

North Tonawanda City School District

District-Wide School Safety Plan

2024 - 2025 School Year

Revised August 2024

Revised June 2024

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INTRODUCTION

Every board of education of a school district, every board of cooperative educational services and county vocational education and extension board and the chancellor of the City School District of the City of New York shall adopt by July 1, 2001, and shall update by July 1st for the 2002-2003 through the 2015-2016 school years and by September 1st for the 2016 – 2017 school year and each subsequent September 1st thereafter, a comprehensive District-Wide School Safety Plan and Building Level Emergency Response Plans regarding crisis intervention and emergency response and management, provided that in the City School District of the City of New York, such plans shall be adopted by the chancellor of the city school district. Such plans shall be developed by a District-Wide School Safety Team and a Building Level Emergency Response Team, per 8 NYCRR 155.17, as such terms are defined in subdivision (b) of this section, and shall be in a form developed by the commissioner in consultation with the Division of Criminal Justice Services, the superintendent of the State Police and any other appropriate State agencies. Each District-Wide School Safety Plan and Building Level Emergency Response Plan shall be reviewed by the appropriate school safety team on at least an annual basis, and updated as needed.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS AND PLANNING GUIDELINES

Purpose

The **North Tonawanda City School District-Wide School Safety Plan** was developed pursuant to Commissioner's Regulation 155.17. At the direction of the **North Tonawanda City School District Board of Education, the Superintendent of North Tonawanda City School District** appointed a District-Wide School Safety Team and charged it with the development and maintenance of the District-Wide School Safety Plan.

Identification of School Teams

The **North Tonawanda City School District** has appointed a District-Wide School Safety Team consisting of, but not limited to:

- School board
- Teacher organizations
- Administrator organizations
- Parent organizations
- School safety personnel
- Other school personnel including bus drivers and monitors
- Student*

*At the discretion of the board of education a student may be allowed to participate on the safety team, provided that no portion of a confidential building-level emergency response plan shall be shared with such student nor shall be present when details of a confidential building-level emergency response plan or confidential portions of a district wide emergency response strategies are discussed. CR 155.17(b)(14)

Requirement	Required Action	Date
The District-Wide School Safety Team was appointed by the Board of Education.	Appointed by the Board of Education on:	July 1, 2024
The District Chief Emergency Officer is: Name: Jeffrey Jachlewski Title: Superintendent Telephone Number: 716-807-3500 Email: jjachlewski@ntschoools.org	District Chief Emergency Officer Appointed on:	August 1, 2024
The District-Wide School Safety Team conducted annual review and updates to the District-Wide School Safety Plan.	Annual Review and Updates completed on:	March 13, 2024 and June 5, 2024
The District-Wide School Safety Plan was made available for public comment at least thirty days prior to its adoption by the Board of Education. It is recommended that a DRAFT version of the plan be posted on the district website for the 30-day comment period (watermark is suggested).	Public Comment Period Start Date: Public Comment Period End Date:	May 30, 2024 July 1, 2024
At least one public hearing that provided for the participation of school personnel, parents, students, and any other interested parties, was held prior to adoption of the plan.	Date of Public Hearing/Adoption (by September 1 st):	June 5, 2024
The District-Wide School Safety Plan must be submitted to the commissioner within 30 days after its adoption, and no later than October 1 st .	District plan submitted in the NYSED business portal (no later than October 1 st):	September 16, 2024
The date the Board Adopted District-Wide School Safety Plan was posted on the District Website: Within 30 days from adoption and no later than October 1 st .	Date Posted (no later than October 1 st): [ADD URL] of District-Wide School Safety Plan on District Website: URL was verified/checked to be sure the link is working	July 10, 2024 https://www.ntschoools.org/domain/890
Date training was provided to staff on Building Level Emergency Response Plans, school violence prevention and mental health by September 15 th .	Date of Training:	August 28-29, 2024 and September 3, 2024

Concept of Operations

The District-Wide School Safety Plan is directly linked to the individual Building Level Emergency Response Plan for each of the school buildings. Protocols reflected in the District-Wide School Safety Plan will guide the development and implementation of the individual Building Level Emergency Response Plan.

The District-Wide School Safety Plan includes the designation of the school Superintendent or school Superintendent's designee, as the school district's Chief Emergency Officer, who is responsible for coordinating communication between school staff, law enforcement and other first responders.

- The Chief Emergency Officer will ensure that the district-wide school safety team shall complete and update annually and as necessary the district-wide and building level emergency plans as designated by the commissioner.
- The Chief Emergency Officer shall ensure staff understanding of the district-wide school safety plan.
- The Chief Emergency Officer shall assist in the selection of security related technology and development of procedure for the use of each technology.
- The Chief Emergency Officer shall coordinate appropriate safety, security and emergency training for district and school staff, including required training in the emergency response plan.
- The Chief Emergency Officer shall ensure that the required evacuation and lockdown drills in all district buildings are completed as required by Education Law 807.
- In the event of an emergency or violent incident, the initial response to all emergencies at an individual school will be by that school's Building Principal or Designee.

With authorization from the Building Principal or Designee and or the Superintendent of Schools, local emergency response personnel (fire/police/EMS) shall be notified. If deemed necessary by the Building Principal or Designee and or the Superintendent of Schools, activation of the Building Level Emergency Response Team shall take place.

Additional local/county/state resources could supplement the district efforts through existing protocols or emergency response actions, including post incident response, may be supplemented by county and state resources through existing protocols.

Plan Review and Public Comment

Pursuant to Commissioner's Regulation, Section 155.17 the statute and regulation requires that each district charter school and BOCES in the state designate a District-Wide School Safety Team.

Alyssa's Law, Chapter 227 of the Laws of 2022 (Chapter 227) which became effective immediately. Chapter 227 amends Education Law § 2801-a to require that district-wide school safety teams of public schools, boards of cooperative educational services, and county vocational education extension boards shall consider the usefulness of silent panic alarm systems when reviewing and amending district-wide school safety plans.

Prior to adoption, the district must hold at least one public hearing that provides school personnel, students, parents and public participation and must be made available for public comment for at least 30 days.

Each district must post their District-Wide School Safety Plan on their district's website. The URL must be submitted to the Education Department within 30 days of adoption, but no later than October 1st of each year via the LEA District Safety Plan URL and information report in SED monitoring to comply with the requirement that the plan be submitted to the commissioner.

The District-Wide School Safety Plan was formally adopted by the Board of Education on June 18, 2001.

The Building Level Emergency Response Plan shall be reviewed by the Building Level Emergency Response Team at least annually and updated as necessary and must be adopted by the school board by September 1st. This plan must be kept CONFIDENTIAL. A copy of the plan must be filed with the State Police and local law enforcement within 30 days of adoption, but no later than October 1st each year.

To comply with the requirement to submit to State Police, schools must enter their plans in the Safe Schools Application on the State Education Department Business Portal.

Full copies of the District-Wide School Safety Plan shall be posted on the district's web site or can be requested in writing. The District-Wide School Safety Plan is located in the office of the Superintendent.

The District Chief Emergency Officer is:

Name:	Jeffrey Jachlewski
Title:	Superintendent
Telephone number:	716-807-3500
Email:	jjachlewski@ntschoools.org

RISK REDUCTION / PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

Prevention / Intervention Strategies for Faculty

The **North Tonawanda City School District** continues to develop and investigate various strategies regarding violence prevention and intervention. These strategies may include but are not limited to:

- Compliance with the District's Code of Conduct.
- Will conduct a yearly district-wide "Forum" for the purpose of sharing information, reviewing best practices and providing training from local and National Experts on Safe Schools.
- Strategies for Crisis Intervention and Prevention (SCIP) technique training.
- An Alternative Placement Program for intervention of violent students who cannot function in a regular school environment is operated by BOCES.
- Alternative Education programs are operated by BOCES and address the criteria under the section entitled Early Detection of Potentially Violent Behaviors.
- A Community Intervention Program, composed of children and family services, school districts, law enforcement and professionals from the community, meets and discusses, among other topics, character and civility issues with school officials quarterly.

The **North Tonawanda City School District** encourages students to report school violence and any symptoms of potentially violent behavior to counselors, principals, student coordinators, psychologists, and teachers or any other mentor without fear of retaliation. This is communicated to all students at the beginning of the school year and periodically throughout the school year as appropriate. The district is committed to the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA).

The **North Tonawanda City School District** is committed to the safety and security of our employees. Workplace violence presents a serious occupational safety hazard to our District, staff, and students. Threats, threatening behavior, or acts of violence against **North Tonawanda City School District** employees where any work-related duty is performed will be thoroughly investigated and appropriate action will be taken, including summoning criminal justice authorities when warranted. All employees are responsible for helping to create an environment of mutual respect for each other as well as students, following all policies, procedures and program requirements, and for assisting in maintaining a safe and secure work environment.

