

Hold does not replace a soft or hard lockdown.

The following will be announced: “Attention: This is a Hold. All staff, students, and visitors are to remain where they are until you hear the All Clear.” (Repeated twice over the PA system.)

Upon hearing the Hold announcement:

Staff must:

- Lock the door to their current location.
- Hold in their current location.
- Contact the main office to report any students who were out of the class when the Hold was announced.

Students/staff must:

- Remain where they are until the “All Clear” announcement is made.
- Ignore any bells that usually signal the end of the class.
- Remember that there is no use of the classroom pass, and everyone must remain in place until the Hold is lifted.

**c) Response to Threats, Criminal Acts, and Threat Assessment:**

School officials must be prepared to respond to threats or acts of criminal behavior, by students, school personnel and visitors, from physical assaults to bomb threats. The procedures for notifying law enforcement officials of school-related incidents, crimes committed by students or school employees, or medical emergencies are contained in Chancellor’s Regulation A-412 (see Key Documents below) and other policies including the Threat Response Protocols. As outlined above, the General Response Protocols (GRP) will be used to respond to all threats and acts of violence, along with an immediate response by district staff and 911 first

responders. Upon arrival, all district and emergency response efforts will be coordinated with school officials and SSA to provide incident specific support.

School officials must also be prepared to respond to threats by students against themselves. The procedures for establishing a school Crisis Team and for handling suicide attempts, suicidal behavior and suicidal ideation are contained in Chancellor's Regulation A-755 and policies (see Key Documents below).

When a student engages in behavior that poses a substantial risk of injury to the student or others, school officials must make every effort to safely de-escalate the behavior by using strategies and interventions for addressing behavioral crises and utilizing the in-school and community resources identified in the school's Crisis De-escalation Plan. Additionally, the parent must be given an opportunity to speak with the student if safety considerations permit. See Chancellor's Regulation A-411 for further information about responding to a student in behavioral crisis.

#### d) School Safety Personnel:

In September of 1998, the DOE, the Chancellor, and the City of New York entered into an agreement to implement a joint program between the DOE and the NYPD, under which school security functions including the selection, deployment, training, evaluation and management of school security personnel would be the responsibility of NYPD. This agreement was subsequently continued and then modified on June 19, 2019.

The revised MOU continues the framework for providing security in DOE schools and addresses the role of school administrators, SSA and NYPD in maintaining a safe and secure school environment; emphasizes the school's primary role in addressing student misconduct; defines the circumstances for when school staff should contact SSA to address student misconduct; provides for training of SSA and NYPD officers, including in de-escalation; includes procedures for when and how NYPD can question students on school property; includes expectations regarding when an arrest or summons can be issued with the least restraint necessary; and provides for use of diversionary or alternatives to arrest or the issuing of a summons.

The revised MOU is included in the Key Documents below.

#### e) Training and Drills:

All principals are required to complete mandatory Emergency Readiness training, which is valid for two years. Training is offered during July and August, and during the school year for new principals who begin their positions after September 1.

All DOE staff must receive annual training on the emergency procedures used in schools and agency administrative buildings, as well as the early detection of potentially violent behavior. An Annual Opening Day Training Deck is provided to all schools to facilitate this training before September 15 and as needed throughout the school year for new hires. DOE Staff not assigned to school buildings must complete an online training module prior to September 15 or within 30 days of being hired.

All students must receive training on emergency response protocols and available school resources at the start of each school year. Lessons reviewing the GRP must be conducted with all students at the beginning of each school year. Training materials are made available to schools for this purpose including PowerPoints, videos, and lesson plans.

Information addressing school emergency procedures, including the GRP, must be shared with families at the start of each school year as well. An introductory letter and a summary of emergency procedures are provided to schools to be distributed to families.

All schools are required to conduct trauma-informed drills that test the components of their emergency response plan. These required drills must include all students and staff who require special assistance in an evacuation emergency, who must be moved to FDNY-approved holding rooms, fire rescue areas, areas of rescue assistance, or Retreat Rooms that are identified by the School Safety Committee when FDNY rooms are not identified. Principals must hold a minimum of 12 emergency drills each school year, eight of which must be held by December 31. The eight drills must include evacuation and lockdown drills. At least four of the 12 drills must be lockdown drills, one of which must be conducted by October 31, and another must be conducted between February 1 - March 14. The final two can be conducted at the school's discretion. Drills shall be conducted under varying circumstances at varying days and hours, including lunch periods and at unannounced times to simulate actual emergency conditions.

Principals shall ensure that drills conducted during the school day with students present are conducted in a trauma-informed, developmentally, and age-appropriate manner and shall not include props, actors, simulations, or other tactics intended to mimic a school shooting or other act of violence or emergency. At the time that drills are conducted students and staff shall be informed that the activities being conducted are a drill. Parents or persons in parental relations shall be notified at least one week prior to the drill.

Schools may only participate in full-scale exercises as developed and scheduled by the DOE and local emergency responders and preparedness officials. Such exercises shall not be scheduled on a regular school day or when school activities are occurring on school grounds. Such exercises may not include students without written consent from parents or persons in parental relation.

In collaboration with NYC first responders (NYPD, FDNY, and NYCEM), the DOE observes various drills conducted in different school buildings in each borough to assess their response to emergencies requiring an evacuation, shelter-in or lockdown. The team conducts a debrief with school leaders, as well as a multi-agency debrief to assess effectiveness and identify any areas where corrective action may be required.

#### f) Parent Notification:

The threat to commit or the actual commission of an act of violence at a school affects an entire school community. In the event of threats or acts of violence, school officials must be prepared to contact the appropriate law enforcement agencies (as set forth above) and to notify, without delay, the school community, especially the parents of children enrolled at the school. The DOE's policies and procedures for notifying parents (in their preferred language) are described in Chancellor's Regulations and policies (see Key Documents below). Pursuant to Chancellor's Regulation A-415 parents, staff, and elected officials may voluntarily subscribe to receive emergency notifications through electronic text messages, phone calls, and/or electronic mail through NotifyNYC. In addition, school leaders may employ the use of school specific notification systems to alert parents and the school community of specific emergencies occurring at the school. The DOE has developed a secure messaging tool that allows schools to create and send communications to families, students, and staff. Schools can send real-time notifications to families from a mobile device or desktop in case of an emergency, such as a lockdown, evacuation, hold, or shelter-in. When sending messages that are not included in the automatic messaging template option, schools should consult with their superintendent, field counsel and the Press Office in crafting these notifications.

#### 2 - Building-level School Safety Plan:

Pursuant to Chancellor's Regulation A-414, (see Key Documents below) every school must establish a School Safety Committee for developing a building-level school safety plan. Each committee must include

the following individuals: UFT Chapter Leader; Custodial Engineer/designee; In-house School Safety Agent Level III/designee; local law enforcement officials; Parent Association President/designee; Dietician/designee of food services for the site; School-Based Transportation Coordinator; school staff member who is represented by DC-37; community members; local fire officials, local ambulance or other emergency response agencies; representative of the student body (when appropriate); and any other persons deemed appropriate by the principal(s). As set forth in each school safety plan, every school is required to establish a Chain of Command and multiple teams, including, a Building Response Team and a Crisis Team, and to designate administrative staff, who coordinate the school's response in emergency situations.

The plan also describes, among other things, the school's building entry and visitor control procedures; security assignments and schedules; intruder procedures; emergency communications systems, including the names and telephone numbers of appropriate law enforcement personnel; missing student protocol; risk assessment as part of the Workplace Violence Prevention Program; procedures for responding to door alarms; and evacuation procedures for all staff and students, including those requiring special assistance in an evacuation emergency, and building floor plans. Each plan describes the Building Response Team's roles and training to address all emergency response protocols for students and staff. Each building level plan establishes the protocols for responding to emergency situations, such as hazmat spills, intruders, bomb threats, hostage-taking or shooting, including whether to evacuate, shelter-in, hold, or lockdown. Building level plans must be consistent with a safety plan template developed by the Office of Safety and Prevention Partnerships (OSPP) and must be updated annually. Building level safety information that can be shared with staff and families is available, upon request, from each principal in the staff or parent version of the school safety plan. A template of the parent's guide is included in the Key Documents section below. Pursuant to state education law, building level emergency response plans must be confidential and must not be disclosed.

### 3 - DOE Central Response Team (CRT)

The Central Response Team (CRT) was created to implement a comprehensive emergency response strategy by DOE leadership that would enable various DOE offices to coordinate when an incident occurs on DOE property that requires the response of multiple DOE divisions and/or outside agencies/utility companies. The CRT will also respond to other events such as severe weather conditions and the use of schools to address a public health emergency. The CRT will facilitate the collection of data and information allowing for timely decision-making by Senior Leadership and quick notification to relevant DOE staff. The CRT activates at DOE central offices to assess the impact of a situation affecting student health/safety, and the operation of school building equipment/facilities. In doing so, the CRT will communicate risks and actions to be taken by the school community and debrief after each activation to continually improve preparedness and prevention actions for future incidents.