All **North Tonawanda City School District** staff will display identification while on campus or representing the district at a school sponsored function off campus.

All visitors will be issued a temporary identification badge from the main office.

Program Initiatives: Prevention / Students

Non – Violent Conflict Resolution Programs

The **North Tonawanda City School District** will continue to develop a comprehensive K-12 Non-violent Conflict Resolution Program built on existing and evolving programs. These program are designed for age appropriate integration and consists of the following:

Elementary School Level: Introduce students to creative problem solving, anti-bullying, building a caring environment, respecting differences, conflict resolution, personal safety and self awareness programs. Information is shared during classroom programs and special assemblies.

Middle School Level: Students receive training in creative problem solving (Thinking Hats), anti bullying, anger management, development of leadership skills, building character, mutual respect, conflict resolution and personal safety. Training is built into classroom presentations, special assemble programs, as part of our “Family Life” program, as part of our Before and After School Education Program (BASE) and through training provided by the Boys and Girls Club of the Tonawanda’s at our school district sites.

High School Level: Students receive training in creative problem solving, anger management, mutual respect, conflict resolution, character building, respecting differences (diversity) and personal safety. Training is incorporated into health, freshman experience, and other class curriculums, provided at special assemblies. At the senior high level, leadership skills, community service and mentoring programs are strongly supported.

Peer Mediation Programs

Peer Mediation Programs are as follows.

Elementary School Level: Students are introduced to peer mediation utilizing peer advocates from Middle and High School levels.

Middle School Level: Peer mediators are trained at each grade level to work on non-violent student problems. Under the direction of a faculty advisor, students conduct mediation sessions to de-escalate student problems. Students will also act as peace advocates, teach lower class levels about peer mediation, and distribute non-violent problem solving information to students throughout their home school.

Extended Day and Other School Safety Programs

The **North Tonawanda City School District** has increased its extended day program to provide a safe environment for after school learning cultural and athletic activities. Some of these expanded programs included but are not limited to:

- After school homework labs – to provide extended time and assistance to students to complete home work assignments and develop learning skills and techniques within corresponding buildings and programs.
- Intramural sports and modified sport activities are provided in as many areas as possible.

- Clubs / Activities – that provide students with positive character building.

Strategies for Improving Communication Among Students and Between Students and Staff

The **North Tonawanda City School District** has developed various strategies for the improvement of communications among students and between students and staff. A teaching component for all grade levels, elementary, middle, and high school is offered.

This component encompasses the following subject areas:

- Promoting team work
- Reducing feelings of alienation
- Good decision-making
- Maintaining open communications between students and students and staff

The North Tonawanda City School District encourages students to report school violence and any symptoms of potentially violent behavior to counselors, principals, student coordinators, psychologists, and teachers or any other mentor without fear of retaliation by communicating this to all students at the beginning of the school year and periodically throughout the school year as appropriate.

Program Initiatives: Intervention

Peer Mediation, Conflict Resolution, Group Sessions, Community Support Center, De-Escalation Training, Formal School Emergency Plans, School Resource Officer, Liaisons with law enforcement agencies and judicial system, Counseling Program, Communication Plan

Program Initiatives: Post-Intervention

Formal Debriefing Meetings, Liaisons with law enforcement agencies and judicial system, School Crisis Plan, Long-Range Intervention, Formal School Emergency Plans

Training, Drills, and Exercises

The school understands the importance of training, drills, and exercises in being prepared to deal with an incident. To ensure that school personnel and community responders are aware of their responsibilities under the School ERP, the following training and exercise actions should occur.

Training

All school staff, students, and others deemed appropriate by the school should receive training during the school year to better prepare them for an incident.

- Roles and Responsibilities – Deliver at start of school year
- Incident Command System (ICS) Training – Training should be completed prior to assignment to an ICS role. Online training is available through the FEMA Independent Study Program at www.training.fema.gov. ICS classes are offered through the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) at www.dhSES.ny.gov or by contacting your local emergency management agency.

Annual training

- Review ERP with staff
- Conduct full staff briefings on roles to perform during an emergency
- Ensure all staff have been briefed in the communications and notifications requirements set forth in the ERP
- Conduct student briefings on roles they perform during an emergency

Drills and Exercises

Training procedures and frequency of lockdown plan drills are discussed at periodic District-Wide and Building Level Emergency Response Team safety meetings.

At a minimum, the school will conduct the following exercises/drills annually:

Drills and training must be conducted in a trauma-informed, developmentally and age-appropriate manner; drills and training not include props, actors, simulations, or other tactics intended to mimic a school shooting, incident of violence, or other emergency; and students and staff be informed when a school is conducting a drill.

Section 807 of the Education Law requires that New York State public and nonpublic schools conduct four lockdown and eight evacuation drills each school year. Four of which shall be through fire escapes, where fire escapes are provided. Should the district not have fire escapes, four of the drills shall use an identified use of secondary means of egress.

Drill dates (September 1 - June 30), with at least eight of the required drills being conducted by December 31 of each school year, the remaining four drills shall be conducted by June 30th each school year.

Two additional evacuation drills must be conducted during summer school (July 1 - August 30).

Such drills shall test the usefulness of the communications and transportation system during emergencies.

8 NYCRR Section 155.17 - each school district and board of cooperative educational services shall, at least once every school year, and where possible in cooperation with local county emergency preparedness plan officials, conduct one test of its emergency response procedures under each of its Building Level Emergency Response Plans, including sheltering, lockdown, or early dismissal, at a time not to occur more than 15 minutes earlier than the normal dismissal time.

The district will conduct an Early Dismissal drill annually wherein students are dismissed no more than 15 minutes before the normal dismissal time. Parents will be notified of these drills at least one week prior. Transportation Officials and District staff may also take place in conducting and evaluation of this drill. This drill also allows the district to test the usefulness of the communications and transportation system during emergencies.

In the case of after-school programs, events or performances which are conducted within a school building and which include persons who do not regularly attend classes in such school building, the principal or other person in charge of the building shall require the teacher or person in charge of such after-school program, event or performance to notify persons in attendance at the beginning of each such program, event or performance, of the procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency so that they may be able to respond in a timely, orderly manner.

Policies and procedures for annual school safety training for students and staff:

- The school board will ensure that information about drills be provided in the teacher's manual or handbook.
- The district must certify (via BEDS in October each year) to the commissioner that all staff received (by September 15 each school year) annual training on the emergency response plan, and that the school safety training include violence prevention and components on mental health;
- New employees hired after the start of the school year shall receive training within 30 days of hire or as part of a district's existing new hire training program, whichever is sooner.

School Security

The **North Tonawanda City School District** is committed to providing a safe working and learning environment at each of its schools. To help ensure the personal safety of staff and students the following has been adopted.

The district buildings use limited points of entry. All doors are locked. Signs are in place directing visitors to sign-in at the reception desk at each school. Main doors are controlled by remote “buzzer” entry during normal school hours.

All schools have greeters or office staff members just inside the entrance to each school in the district. These individuals ensure visitor sign-in procedures and help supervise building traffic flow. The building principals are responsible for supervision of the greeters and other staff.

- Staff members are required to wear visible identification badges.
- Visitors are required to sign in and wear visitor identification.
- Visitor access is limited to specific areas of the school building.
- The district does use Metal/Weapon Detection Devices to enter the High School/Middle School Campuses.

Security Personnel – Safety Resource Officers, Safety Officers, Safety Monitor etc.

A district-wide security patrol will routinely patrol assigned buildings and may be assigned to other schools based on need.

All security personnel hired by the **North Tonawanda City School District** are North Tonawanda Police Department, active and retired North Tonawanda police, as well as a full-time school resource officer from the North Tonawanda police, and private security firms. All security personnel are trained in violence prevention and intervention.

Security personnel’s work is performed under the supervision of the High School Principal with leeway allowed to exercise independent judgment in performance of assignments.

Typical work activities of Security:

- Patrols school corridors, stairwells, restrooms, courtyards, entrances, parking lots and other parts of school buildings and grounds to protect persons and property, maintain order and ensure compliance with school rules;
- Inspects corridor passes and other passes when classes are in session and escorts persons lacking passes to the principal’s office;
- Welcomes and oversee visitors to the building and directs them to the appropriate school offices or escorts them out of the building if they are not authorized visitors;

- Escorts disruptive or uncooperative students from areas in which they are under teacher supervision to an administrator's office for disciplinary action;
- Provides security at evening or weekend events;
- Inspects lockers and conducts searches for controlled substances or alcohol;
- Provides traffic control, monitors parking permits and investigates transportation discipline issues;
- Acts as security consultant to Administrators and as liaison with courts and law enforcement agencies;
- Maintains records and makes oral and written reports related to the work.

The district routinely utilizes teachers to maintain a presence in hallways during passing times and maintain a presence in the cafeteria and outside the buildings at the beginning and end of school day.

All teachers have received two days of training in violence prevention, de-escalation and intervention. This training is in addition to their annual violence prevention and multi-hazard training.

School Resource Information

Each Building Level Emergency Response Plan will include the following information:

- School population
- Number of staff
- Transportation needs
- Office, cell, and home telephone numbers of key officials of each educational agency

The Building Level Emergency Response Teams will ensure that this information is updated routinely and is accurate.

Early Detection of Potentially Violent Behaviors

There are early warning signs in most cases of violence to self and others. Certain emotional and behavioral signs that, when viewed in context, can signal a troubled student. The more signs a student exhibits, the more likely he/she may need intervention. Such early warning signs may include but are not limited to the following:

- Social withdrawal
- Excessive feelings of isolation
- Excessive feelings of rejection
- Being the victim of violence
- Feeling of being picked on
- Low school interest and poor academic performance
- Expression of violence in writing and drawings
- Uncontrolled anger
- Patterns of impulsive, chronic hitting and bullying
- History of discipline problems
- History of violent and aggressive behavior
- Intolerance for differences and prejudicial attitudes
- Alcohol and drug usage
- Affiliation with gangs
- Inappropriate access / use of firearms
- Serious threats of violence

The above comes from the United States Department of Education's "Early Warning, Timely Response" document. This information will be available for all staff relating to early identification of potentially violent behaviors.

Informative materials regarding the early detection of potentially violent behaviors will be made available to teachers, administrators, parents and others in parental relation to students of the school district or board, students and others deemed appropriate to receive such information.

If a teacher or administrator feels help for a student is warranted, it will be discussed with the appropriate school personnel to determine the next step.

Interpersonal violence prevention education packages will be taught as appropriate.

The Superintendent will set specific time for the building principal(s) in conjunction with the **North Tonawanda City School District Professional Development Plan** to organize activities of particular concern.

Hazard Identification of Sites of Potential Emergencies

The **North Tonawanda City School District** has established procedures in the Building Level Emergency Response Plan for the identification of potential internal and/or external hazards that may be present in them. These procedures have been developed in coordination with local emergency management office personnel, fire department, and law enforcement agencies. They are as follows:

On Site:	Off Site:
Drake Elementary	Main City Roadways
North Tonawanda High	
North Tonawanda Middle	
North Tonawanda Intermediate	
North Tonawanda Learning Center	
Ohio Elementary	
Spruce Elementary	
Athletic Fields	
Board of Education Building	

Areas of Potential Emergencies – On Site: for addresses and telephone numbers see the school building information in the Building Level Emergency Response Plan.

Areas of Potential Emergencies – Off Site: emergencies will be handled by the County Emergency Management procedures.

For detailed Situational Responses – Threat and Hazard Specific Annexes refer to Criminal Offenses, Natural Hazards, Technological Hazards, Fire, Systems Failure, Medical Emergencies, and School Building sections in the Building Level Emergency Response Plan.

RESPONSE

Notification and Activation of Internal and External Communications

Upon being notified of an emergency, the Building Principal or Designee will contact law or emergency personnel in accordance with stated response protocol and request the closest response agency to ensure that the response to the incident is as rapid as possible.

In an event of an emergency, the Building Principal or Designee will notify all building occupants to take the appropriate protective action. Follow established procedures as listed in the Building Level Emergency Response Plan.

The district disseminates educational material, including but not limited to emails and formal brochures, encouraging parents and visitors to tell school staff about any direct or implied threat of violence or actual acts of violence by students, teachers, other school personnel and visitors to the school, including threats by students against themselves.

The following systems may be utilized as forms of communications:

Telephone	District Radio Systems
Intercom	Emergency Alert System
Fax / E-mail	NOAA Weather Radio
Local Media	

Notification of Educational Agencies

In the event of an emergency or disaster within the **North Tonawanda City School District**, the Superintendent or Designee will:

1. Contact Orleans/Niagara BOCES District Superintendent:

Orleans/Niagara BOCES
4232 Shelby Basin Road
Medina, New York 14103
Phone: 716-731-6800, ext. 2202

2. Contact and act as the communications liaison for the public/non-public Educational Agencies associated with **North Tonawanda City School District**.

The Building Level Emergency Response Plan also details the appropriate responses for the following:

School Cancellation

- The Superintendent or their designee will monitor any situation that may warrant a school cancellation and will make the determination to do so.
- The Public Information Officer will activate use of the district's mass communication system.
- The Public Information Officer will contact local media, post the information on the website and social media sites utilized by the district.

Early Dismissal

- The Superintendent or their designee will monitor any situation that may warrant an early dismissal and will make the determination to do so.
- The Operations Chief will designate people to arrange transportation for students.
- The Public Information Officer will activate use of the District's mass communication system.
- The Public Information Officer will contact local media, post the information on the website and social media sites utilized by the District.
- The Liaison Officer will notify each of the building principals.

Evacuation

- The Superintendent or their designee will determine the level of the threat.
- The Operations Chief will contact the transportation supervisor to arrange transportation. They will also arrange for student-parent reunification.
- The Safety Officer will clear all evacuation routes and sites prior to evacuation.
- Principal(s) will evacuate all staff and students to prearranged evacuation sites as outlined in building plans. They will report to the Superintendent or their designee any missing staff or students.
- Sheltering Sites (internal and external).
- The Superintendent or their designee will determine the level of the threat and communicate with building principal(s) who are affected by the emergency.
- Principal(s) will move all staff and students to pre-arranged sheltering sites as outlined in building plans. They will report any missing staff or students.
- The Logistics Chief will make appropriate arrangements for human needs in the event of a long-term situation.

Functional Annexes

The information in this section was developed utilizing the Federal Emergency Management Administration's Guide for Developing High Quality School Emergency Operations Plans.

The Functional Annexes within this section, should provide schools with a comprehensive set of guides for responding to and functioning during an emergency. The Building Level Emergency Response Team should assess and develop annexes to meet the unique needs of each school building.

Functional Annexes provide standard language and procedures, and are intended to be transferable to schools statewide and modifications are not recommended.

- Evacuate / Evacuation
- Shelter / Shelter-In-Place
- Lockdown
- Hold / Hold-In-Place
- Secure Lockout

These annexes contain elements required by 8 NYCRR Section 155.17. Completion of these annexes utilizing the recommended actions will help the school comply with State law.

- Crime Scene Management
- Communications
- Medical Emergency and Mental Health

The Building Level Emergency Response Team also recommends that schools complete the following annexes utilizing the recommended actions.

- Accounting for All Persons
- Reunification
- Continuity of Operations
- Recovery
- Security

Situational Responses - Threat and Hazard Specific Annexes

The district's multi-hazard response plans for taking actions in the following emergencies are included in the Building Level Emergency Response Plan. In the event of an emergency the Chief Emergency Officer or designee will notify all educational agencies, staff, students, parents/guardians within their district any pertinent information. They are as follows:

Criminal Offenses

- Bomb Threat
- Telephone / Verbal / Social Media Threats
- Suspicious Packages
- Bomb Threat Response Form
- Civil Disturbance / Prison Break
- Hostage Taking / Kidnapping
- Intrusion
- Suspected Student / Staff / Visitor with a Weapon
- Active Shooter
- Suicide Threat
- Missing Students

Natural Hazards

- Severe Thunderstorm / Tornado
- Winter Storm / Ice Storm
- Hurricane / Tropical Storm
- Flood
- Reservoir / Canal / Dam Failure
- Earthquake

Technological Hazards

- Anthrax / Biological Threat On-Site
- Air Pollution
- Aircraft Crash
- Gas Leak
- Carbon Monoxide Detection (Battery)
- Carbon Monoxide Detection (Wired)
- Hazardous Material Incident – On Site
- Hazardous Material incident – Off Site
- Radiological Incident
- Water Emergency

Fire

- Fire Emergency

Systems Failure

- Building Structure Failure
- Cyber Failure / Computer Loss
- Electrical System Failure
- Heating System Failure
- Sewage System Failure
- Fire Alarm or Phone System Failure
- Transportation Fleet Loss

Medical Emergencies

- School Bus Accident
- Communicable Diseases
- Epidemic / Pandemic

Acts of Violence

The **North Tonawanda City School District** recognizes that appropriate response to acts of violence by students, teachers, other school personnel and visitors varies greatly depending upon the actual threat or act as well as the magnitude of such emergency. The Building Level Emergency Response Plan and District Code of Conduct details the appropriate response to such emergencies utilizing the following procedure:

- The threat level will be determined
- If the situation warrants, the immediate area will be isolated and evacuated if deemed necessary
- Administration will be notified
- If necessary, lockdown procedures will be initiated and appropriate law enforcement officials will be notified
- The situation will be monitored and the appropriate response will be adjusted accordingly. If necessary, early dismissal, sheltering or evacuation procedures may be initiated.