The CRT maintains critical relationships with other NYC agencies that include the NYPD, FDNY, MTA, NYCEM and other emergency management teams at various agencies such as DOHMH and DSS; at times the CRT will also engage with the American Red Cross. Within the DOE, the CRT ensures that the efforts of all critical DOE teams in the field including but not limited to: School Facilities and its Deputy Directors of Facilities (DDF); Safety and Prevention Partnerships and its Borough Safety Directors (BSD) are coordinated. The DDFs and BSDs are the direct supports in an emergency to Principals and Leaders of each Building Response Team (BRT) at every school.



#### 4 - Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)

"The DOE's Continuity of Operations (COOP) Plan is an all-hazards approach to enabling the continuation of essential services through disruptions. The plan undergoes quarterly updates and annual DOE executive review, with New York City Emergency Management providing oversight per Executive Order 107. DOE COOP considers critical components and processes for each essential service, including succession orders, authority delegations, alternate facilities, continuity communications, vital records management, human capital, devolution protocols, and reconstitution procedures. The plan's effectiveness is refined through annual testing and training."

The department's COOP plan addresses a number of emergency related areas, including, but not limited to the following:

- Ensure Facilities Safety and Security (Life Safety) – Maintain safe, secure, and functional school buildings (e.g., fire systems, door locks, emergency exits).
- Coordinate Emergency Communications (Life Safety) – Manage alerts, notifications, and communication during crises (e.g., emergencies, school closures).
- Deliver Educational Instruction (Critical Public Service) – Provide teaching and learning, whether in-person or remote, to ensure student education continues.
- Provide Student Support Services (Critical Public Service) – Offer counseling, special education, health services, and other assistance to students.
- Maintain Student Nutrition & Welfare (Critical Public Service) – Ensure access to meals (breakfast/lunch) and basic needs for students, especially those in need.
- Operate Technology Infrastructure – Keep critical IT systems running (e.g., internet, devices, online learning platforms).
- Process Payroll & Critical HR Functions – Ensure staff and teachers are paid on time and essential HR operations continue.
- Manage Critical Administrative Functions – Handle essential paperwork, budgets, compliance, and operations to keep schools running.

#### 5 - Transportation

In accordance with Chancellor's Regulation A-801 (see Key Documents below), the DOE provides transportation to all eligible New York City students in public, charter, and non-public schools. In partnership with the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) and bus companies, our mission is to ensure safe and reliable transportation to and from school. This work is coordinated and managed by the Office of Pupil Transportation.

OPT utilizes a comprehensive four-part approach to prioritize student safety, emphasizing employee training, workforce management, vehicle maintenance, and incident management.

Employee Training: State mandated refresher trainings are conducted for all bus drivers and attendants by the contracted bus companies. In addition, the DOE issues annual training to be turnkeyed to bus staff. Topics covered include:

- Vision Zero safer driving initiatives.
- Heightened awareness of driving techniques meant to improve safety.
- How to safely operate a bus, including lift operation and wheelchair securement.
- How to safely embark/disembark/care for children on a bus.



- Caring for children with special needs.

Workforce Management: A dedicated team at OPT is responsible for ensuring employee compliance and conduct, such as:

- Ensure all certifications, trainings and licenses for employees are up to date.
- Ensure employee misconduct is handled appropriately and expeditiously, including employee suspensions and reassignments.
- Inspections of employees at vehicle yards to ensure certified employees are operating and attending to vehicles.
- Vehicle Maintenance: A dedicated team at OPT ensures vehicle safety and maintenance, including the inspections of vehicles at bus yards to ensure OPT certified vehicles are being operated.
- Vehicle vintage requirements to ensure vehicles are up to date.
- GEOTAB (GPS) systems to track driver behavior and safety.

Incident Management includes:

- Daily, real-time review of incidents taking place on buses to ensure student safety.
- Prompt follow-up and identification of next steps with schools, internal OPT staff, DOE staff from other divisions, and bus companies.
- Review of data to identify schools and bus routes in need of training and targeted support.

## 6 - Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct incorporates the DOE's policies and procedures governing student conduct including the Citywide Behavioral Expectations to Support Student Learning (the Discipline Code), which establishes expected standards of behavior and a range of interventions, supports and disciplinary responses for engaging in misconduct; provisions for addressing and responding to discrimination, harassment, intimidation and/or bullying; policies and procedures for effectuating removals and suspensions; policies and procedures for notification of parents (in their preferred language); requirements for reporting; requirements for notification of law enforcement; requirements for training of staff; and the Bill of Student Rights and Responsibilities, which focuses on positive behavior and building a safe and supportive school climate.