Responses to Acts of Violence / Implied or Direct Threats

The school district has adopted policies and procedures dealing with acts of violence and responses to acts of violence. These policies and procedures deal with the safety of the school community as well as the range of discipline of those making the threat or committing the acts of violence. The normal procedures to respond to implied or direct threats of violence will be:

- Use of staff trained in de-escalation or other strategies to diffuse the situation
- Use of the Districts Workplace Violence Prevention Program Student / Staff / Visitors shall inform building principal of implied or direct threat immediately
- Determine level of threat with Superintendent / Designee
- Contact appropriate law enforcement agency if necessary
- Monitor situation, adjust response as appropriate, include the possible use of the Emergency Response Team

Arrangements for Obtaining Emergency Assistance from Local Government

During emergencies, local government agencies, including emergency services, can be obtained by contacting the county Emergency Management Coordinator. The Incident Commander will authorize the request for assistance from these agencies.

Niagara County: 911 or 716-438-3171

Procedures for Obtaining Advice and Assistance from Local Government Officials

If the nature of the emergency necessitates advice and/or assistance from local governmental officials, the Incident Commander will notify the county Emergency Management Coordinator at:

Niagara County: 911 or 716-438-3171

and/or the highest ranking local governmental official for obtaining the advice and assistance. The district resources, which may be available during an emergency, include the following but not limited to:

Red Cross	NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Fire Department	NYS Dept. of Transportation
Police	NYS Dept. of Health
Private Industry	Village / Town Officials
Private Individuals	State Emergency Mgmt Office (SEMO)
Religious Organizations	Other

Specific resources are identified in the Building Level Emergency Response Plan.

District Resources Available for Use in an Emergency

The district has committed the full inventory of its resources to be available for use during an emergency. These resources will be utilized in line with the Building Level Emergency Response Plan as deemed appropriate by the Incident Commander. Specific resources are identified in the Building Level Emergency Response Plan.

Procedures to Coordinate the Use of School District Resources and Manpower during Emergencies

The district uses the Incident Command system model for emergency actions. For district-wide emergencies the incident commander will be the Superintendent or his/her designee. In building-level emergencies, the administrator in charge or his/her designee will act as the Incident Commander. The Incident Commander is authorized to activate such resources and personnel as are appropriate to the incident. The Incident Commander is empowered to render such decisions as may be necessary in keeping with the response actions as identified in the Building Level Emergency Response Plan.

RECOVERY

District Support for Buildings

After a critical incident has occurred, the District is committed to a thorough and comprehensive recovery for students, staff, and families. To achieve this goal, the Post Incident Response Team should consider the following steps:

Step 1: Consult with administrators and others to:

- Determine advisability of team involvement
- Determine nature of team involvement
- If team is needed, acquire release from currently assigned responsibility
- Inform Superintendent of nature of incident

Step 2: Acquire facts and circumstances as to the nature of the trauma/loss

Step 3: Determine those groups and/or individuals most affected by the trauma/loss (target population)

Step 4: Assist building administrator in the following:

- Arrange for staff meeting
- Formulate staff meeting agenda
- Dissemination of information to staff, parents, students, media, etc. (e.g., letters, etc.)
- Determine logistical needs (e.g., workspace, crisis center, counseling rooms, class schedules, etc.)

Step 5: Assignment of team members and other staff to individual tasks

Step 6: Provide Post Incident Response Team Services

- Conduct faculty meeting with all building staff
- Provide educational information to teachers to be used in class
- Conduct classroom meetings with team member and teacher in seriously affected classes
- Assess needs and arrange for follow-up meetings with individuals and small groups
- End of day staff meeting to update staff and administrator and plan for next day
- Crisis Team “debriefing” at the end of day
- Provide substitutes and aides as back-up staff for teachers
- Offer a separate room for parent contact, if necessary
- Crisis workers in offices to aid office staff to deal with parents’ telephone calls and questions

Remind staff about “Teachable Moments”

- Death and grief education
- Personal safety
- Sorting rumor from fact
- Anatomy of the injury (e.g., what type, extent, what it means)

Step 7: Assist in creating a committee that can coordinate and plan for memorial contributions, expressions of sympathy, scholarship funds, etc., should be composed of staff students, and parents

Step 8: Follow-up plans for ending Post Incident Response Team involvement

- Staff meeting
- Alert staff to individual staff questions and needs
- Respond to individual staff questions and needs
- Provide feedback to teachers regarding individual student needs referral of literature
- Refer students and others to appropriate building personnel or other helping resources in the community
- Arrange for meeting with Post Incident Response Team to determine effectiveness of the Post Incident Response Plan in addressing the needs in this particular incident

Medical and Mental Health Emergency Annex

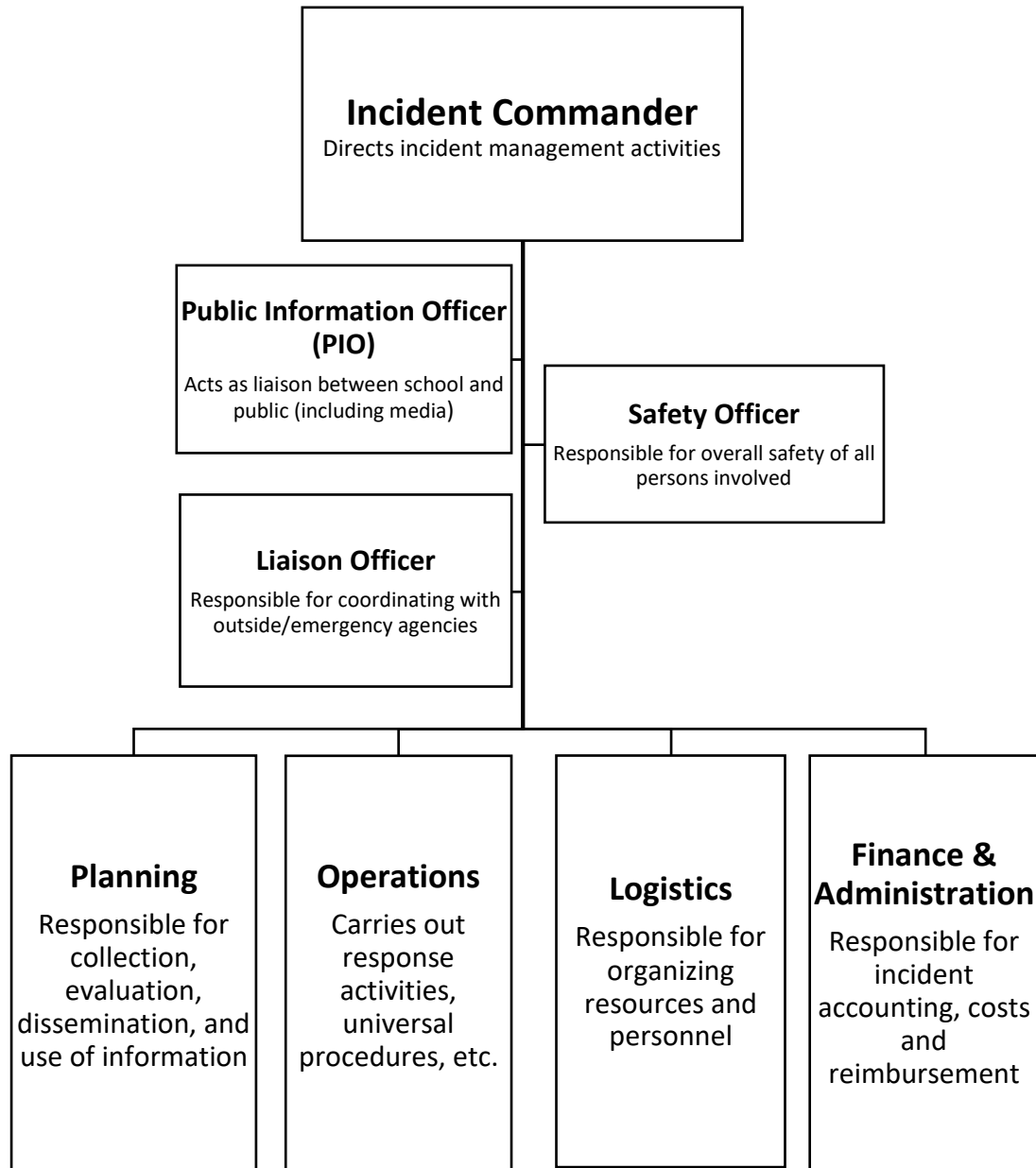
Purpose

This annex describes the courses of action that the school will implement to address emergency medical (e.g., first aid) and mental health counseling issues. Schools should coordinate these efforts with appropriate emergency medical services, law enforcement, fire department and emergency management representatives. 8 NYCRR Section 155.17 (e)(2)(vi) requires the coordination of the ERP with the statewide plan for disaster mental health services. The details of how this coordination is accomplished should be documented within this annex. Schools should consider contacting their county Director of Mental Health and Community Services for information on services available for addressing mental health issues in an emergency.

School Incident Command System

To provide for effective direction, control and coordination of an incident, the Building Level Emergency Response Plan will be activated through the implementation of the Incident Command System (ICS).

Staff are assigned to serve within the ICS structure based on their expertise, training and the needs of the incident. Roles should be pre-assigned based on training and qualifications. The School ICS is organized as follows:



Chain of Command

The **Superintendent of the North Tonawanda City School District** will be responsible for designation of response actions necessary to cope with an emergency.

Superintendent of Schools / Chief Emergency Officer

Dr. Jeffrey Jachlewski

Office: 716-807-3500

In the event the Superintendent is not available, the response action designation responsibility shall be delegated as follows:

Executive Director of Educational Services

Mr. Patrick Holeskio

Office: 716-807-3535

Superintendent of Administrative Services

Dr. Joshua Janese

Office: 716-807-3511

Director of Student Services

Mr. Michael Tambroni

Office: 716-807-3566

Chief Information Officer

Mr. Kris Clester

Office: 716-807-3656

Director of Facilities

Mr. James Hart

Office: 716-807-3520

Assistant Director of Facilities

Mr. Christopher Gerhard

Office: 716-807-3515

Building Administration

North Tonawanda High School Principal

Mr. Bradley Rowles

Office: 716-807-3600

North Tonawanda High School Assistant Principal

Ms. Rachel Wagner

Office: 716-807-3615

North Tonawanda High School Assistant Principal

Ms. Julie Ziobro

Office: 716-807-3605

North Tonawanda Middle School Principal

Ms. Lauren Miranto

Office: 716-807-3700

North Tonawanda Middle School Assistant Principal

Mr. Joseph Pray

Office: 716-807-3118

North Tonawanda Intermediate School Principal

Mr. Gregory Burgess

Office: 716-807-3825

North Tonawanda Intermediate School Assistant Principal

Ms. Jackie Coyle

Office: 716-807-3827

Drake Elementary Principal

Mr. Scott Mueller

Office: 716-807-3725

Ohio Elementary Principal

Mr. John Steckstor

Office: 716-807-3800

Spruce Elementary Principal

Ms. Lindsey Turner

Office: 716-807-3850

Supplemental Information as found in the Building Level Emergency Response Plan

Implied or Direct Threats of Violence

The school district has enacted policies and procedures dealing with violence. These policies and procedures deal with the safety of the school community as well as the range of discipline of those making the threat or committing the act of violence.

Acts of Violence

The district recognizes that appropriate response to acts of violence by students, teachers, other school personnel and visitors varies greatly depending upon the actual threat or act as well as the magnitude of such emergency.

Media Notification Plan

The media plan addresses who is designated to meet/talk with the media. All district/media communication during an emergency must flow through the designated individual to prevent miscommunication or inaccurate information from being released. The plan provides the necessary guidance for district representatives to effectively deal with the media during an emergency.

Parent / Guardian Notification Plan

Addresses the need for a separate plan to notify parent/guardian in the event of an emergency. The plan provides the necessary guidance for district representatives to effectively deal with parents/guardians during an emergency.

Post Incident Response / Recovery

Provides guidance to district representatives for initiating a post incident response to an emergency or tragic event. Specific guidance is given to establishing crisis intervention teams and Critical Incident Stress Debriefing teams and how to utilize them.

Crime Scene Management

The Building Principal or Designee is responsible for crime scene security until relieved by law enforcement officials.

No items shall be moved, cleaned, or altered without prior approval from the appropriate law enforcement agency.

Nothing in this section should be interpreted to preclude the rescue and aid of injured persons.

Student / Staff / Guest with Special Needs

This appendix is a school specific procedure for students with special needs during an emergency situation.

School Safety and the Educational Climate (SSEC) - Formally Violent or Disruptive Incident Reporting (VADIR)

All violent and disruptive incidents must be logged throughout the school year. A summary of all violent and disruptive incidents are to be submitted annually to NYSED.

Revisions Page

Page	Section	Revision
1	Introduction	added 8 NYCRR 155.17 for reference
1	Identification of School Teams	restructured to match 8 NYCRR 155.17(b)(14)
2	Date Chart	added for ease of finding required dates
3	Concepts of Operations	restructured to match 8 NYCRR 155.17(18)(1)(xix)
4	Plan Review and Public Comment	added Alyssa's Law to conform to educational law § 2801-a
4	Plan Review and Public Comment	restructured to match S.E.D requirements
5	Prevention / Intervention Strategies for Faculty	added Workplace Violence statement to encompass Workplace Violence into the District Wide Plan
8-9	Training, Drills, and Exercises	restructured to match Educational Law §807 & 8 NYCRR 155.17
12	Early Detection of Potentially Violent Behaviors	modified materials regarding the early detection of potentially violent behaviors section to reflect State Education changes and requirements
15	BLERP Details	added key topics to reflect BLERP and State Educational requirements
17	Situational Responses - Threat and Hazard Specific Annexes	added Chief Emergency Officer requirement to match 8 NYCRR 155.17
17	BLERP annex's	added new annex's that are found in the BLERP
18	Responses to Acts of Violence / Implied or Direct Threats	added Workplace Violence Prevention Program Statement

APPENDICES

Memorandum of Understanding Regarding the School Resource Officer

Public Health Emergency Continuation of Operations Plan

Emergency Remote Instruction Plan

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER AGREEMENT

This Agreement is made as of the ___ day of _____ 2023, by and between the **City of North Tonawanda**, whose principal address is 216 Payne Avenue, North Tonawanda, New York 14120, ("City") and the **North Tonawanda City School District**, whose principal address is 176 Walck Rd. North Tonawanda, New York 14120 ("School District"). The City and School District are also each referred to herein individually as a "Party," and collectively as the "Parties."

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the School District and City have determined that it is in their mutual best interests to enter into this Agreement to provide for the assignment of officers of the **City of North Tonawanda Police Department** ("Police Department") to serve as School Resource Officers in the School District; in furtherance of multiple objectives and purposes, including but not necessarily limited to the following:

- To provide a law enforcement presence in the School District in order to promote and provide an atmosphere of enhanced school safety for faculty, staff, students and school visitors;
- To provide a law enforcement resource to students, teachers, school administrators and parents;
- To provide a confidential counseling resource and/or referral to students who may be experiencing a variety of school, family, or social problems; and
- To provide education in law enforcement, as requested and appropriate.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the promises set forth herein, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and adequacy of which are hereby acknowledged by both Parties, the School District and City hereby agree, as follows:

AGREEMENT

1. **Purpose.** This Agreement details the duties and obligations of the City and the School District in regard to the City providing the School District with the services (hereinafter "Services") of a Police Department law enforcement officer on site at the School District to serve as a School Resource Officer ("SRO").

2. **Place.** The SRO shall provide Services on-site at the School District's assigned building. The SRO assigned K-3 Elementary buildings will develop and maintain a rotation schedule in collaboration with the superintendent and policy chief. There are a total of four (4) SROs for the terms and length of this contract.