A child under the age of 18 who does not attend school, behaves in a way that is dangerous or out of control, or often disobeys parents, guardians or other authorities, should be referred to the Family Assessment Program. Parents are required to receive diversion services through the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) Family Assessment Program (FAP), before they file for a PINS Petition. The FAP website includes information about PINS. (<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/acs/justice/family-assessment-program.page>). Parents may voluntarily request prevention services by calling the Prevention Helpline (212) 676-7667. The school may also identify services and connect the family with the provider. ([ACS - Preventive Services \(nyc.gov\)](https://www1.nyc.gov/site/acs/justice/preventive-services.page)) When truancy and/or school misbehavior is alleged, FAP or the prevention provider will review the steps taken by the school to improve the youth's attendance/school behavior and attempt to engage the school in further prevention efforts. FAP will contact the school to resolve the truancy or school behavioral problems to obviate the need to file a petition, or, at a minimum, remediate the education-related allegations. DOE staff members could also be asked to provide documentation on interventions and the reasons why the educational issues cannot be resolved absent the filing of a PINS petition. The Family Court Judge could request that school staff appear in court if a PINS petition is filed, and the court believes that the assistance of school staff may help to resolve education related matters.

#### a) Discipline Code:

The Discipline Code establishes a framework for responding to student misconduct. It provides that every reasonable effort must be made to correct student behavior through counseling and other school-based interventions such as restorative practices. It further provides that appropriate disciplinary responses should emphasize prevention and effective intervention, foster resiliency, prevent disruption to students' education and promote a positive school culture. It includes a range of progressive age-appropriate interventions and supports, and disciplinary responses that can be used to respond to student misconduct.

#### b) Intervention Strategies:

Each school is expected to promote a positive school culture and climate that provides students with a supportive environment in which to grow both socially and academically. Schools are expected to take a proactive role in nurturing students' pro-social behavior by providing them with a range of positive behavioral supports as well as meaningful opportunities for social-emotional learning.

School staff members are responsible for addressing inappropriate student behaviors that disrupt learning. Administrators, teachers, counselors and other school staff are expected to engage all students in intervention and prevention strategies that address a student's behavioral issues and discuss these strategies with the student and parent(s).

Intervention strategies are outlined in the Discipline Code and may include guidance conferences, parent outreach, conflict resolution, short-term behavioral progress reports, individual behavior contracts, counseling interventions, referral to the pupil personnel team, restorative practices, collaborative problem solving, individual or group counseling, individualized support plans, referral to counseling services, mentoring, social-emotional learning, and connection to community-based organizations. Schools are expected to document interventions implemented with students and to regularly assess the impact of these approaches.

Through the use of intervention and prevention strategies that engage students and give them a sense of purpose, school staff members facilitate students' academic and social-emotional growth and assist them in following school rules and policies.

In the classroom, teachers use a variety of academic and behavioral techniques and approaches to achieve an optimal learning environment. Interdisciplinary teams that include support staff such as guidance counselors are part of every school. These teams meet on a regular basis to devise and implement strategies to address specific issues encountered by "at-risk" students.

Where appropriate, progressive age-appropriate disciplinary responses must be effectuated in accordance with the procedures set forth in Chancellor's Regulation A-443 and the Discipline Code. (see Key Documents below).

#### c) Discrimination, Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying:

It is the policy of the DOE to maintain a safe and supportive learning and educational environment that is free from harassment, intimidation and/or bullying committed by students against other students and discrimination by students against other students on account of actual or perceived race, color, creed, ethnicity, national origin, citizenship/immigration status, religion, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, disability, or weight. The DOE's policy is set forth in Chancellor's Regulation A-832 and the Discipline Code. (see Key Documents below) These documents establish procedures for preventing, reporting, investigating and responding to such behavior.

All students and staff must be provided with training on the requirements of Chancellor's Regulation A-832. OSYD provides multiple resources, including lessons and curricula, and a detailed implementation guide, to help schools provide this information to students. In addition, it develops and makes available a training deck and supplementary resources, which school leaders may use to fulfill the requirement to train all employees, including non-instructional staff.

#### d) Parent Engagement and Notification:

Students, parents, and school personnel all have a role in making schools safe and must cooperate with one another to achieve this goal. School staff should keep parents informed of their child's behavior and enlist parents as partners in addressing areas of concern. Unless there is a court order limiting access, parents of students in foster care have the right to be informed of their child's behavior and disciplinary actions in addition to the foster parent and agency.

To ensure that parents are able to become active and involved partners in promoting a safe and supportive school environment, they should become familiar with the Discipline Code.

Schools are encouraged to provide workshops for parents on understanding the Discipline Code and how best to work with the school to support their child's social-emotional growth. OSYD develops and makes available workshop training decks designed to assist administrators and parent coordinators in presenting information on the Discipline Code to parents.

Educators are responsible for informing parents about their child's behavior and for nurturing the skills students need to succeed in school and in society. Parents are encouraged to discuss with their child's teacher and other school staff issues that may affect student behavior and strategies that might be effective in working with the student.

Parents who want to discuss supports and interventions in response to student behavior should contact their child's school, including the parent coordinator, or, if necessary, the Office of Family and Community Empowerment.

In the event that a student engages in inappropriate behavior that violates the Discipline Code, the principal or principal's designee must report the behavior to the student's parent.

#### e) Training:

Ensuring that every child learns in safe, supportive, and inclusive schools is the DOE's top priority. To do this, the DOE uses restorative approaches that address the real causes of conflicts as well as reinforcing positive behaviors through teachable moments. The DOE gives teachers the resources to support students' social-emotional skills and well-being, and, as a result, reduces reliance on suspensions or punitive discipline.

The manner in which students conduct themselves in school is a major factor in establishing and maintaining a safe and respectful school community. To promote positive student behavior, all members of the school community - students, staff, and parents - must know and understand the standards of behavior which all students are expected to live up to, the supports and interventions that will be used to address misconduct, and the disciplinary responses if behavioral standards are not met.

Schools must set aside time to review the Discipline Code, the Student Bill of Student Rights and Responsibilities, and the DOE's Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy with students. The Code of Conduct applies to student behavior both in-person and online. Schools will educate students and families on digital citizenship and the prevention of cyberbullying, including expectations for respectful online communication,

privacy, and safety. Clear reporting mechanisms will be established for students, families, and staff to address incidents involving electronic communication, including bullying, harassment, or intimidation in digital environments.

The most effective way to ensure that students understand and support the Discipline Code is through age-appropriate classroom instruction. All students must be given at least one lesson on the Discipline Code. The DOE makes available standards-based age-appropriate lesson plans that include interactive exercises, suggested projects and opportunities for collaborative learning experiences among students and a student workshop training deck.

Schools must review the Discipline Code with all staff members and conduct a workshop to discuss the purpose of the code. A model professional development workshop training deck, which includes interactive exercises, is available for schools to use.

## 7- Workplace Violence Prevention

As of January 2024, the DOE implemented a Workplace Violence Prevention Policy that is designed to meet the requirements of the Workplace Violence Prevention Act (NY State Labor Law Art. 2, Section 27-b).

For purposes of this Policy, workplace violence is defined as any physical assault or aggressive behavior occurring where an employee performs any work-related duty in the course of their employment.

Individuals who violate this Policy may be referred to law enforcement, removed from DOE property, and/or subject to disciplinary and/or personnel action, consistent with DOE policies, rules, and collective bargaining agreements. DOE has also created a [Workplace Violence Prevention Program](#) to support a work environment in which violent or potentially violent situations are effectively addressed, with a focus on prevention. All employees will be required to participate in annual training as a part of this program.

## 8- Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO)

The DOE makes available to all employees, various Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) policy and related resources. These resources promote a sense of belonging, well-being, community, respect, and safety for staff, including:

- DOE comprehensive [Diversity and Inclusion Policy](#);
- [Non-Discrimination Policy](#) and [Chancellor's Regulation A-830](#);
- [Supplier Diversity and Minority/Women-owned Business Enterprises \(MWBs\)](#);
- [HR Connect: Reasonable Accommodations](#);
- [Employee Resource Groups \(ERGs\)](#); and
- [NYC Employee Assistance Program](#).
- [Office of Disability Accommodations](#)
- [City of New York EEO Policy](#)

## 9- Emergency Remote Instruction Plan

The DOE has established policies and procedures to ensure computing devices will be made available to students or other means by which students will participate in synchronous instruction. Additional policies and procedures are in place to ensure students receiving remote instruction under emergency conditions will access internet connectivity.

#### a. Access to Devices

The DOE has procedures to track the assignment of devices to students. This includes student access to personal devices as well as DOE issued devices, to ensure that all students who need a device to access remote instruction can obtain one. Schools will prioritize distribution of centrally procured devices to students who need one. When their supply of centrally funded devices is exhausted, schools may distribute school purchased devices to students. Schools may also coordinate a short-term loan of a device to a student in anticipation of a remote learning day. If necessary, schools may purchase additional devices with school funds through existing DOE contracts.