3. **Term.** The Term of this Agreement shall commence on August 1, 2023 (or, if renewed, the first day that teachers report to school) and shall terminate on July 31, 2025, unless sooner terminated in accordance with Paragraph 8(c) below, subject to the following terms and conditions:

4. **Obligations of the City:**

a. **Assignment of SRO and Alternate(s).** The City shall provide the School District with one armed and uniformed Police Officer to provide Services as a School Resource Officer to the School District during the months of September through June, on days when school is in session. On such days, when the Police Officer who is assigned to the School District is absent with leave or otherwise wholly unavailable to provide Services to the School District, the City shall make a good faith effort to assign an alternate Police Officer to provide Services to the School District, but only if the School District requests that an alternate Police Officer be assigned as an SRO during the regular SRO's absence.

b. **Training/Qualifications of School Resource Officers.** The City shall be responsible for ensuring that all individuals performing Services under this Agreement are appropriately trained, and licensed and/or credentialed, in accordance with applicable law. Upon request, copies of any required license or required credential(s) shall be made available to the School District by the City. If at any time during this Agreement a required license and/or required credential of any individual providing Services is terminated or suspended, the City shall prohibit such individual from performing Services and shall immediately notify the School District.

c. **Employment Waivers.** The City, as the employer, shall have primary responsibility for obtaining employment waivers, as needed, from appropriate agencies, for School Resource Officers who are retirees of a New York State Public Pension System. The School District shall collaborate and cooperate fully with the City's efforts to obtain such waivers.

d. **Duties of the SRO.** The School Resource Officer shall:

- Patrol and observe all areas of the school building(s) and grounds;
- Be visible and available to the students, faculty, and administration;
- Keep the peace and help maintain a safe and orderly school community;
- Develop and maintain a positive and open relationship with students, faculty and parents;
- Assist with community outreach, truancy reduction and drug and education and prevention services;

- Educate students about the law and law enforcement, including crime prevention and safety;
- Present educational programs to students in conflict resolution, restorative justice, crime awareness and anger management;
- Present educational programs to school employees, parents and school board members
- Facilitate counseling and mediation (as mutually agreed upon by both Parties) student-teacher and student-parent communication and conflicts and other conflict resolution;
- Build relationships by being a liaison between the Police Department and the School District;
- Address criminal activity occurring in or around the school(s);
- Survey the needs of schools and address crime and disorder problems, gangs and drug activities affecting or occurring in or around the School District's school(s);
- Assist schools with security concerns and identify physical changes in the environment that may reduce crime in or around the school;
- Develop or expand crime prevention efforts for students;
- Educate potential school-age victims in crime prevention and safety;
- Develop or expand community justice initiatives for students;
- Assist in developing school policy that addresses crime and recommend procedural change where appropriate;
- Assist schools in meeting requirements mandated by New York State Law;
- Take appropriate law enforcement action with regard to any criminal activities that he/she observes or that are reported directly to him/her;
- Investigate other emergency situations and summon aid and assistance as needed (e.g., fire department, ambulance, etc.);
- Attend after school activities that are open to all students such as sports games, dances, etc., if requested by the School District's administration and

approved by the Chief of Police, which approval cannot be unreasonably withheld. This applies only to activities held on the assigned Campus;

- District camera monitoring, review, and proper placement for coverage;
- Participate in district safety meetings;
- Provide security suggestions and training for transportation department and bus drivers;
- Conduct threat assessments of students prone to violence; and
- Assist school social worker and psychologist with distraught students.

Note - the SRO shall not enforce school rules. Matters of school discipline shall be referred to the appropriate building principal.

4. **Schedule.** The School Resource Officer's normal schedule will require him or her to be present for an 8-hour day, Monday through Friday, while classes are in session, unless the SRO is required to be elsewhere pursuant to Paragraph 5(a) next below. However, this schedule may be adjusted, as needed, by mutual agreement, at the request of the School District's administration and with the approval of the Chief of Police, under circumstances when the School District's administration concludes that school events and/or activities occurring outside the normal daily schedule would benefit from the law enforcement presence of the SRO. Such scheduling adjustments may include, for example, substituting evening hours, or a Saturday, for a work day, or block of worktime, that would ordinarily be provided by the SRO when school is in session.

5. **Call to Other Duty.** The School Resource Officer shall remain on Campus unless:

- a. The School Resource Officer is directed by the Police Department to respond to an emergency off the Campus.
- b. The School Resource Officer's investigation of an incident that occurred on Campus requires the Police Officer to leave the Campus.
- c. The School Resource Officer leaves Campus to obtain food and returns to the Campus to eat. (No more than twice during a shift.)
- d. The School Resource Officer leaves at the end of the shift.
- e. It is the School Resource Officer's opinion that he/she must leave the Campus in order to protect life or property off Campus.
- f. The School Resource Officer is in transit, while on assignment to the School District, between the Middle School and the office in the High School, or vice versa.

6. **Defense and Indemnification.** The City shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the School District from and against any and all losses, damages, judgments, claims, causes of action, costs, expenses, attorneys' fees and other liabilities (collectively, "Liabilities") to the extent such Liabilities arise from the acts or omissions of the City, its officers, employees and/or agents. The School District shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the City from and against any and all losses, damages, judgments, claims, causes of action, costs, expenses, attorneys' fees and other liabilities to the extent such Liabilities arise from the acts or omissions of the School District, its officers, employees and/or agents. These obligations shall survive the expiration and/or termination of this Agreement.

7. **Obligations of the School District:**

a. **Duty of Cooperation.** The School District shall cooperate with the City in order to facilitate the provision of Services under this Agreement.

b. **Payment for Services.** The amount to be paid by the School District, in the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school year, shall be \$110,000 each year per SRO. The City shall bill for Services on a monthly, pro rata basis, and the School shall pay within thirty (30) days of presentation of an invoice or voucher (at direction of the School District.)

8. **Mutual Covenants and Restrictions:** The City and School District agree and consent to the following covenants and restrictions:

a. **Independent Contractor Relationship.** Nothing in this Agreement will be construed as creating a partnership between the Parties. The City shall be providing Services to the School District as an independent contractor. Any and all Services performed by the City and its officers, employees and/or agents under this Agreement shall be performed in such capacity. SROs assigned to the School District are under the direct supervision and command of the Chief of Police of the Police Department. The School District acknowledges that it shall have no ability to control the manner, means, details or methods by which the City or its officers, employees and/or agents perform Services under this Agreement except as explicitly provided herein and/or as required by federal, state, or local laws, rules, and regulations. No City officer, employee, and/or agent shall hold himself/herself out as, nor claim to be, an officer, employee of the School District, nor make any claim, demand, or application to or for any right or privilege applicable to an officer or employee of the School District, including, but not limited to, workers' compensation coverage, unemployment insurance benefits, social security coverage, disability benefits, or retirement membership or credit. The City shall not have, or hold itself out as having the authority or power to bind or create liability for the School District by the City's acts or omissions. It is further agreed by the City and the School District that neither federal, state or local income taxes nor payroll taxes of any kind, including, but not limited to F.I.C.A. or F.U.T.A., will be withheld by the School District on behalf of any City employee, consultant, or agent. Said withholding shall be the responsibility of the City in compliance with applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules or regulations. The City agrees to pay all applicable taxes, including income taxes, workers' compensation

insurance, unemployment insurance payment, disability insurance payment, and/or any other payments that may be required under the laws, rules, or regulations of any government agency having jurisdiction over the City or its relationship with the School District.

b. **Fingerprinting and Criminal Clearance.** The City shall provide a complete roster of all SROs who are reasonably expected to have direct, in-person, face-to-face contact with the School District's students, on the School District's premises, during the school year, pursuant to this Agreement. The School District, in turn, shall be responsible for submitting the fingerprints of each such person to the New York State Education Department ("NYSED") to facilitate a criminal background check and criminal clearance review process by the NYSED for each such person. The School District understands that most, if not all, of the City's SROs previously have been fingerprinted "for law enforcement purposes" and that their prints are likely already on file with the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services ("DCJS"). However, the School District is required to obtain criminal clearance from the NYSED for each of the SROs, that explicitly clears each of the SROs to work with the School District's students, before the SROs may begin working directly with the School District's students on the School District's premises. Therefore, the School District will need to provide names and other personal identifiers about each of the SRO's who will be assigned to the School District, to the NYSED. The School District will inform the NYSED that the SROs' fingerprints are believed to be on file with DCJS so as to expedite the criminal clearance process, if possible. However, in the event that any of the SROs' fingerprints are not file with DCJS, or cannot be found or made accessible for use by the NYSED, the City agrees to have the SROs who will be assigned to the School District who will have direct contact with students on School District premises, furnish their fingerprints and submit to a criminal background check and clearance by the NYSED's Office of School Personnel Review and Accountability (OSPRA) prior to performing Services for the School District. The School District shall be solely responsible for any costs associated with the required fingerprinting and criminal clearance.

c. **Termination.** Either Party can terminate this Agreement, with or without cause, upon thirty (30) days prior written notice to the other Party. Notice shall be sent to the Parties at the addresses listed above. Termination will not relieve the School District of the obligation to pay for Services rendered up to and including the date of termination.