Since 2020, approximately 550,000 iPads and 200,000 Chromebooks have been purchased and distributed to students and schools for student use. The DOE will continue to provide devices to students who require them.

#### b. Internet Access

The DOE uses responses from the Digital Equity Family Survey to help schools identify families who lack access to Wi-Fi at home.

To the extent possible, the DOE will support students and families with accessing the internet at home.

All students using centrally purchased LTE devices have transitioned to wireless internet services. Schools have been instructed to support families in obtaining information on how to access one of the various no- to low-cost options for Wi-Fi access.

The DOE website summarizes various free or low-cost options by which wireless internet service can be obtained. In addition, over 200 homeless shelters throughout New York City have wireless service and Big Apple Connect ensures that NYCHA residents have access to free, fast, reliable, and safe internet.

Schools will be instructed to share this information with families and help them sign up for the option that best suits their circumstances. We anticipate that families without access to Wi-Fi at home will be able to obtain free or discounted Wi-Fi through one of these options.

If these options are not viable, schools may purchase and provide an LTE-enabled wireless hotspot or device with LTE service through existing contracts for families in need.

Expectations for school staff as to the proportion of time spent in synchronous and asynchronous instruction of students on days of remote instruction under emergency conditions with an expectation that asynchronous instruction is supplementary to synchronous instruction.

School based teachers and related service providers are required to set up digital classrooms on an approved DOE platform and be linked to all assigned students. In the event of a school closure, school-based teachers and other mandated service providers are required to pivot to remote synchronous instruction through the digital classroom. Employees may review the current Labor Policy Guidance for Digital Classroom available on the DOE' internal website.

A description of how instruction will occur for those students for whom remote instruction by digital technology is not available or appropriate.

School based leadership is responsible for ensuring a system is in place to support students with accessing their home-based technology to log onto instruction. For students for whom remote instruction by digital technology is not appropriate, teachers are expected to send home materials familiar and accessible to  
September 2025

students such as tangible work packets, manipulative materials, books, etc. These materials can be utilized asynchronously by students and their caregivers. Schools should consider periodically sharing activities and materials at various points in the school year in anticipation of possible remote instructional days. School technology points will keep an open line of communication with families to assist them as needed with potential tech issues.

A description of how special education and related services will be provided to students with disabilities and preschool students with disabilities, as applicable, in accordance with their individualized education programs to ensure the continued provision of a free appropriate public education.

Teachers and related service providers are expected to pivot to remote synchronous instruction in the event of a school closure. Employees may review the current Labor Policy Guidance for Digital Classroom available on the DOE' internal website.

In alignment with their IEPs, special education and related services will be provided to students with disabilities and preschool students during remote learning through a combination of synchronous learning opportunities, individualized instructional sessions to practice IEP-driven skills, strategies and learning tasks to engage in while at home. Related service providers are expected to maintain service schedules with students via remote sessions to the greatest extent possible. Each OT, PT and speech provider must obtain parental consent each year to provide related services to a student remotely. IEP goals are addressed in every remote-related service session. If remote instruction is needed over an extended period, related service providers will remain accessible and communicate with families and students via approved communication platform on a consistent basis.

In the event of a remote school day, schools will ensure that students have access to assistive technology devices as specified in their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) or 504 Plans. This includes Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) systems and other Assistive Technology (AT) tools. To support the effective use of these technologies during synchronous learning, the Central AT Team will provide remote training and technical assistance. All AAC and AT devices assigned by the Central AT Team are managed through the NYCPS centralized device management system to ensure proper oversight and functionality.

For school districts that receive foundation aid, the estimated number of instructional hours the school district intends to claim for State aid purposes for each day spent in remote instruction due to emergency conditions pursuant to section 175.5 of this Chapter.

The number of hours of remote instruction will mirror the number of hours provided for in-school instruction. For pupils in full-day kindergarten and grades one through six, the DOE intends to claim 5 hours per day and for pupils in grades 7-12, the DOE intends to claim 5.5 hours per day.

#### 10- Maximum Temperatures in School Buildings and Facilities Plan

- [New York State Education Law Section 409-N](#) (effective September 1, 2025) sets maximum temperature regulations for school buildings and facilities. Schools shall be required to take action to relieve heat-related discomfort and remove students and staff from occupied spaces where practicable. The full policy will appear in all School and Administrative Building Safety Plans for proper implementation by building leaders. The summary of the plan is as follows:

## I. Definitions

1. Extreme Heat Condition Days: Days when occupiable educational and support services spaces reach 82°F or greater.
2. Support Services Spaces: Includes offices, libraries, gyms, cafeterias (excluding kitchen areas used for food preparation).
3. Temperature Measurement: Taken at a shaded location, three feet above the floor, near the center of the room.

## II. Procedures for Heat Mitigation (82°F or Above)

When indoor temperatures reach 82°F, schools shall implement the following measures to alleviate heat-related discomfort:

- Turn off overhead lights where possible, lower shades/blinds to block direct sunlight, use fans to increase air circulation, open windows and doors (where safe and secure), turn off unused electronics that generate heat, provide additional water breaks for students and staff, adjust physical activity levels (e.g., limit strenuous activities in gyms).

## III. Relocation or Dismissal Plan (88°F or Above)

When indoor temperatures reach 88°F, the building leaders must work with their facilities teams to implement appropriate mitigation factors that may include (but are not limited to) assessing available cooling measures, relocating staff and students to cooler spaces, or the modification of work and school schedules.

School and Administrative building leaders must employ communication protocols to Communication Protocol alert staff and students when temperatures reach 88°F. If early dismissal or relocation occurs, school leaders must notify parents via automated calls, emails, or district alerts. No adjustments to the school day or early release may occur without the approval of the Chancellor.

## IV. Training & Compliance

- Staff Training: Schools should annually review heat response protocols.
- Temperature Monitoring: The school's custodial engineer will check temperatures in high-risk areas during heat advisories and record all complaints and mitigation efforts in their DSF HVAC Ventilation Database.
- Reporting: Schools must also document and report heat-related incidents in OORS and should inform their district office, the Superintendent's EOC Designee, and/or the EOC at 718-233-8515, or via email, at [EOC@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:EOC@schools.nyc.gov)

## V. Review & Updates

This policy shall be reviewed annually and updated as needed to reflect the best practices and regulatory changes.



## 11- Cell Phone and Electronic Device Policy

### Overview

Beginning in the 2025-26 school year, in accordance with New York State Law, New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) is updating its policy regarding the use of personal internet-enabled electronic devices, including cell phones, in school. This change supports the State's intent to create distraction-free schools and aims to ensure safe and focused learning environments across all NYCPS schools. Under the updated policy, Chancellor's Regulation A-413, students are not permitted to use personal internet-enabled electronic devices during the entire school day, covering both instructional and non-instructional time, on school premises (indoor and outdoor space within school grounds). This includes devices such as cell phones, laptops, tablets, and portable music and entertainment systems. The policy does not restrict the use of school-issued devices, such as laptops and Chromebooks, for their intended purpose. Students will continue to be able to use their NYCPS-issued devices for classwork and other in-school assignments. Students may be allowed to use their personal electronic devices for educational activities only when authorized by the principal/designee; please consult your school's device policy for specific details.

Each school must develop its own written policy regarding the use of electronic devices consistent with the Chancellor's Regulation. These rules will be communicated to parents and students at the beginning of the school year or upon enrollment. School leadership at schools that share a single campus will coordinate to develop shared policies to be followed by all schools on that campus. Parents should review these policies carefully and ensure their child understands the specific rules and procedures concerning personal electronic devices at their school, including where and how to store their devices securely.

### Exceptions:

- Students must be permitted access to an internet-enabled device if required by an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan.

Only when authorized by school leadership, may devices be used:

- For educational purposes, as directed by teachers and authorized by school leadership.
- By students with medical conditions that require the use of electronic devices to monitor them, such as glucose monitors for diabetes. In this case, parents should inform the school and provide any necessary documentation to ensure proper authorization and usage.
- For translation services, to assist students who need language support not currently provided by their school.
- By student caregivers, on a case-by-case basis. A school psychologist, school social worker, or school counselor will review and determine if exceptions may be granted for a student caregiver who is routinely responsible for the care and wellbeing of a family member.
- In individual emergency situations, when the parent has notified school leadership of the specific nature of the emergency.
- Where otherwise required by the law. This includes situations where federal, state, or local laws mandate the use of such devices for specific purposes.

### Managing Emergencies:

September 2025

Schools must provide at least one method for parents to contact their children during emergencies, including a direct school phone number. Parents should familiarize themselves with these contact methods and ensure they have the necessary contact information for their school. In the event of an emergency at school, school officials will contact students' families directly.