d. **Extension or Renewal.** This Agreement may be renewed upon the mutual agreement of both parties, and the parties agree to discuss the possibility of such renewal by April 1, 2024.

e. **Opportunity for Review by Counsel.** Both Parties acknowledge that they have had the opportunity to review this Agreement with their respective attorneys and are prepared to fulfill and comply with all of their respective obligations, duties and covenants contained herein.

f. **Governing Law.** This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of New York.

g. **Amendment/Modification.** The terms and conditions of this Agreement can only be changed in writing, executed by both Parties.

h. **Assignment.** This Agreement may not be assigned by either Party.

i. **Interpretation.** The language of all parts of this Agreement in all cases shall be construed as a whole, according to its fair meaning, and not strictly for or against any Party, regardless of who drafted it.

j. **Waiver.** The failure of any Party to insist on the strict performance of any provision of this Agreement or to exercise any right under this Agreement shall not constitute a waiver of such provisions or right. A waiver is effective only if in writing and signed and delivered by the waiving Party.

k. **Authorization.** This Agreement is authorized by a Resolution adopted by the Common Council of the City of North Tonawanda on _____, 2023 and by a Resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the North Tonawanda City School District on _____, 2023.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties agree to comply with the foregoing obligations and acknowledge their consent to same as indicated by the signatures below:

CITY OF NORTH TONAWANDA SCHOOL DISTRICT

By: _____
Gregory J. Woytila, District Superintendent

CITY OF NORTH TONAWANDA

By: _____
Austin Tylec, Mayor

CITY OF NORTH TONAWANDA POLICE DEPARTMENT

By: _____
Keith Glass, Chief of Police

**North Tonawanda
City
School District**

**Public Health Emergency
Continuation of Operations
Plan**

Revised June 2024

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Promulgation

This plan has been developed in accordance with the amended New York State Labor Law section 27-c and New York State Education Law paragraph m of subdivision 2 of section 2801-a (as amended by section 1 of part B of chapter 56 of the laws of 2016), as applicable.

This plan has been developed with the input of the North Tonawanda City School District Unions as required by the amended New York State Labor Law:

- 1) North Tonawanda United Teachers
- 2) North Tonawanda School Administration Association
- 3) Civil Service Employees Association, Inc.
Local 1000, AFSCME, AFL-CIO
North Tonawanda City School District
Clerical, Nursing and Teacher Aide Unit 7686
of Local 872
- 4) Civil Service Employees Association, Inc.
Local 1000, AFSCME, AFL-CIO
North Tonawanda City School District
Custodial and Maintenance Unit 7686
of Local 872

No content of this plan is intended to impede, infringe, diminish, or impair the rights of us or our valued employees under any law, rule, regulation, or collectively negotiated agreement, or the rights and benefits which accrue to employees through collective bargaining agreements, or otherwise diminish the integrity of the existing collective bargaining relationship.

Record of Changes

Date of Change	Description of Changes	Implemented By

Purpose, Scope, Situation Overview, and Assumptions

Purpose

This plan has been developed in accordance with the amended New York State Labor Law section 27-c and New York State Education Law paragraph m of subdivision 2 of section 2801-a (as amended by section 1 of part B of chapter 56 of the laws of 2016), as applicable. These laws were amended by the passing of legislation S8617B/A10832 signed by the Governor of New York State on September 7, 2020, requires public employers to adopt a plan for operations in the event of a declared public health emergency involving a communicable disease. The plan includes the identification of essential positions, facilitation of remote work for non-essential positions, provision of personal protective equipment, and protocols for supporting contact tracing.

Scope

This plan was developed exclusively for and is applicable to **North Tonawanda City School District**. This plan is pertinent to a declared public health emergency in the State of New York which may impact our operations; and it is in the interest of the safety of our employees and contractors, and the continuity of our operations that we have promulgated this plan.

Situation Overview

On March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization declared a pandemic for the novel coronavirus which causes the COVID-19 severe acute respiratory syndrome. This plan has been developed in accordance with amended laws to support continued resilience for a continuation of the spread of this disease or for other infectious diseases which may emerge and cause a declaration of a public health emergency.

The health and safety of our employees and contractors is crucial to maintaining our mission essential operations. We encourage all employees and contractors to use [CDC Guidance for Keeping Workplaces, Schools, Homes, and Commercial Establishments Safe](#). The fundamentals of reducing the spread of infection include:

- Using hand sanitizer and washing hands with soap and water frequently, including:
 - After using the restroom
 - After returning from a public outing
 - After touching/disposing of garbage
 - After using public computers, touching public tables, and countertops, etc.
- Practice social distancing when possible
- If you are feeling ill or have a fever, notify your supervisor immediately and go home
- If you start to experience coughing or sneezing, step away from people and food, cough or sneeze into the crook of your arm or a tissue, the latter of which should be disposed of immediately
- Clean and disinfect workstations as needed
- Other guidance which may be published by the CDC, the State Department of Health, or County health officials

Planning Assumptions

This plan was developed based on information, best practices, and guidance available as of the date of publication. The plan was developed to largely reflect the circumstances of the current Coronavirus pandemic but may also be applicable to other infectious disease outbreaks.

The following assumptions have been made in the development of this plan:

- The health and safety of our employees and contractors, and their families, is of utmost importance
- The circumstances of a public health emergency may directly impact our own operations
- Impacts of a public health emergency will take time for us to respond to, with appropriate safety measures put into place and adjustments made to operations to maximize safety
- The public and our constituency expects us to maintain a level of mission essential operations
- Resource support from other jurisdictions may be limited based upon the level of impact the public health emergency has upon them
- Supply chains, particularly those for personal protective equipment (PPE) and cleaning supplies, may be heavily impacted, resulting in considerable delays in procurement
- The operations of other entities, including the private sector (vendors, contractors, etc.), non-profit organizations, and other governmental agencies and services may also be impacted due to the public health emergency, causing delays or other disruptions in their services
- Emergency measures and operational changes may need to be adjusted based upon the specific circumstances and impacts of the public health emergency, as well as guidance and direction from public health officials and the governor
- Per S8617B/A10832, 'essential employee' is defined as a public employee or contractor that is required to be physically present at a work site to perform their job
- Per S8617B/A10832, 'non-essential employee' is defined as a public employee or contractor that is not required to be physically present at a work site to perform their job

Concept of Operations

The Superintendent of **North Tonawanda City School District**, their designee, or their successor holds the authority to execute and direct the implementation of this plan. Implementation, monitoring of operations, and adjustments to plan implementation may be supported by additional personnel, at the discretion of the Superintendent.

Upon the determination of implementing this plan, all employees and contractors of **North Tonawanda City School District** shall be notified by the Email and District Messaging System with details provided as possible and necessary, with additional information and updates provided on a regular basis. All district employees, parents and guardians, and the Board of Education will be notified of pertinent operational changes by way of the Email and District Messaging System. Other interested parties, such as vendors, will be notified by phone and/or email as necessary. The Superintendent or his designee will maintain communications with the public and constituents as needed throughout the implementation of this plan.

The Superintendent of **North Tonawanda City School District**, their designee, or their successor will maintain awareness of information, direction, and guidance from public health officials and the Governor's office, directing the implementation of changes as necessary.

Upon resolution of the public health emergency, the Superintendent of **North Tonawanda City School District**, their designee, or their successor will direct the resumption of normal operations or operations with modifications as necessary.

Mission Essential Functions

When confronting events that disrupt normal operations, **North Tonawanda City School District** is committed to ensuring that essential functions will be continued even under the most challenging circumstances.

Essential functions are those functions that enable an organization to:

1. Maintain the safety of employees, contractors, and our constituency
2. Provide vital services
3. Provide services required by law
4. Sustain quality operations
5. Uphold the core values of **North Tonawanda City School District**

The **North Tonawanda City School District** has identified as critical only those priority functions that are required or are necessary to provide vital services. During activation of this plan, all other activities may be suspended to enable the organization to concentrate on providing the critical functions and building the internal capabilities necessary to increase and eventually restore operations. Appropriate communications with employees, contractors, our constituents, and other stakeholders will be an ongoing priority.

Essential functions are prioritized according to:

- The time criticality of each essential function
- Interdependency of a one function to others
- The recovery sequence of essential functions and their vital processes

Priority 1 identifies the most essential of functions, with priority 4 identifying functions that are essential, but least among them.