#### Policy Violations:

If a student uses their device without permission during the school day, they may be subject to progressive discipline in accordance with their school's policies and the NYCPS Discipline Code. This means that the school will use a series of escalating interventions and consequences to address the behavior based on the nature and frequency of the violation. Examples of interventions include conferences with the student's parent, or, if the behavior is sufficiently disruptive, removal from the classroom. Students may not be suspended solely for accessing personal internet-enabled electronic devices in violation of school policy.

### 12- Desha's Law: Cardiac arrest procedures and automated external defibrillator (AED) equipment and building response plans.

#### Overview

Beginning in the 2025-26 school year, in accordance with New York State Law (Desha's Law- Cardiac Arrest Emergency Response Plans), all school districts must meet requirements of recent amendments to State law regarding cardiac arrest procedures and automated external defibrillator (AED) equipment. These include requiring that policies and procedures for response to sudden cardiac arrest be included in building level emergency response plans and that information regarding AED equipment, AED maintenance and signage, and school safety training regarding cardiac emergency response plans appear in district-wide school safety plans. These details currently appear in all School Building Safety Plans and are reviewed by the School Safety Committee at each building annually.

The requirements, as now set forth in the amendments to Education Law § 2801-a(2)(n), are:

- The use of appropriate personnel to respond to incidents involving any individual experiencing sudden cardiac arrest or similar life-threatening emergency on any school site owned or operated by a school or at a location of a school sponsored event, including but not limited to all athletic programs.
  - Currently, in all school buildings, school teams trained in CPR/AED include:
    - 2 DOE staff (at minimum and one must be on the Building Response team)
    - All Public School Athletic League coaches (where applicable)
    - School Nurse
    - All School Safety Agents
    - Select staff employed by after-school programs.
  - Specific procedures for incidents involving an individual experiencing sudden cardiac arrest or a similar life-threatening emergency while attending or participating in an athletic practice or event while on school grounds that are venue specific.
    - CODE BLUE response plans are detailed in each Building Safety Plan and drills are conducted in every building
  - Integration of nationally recognized, evidence-based core elements, such as those recommended by the American Heart Association.
    - Addressed by the sole contracted vendor responsible for training all school staff identified as CPR/AED responders. This initiative is managed by the NYCDOE Office of School Health.
  - Consideration of how to best integrate cardiac emergency response plans into community Emergency Medical Services (EMS) responder protocols.

- All incidents of cardiac arrest require notification to 911 through a phone call, as well as the NYPD School Safety Agent initiating an emergency response code on the official NYPD Two-Way Radio which will require the FDNY/EMS to respond.

The following Key Documents are part of the DOE's Code of Conduct and District – Wide School Safety Plan.

[Chancellor's Regulation A-411 Behavioral Crisis De-Escalation/Intervention and Contacting 911](#)

[Chancellor's Regulation A-412 Security in the Schools](#)

[Chancellor's Regulation A-413 Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices in Schools](#)

[Chancellor's Regulation A-414 Safety Plans](#)

[Chancellor's Regulation A-415 Department of Education Emergency Notification System](#)

[Chancellor's Regulation A-418 Sex Offender Notification](#)

[Chancellor's Regulation A-420 Corporal Punishment](#)

[Chancellor's Regulation A-421 Verbal Abuse](#)

[Chancellor's Regulation A-432 Search and Seizure](#)

[Chancellor's Regulation A-443 Student Discipline Procedures](#)

[Chancellor's Regulation A-449 Safety Transfers](#)

[Chancellor's Regulation A-450 Involuntary Transfer Procedures](#)

[Chancellor's Regulation A-750 Child Abuse](#)

[Chancellor's Regulation A-755 Suicide Prevention/Intervention](#)

[Chancellor's Regulation A-830 Filing Internal Complaints of Unlawful Discrimination/Harassment](#)

[Chancellor's Regulation A-831 Peer Sexual Harassment](#)

[Chancellor's Regulation A-832 Student-To-Student Bias-Based Harassment, Intimidation, and/or Bullying](#)  
[Respect for All: Prevention and Addressing Student-to-Student Discrimination, Sexual and Other Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying](#)

[Revised MOU Among DOE, NYPD and The City of New York](#)

[Citywide Behavioral Expectations to Support Student Learning \(The Discipline Code K-5\)](#)

[Citywide Behavioral Expectations to Support Student Learning \(The Discipline Code 6-12\)](#)

[Parents' Bill of Rights and Responsibilities](#)

[Parent Guide to School Safety and Emergency Preparedness](#) [Internet](#)

[Acceptable Use and Safety Policy](#)

[Social Media Guidelines for Students 12 and Younger](#) [Social Media](#)

[Guidelines for Students Over 13](#)

[ACS - Parent Handbook \(nyc.gov\)](#)