The mission essential functions for **North Tonawanda City School District** have been identified as:

Essential Function	Description	Priority
Superintendent of Schools	Oversees and plans. Assigns critical functions assuring compliance with all CDC, DOH, and NYSED requirements. Establishes communication with staff and parents to execute and standardize district goals. Establishes contacts to provide outside organizations with information relative to District plans to procedures. Communicates with the Board of Education directly.	1
Director of Administrative Services	Liaison for the Superintendent of Schools. Coordinates and supports the goals of the District with the Superintendent of Schools and Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Technology, and Curriculum Development. Oversees the functions of the Business Office. Communicates directly with administration to assist with planning and daily functions to achieve District goals and maintain safety equipment and supplies.	1
Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Technology, and Curriculum Development	Liaison for the Superintendent of Schools. Coordinates and supports the goals of the district with the Superintendent of Schools and Director of Administrative Services. Communicates directly with the administration to assist with planning and functions, ensuring that the needs of the district are being met. Reports to the Superintendent of Schools and Director of Administrative Services directly. Assists with CDC, DOH and NYSED regulations including oversight of NYS recording requirements and Nursing Staff.	1
Administration	Coordinates functions delegated by the Superintendent of Schools. Assigns tasks to facilitate and accomplish district goals. Communicates regularly with the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Technology, and Curriculum Development and Business Official. Oversees personnel assigned to tasks. Ensures critical functions are being performed as necessary. Provides regular progress reports on daily activities necessary to accomplish district goals. When directed by the Superintendent of Schools, the administration is responsible for communicating and updating employees in District policy. This includes cleaning regime, scheduling and any changes to these duties. Monitors and requests building safety equipment and supplies as needed.	1

Director of Facilities	<p>Coordinates functions with the Superintendent of Schools, Business Official, Administration and Staff. Responsible for staffing, maintenance activities, custodial duties including ordering supplies, training, and scheduling to meet the needs of the district. Instructs and informs staff of District policy and procedures including personal protection, cleaning procedures, methods of reporting, receiving issues and concerns that may affect or enhance safety procedures. Responsible for communication and updating employees in District policy, cleaning regime, schedules and constant changes to these duties. Maintains a current inventory of supplies and safety equipment and provides staff and services as needed. Inventory includes maintaining a cache of necessary supplies and equipment through reordering and replenishing stock so as not to fall short of critical supplies. Adjusts schedules to meet current needs, updates and trains staff on proper handling and use of tools and chemicals as per the manufacturer, CDC, DOL, and DOH requirements. Coordinates deliveries and ensures delivery agents know and follow District policy when on site. Schedules outside maintenance activities. Ensures third party contractors know and follow all school, CDC, DOL, and DOH policies while on school district property.</p>	1
Custodial Supervisor	<p>Coordinates activities with and updates the Director of Facilities regularly. Provides employees with proper direction for performing necessary cleaning equipment, cleaning products and protocols. Provides a direct line of communication from custodial staff to the Director of Facilities. Keeps records of and controls inventory, communicates directly with suppliers for ordering and receiving material and supplies to maintain an adequate cache of necessary products and materials. Coordinates all deliveries including deliveries from suppliers and deliveries to building staff. Assists with building schedules and arranging custodial staff and staff schedules to meet District needs. Responsible for communication and updating employees in District policy, cleaning regime, schedules and constant changes to these duties.</p>	1

Business Office	Assists the Superintendent of Schools with maintaining critical functions and Administration oversight. Provides needed guidance and advice with logistical and financial obligation; as well as record keeping. Provides purchasing support to ensure that necessary safety equipment and supply inventory can be maintained for education, maintenance, nursing, and custodial functions.	1
Technology Department	Provides support to ensure critical infrastructure is in place to provide effective building support and educational support securely. Works directly with the Superintendent of Schools and Administration staff to ensure communication and internet stability. Provides the necessary equipment and approved software to staff and students to perform the functions of each necessary school sector to maintain building maintenance, day-to-day operations, and educational needs.	1
Nurses	Assists with the goals of the district. Provide medical insight and support to help maintain a healthy school population. Assists with planning and achieving district goals. Provides support and assistance to carry out orders from the Medical Director, CDC, DOH, and NYSED regulations. Maintains a sanitary environment. Monitors quarantine area. Keeps accurate records. Makes immediate and necessary notifications to building administrators when necessary. Coordinates activities with parents. Offers guidance to building occupants and parents. Communicates regularly with the building administration and the Superintendent.	1
Building Secretaries	Staff will continue to perform vital services as directed by the Superintendent of Schools and directed by their school administrator. The District will determine need based on individual circumstances and can be utilized in school or remotely. Administration will provide services necessary for staff to operate in a safe and clean environment on site. Administration will ensure all staff will be informed of and are required to adhere to district safety policy while onsite. Administration will provide the necessary means and materials to safely and effectively work in a remote setting as well.	1

Maintenance Staff	Maintenance staff will perform vital services to keep and maintain essential equipment for onsite and remote learning. Maintenance staff and work will be overseen by the Director of Facilities. Staff will be informed of school procedures and adhere to all personal safety protocols required by the CDC, DOL, and DOH at all times. The Director of Facilities will supervise and schedule maintenance personnel for the purpose of keeping vital services operating and functional.	1
Custodial Staff	Custodial staff will work as directed by the Director of Facilities and Custodial Supervisor. The Director of Facilities and Custodial Supervisor will oversee and ensure school buildings are being cleaned properly. Building Administration will also assist with notification and information about building conditions and issues that need to be discussed or addressed. Custodial staff has received pandemic awareness training. Training provided essential information about communicable diseases. Training also included information about personal protective equipment, cleaning products, proper disinfection, sanitization, product use, product labels, Safety Data Sheets, and manufacturers' requirements for use. The district will provide custodial staff with the required personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies to maintain a safe working environment. Staff shifts and personnel will be scheduled accordingly based on the needs of the district. As with all staff, custodial personnel will follow district protocols required by the CDC, DOL, DOH and the district while providing services and on breaks.	1
Educational	The Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Technology, and Curriculum Development will work with the Superintendent and Administration to determine the level of on-site education and or implement the District Remote Learning Plan.	1
Outside Contractors	Outside contractors will be scheduled and work will be performed with the oversight of the Director of Facilities. All outside contractors will notify the Director of Facilities when they arrive on-site. Outside contractors will be informed of district procedures and policy before they are allowed to work on the premises. Companies performing work on site will provide their employees with the proper PPE to comply with District policy. Outside contractors who do not or cannot work safely will not be allowed on district property.	1

Food Service	All Food Service operations will be determined by the Director of Administrative Services. All District protocols will be initiated by the District Food Service contractor.	1
Transportation	Transportation will provide services directed by the Director of Administrative Services. The Transportation Coordinator will supervise operations. The District will provide safe and secure transportation based on the needs of the District and learning environment. Protocols will be established and the Transportation Contractor has received proper training for cleaning and sanitizing buses. The Transportation Contractor will provide their employees with the training and proper PPE and disinfection equipment to effectively maintain the transportation fleet. Records will be maintained accurately to ensure bus safety procedures are being followed. The Transportation Coordinator will schedule staff and bussing pickup and drop off according to the needs of district. The District will continually inform staff and parents of changes to procedures as necessary.	1
B.O.E	The Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools will dictate school policy and procedures.	1
Outside Deliveries	Deliveries will be coordinated with the Director of Facilities, Custodial Supervisor, and Building Custodians and Laborers. The Director of Facilities will inform companies of District policy and procedures in advance. All delivery agents will be required to notify the district prior to arrival on District and strictly adhere to District policy while on site. Employers will be required to provide their employees with the proper PPE to work safely while on site.	1

Essential Positions

Each essential function identified above requires certain positions on-site to effectively operate. The table below identifies the positions or titles that are essential to be staffed on-site for the continued operation of each essential function. Note that while some functions and associated personnel may be essential, some of these can be conducted remotely and do not need to be identified in this section.

Essential Function	Essential Positions/Titles	Justification for Each
Information Technology	Technology Coordinator Network Manager	The IT manager establishes all priorities for IT task and organizes staff. IT staff members provide support in setting up hardware and software, network management, and help desk support.
Administration and Oversight	Superintendent of Schools	The Superintendent is the decision-maker for the entire district.
Operations	Director of Administrative Services	Director of Administrative Services ensures all essential functions are maintained.
Education	Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Technology, and Curriculum Development of Instruction	The Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Technology, and Curriculum Development of Instruction determines the educational plan.
Facilities	Director of Facilities	The Director of Facilities maintains the necessary level of cleaning and sanitizing.
Administration	Principals, Assistant Principals, Directors	The Principals, Assistant Principals, and Directors are the liaisons between students, families, and employees in the building.
Cleaning and Sanitizing	Buildings and Grounds Staff, Custodial Maintenance, and Laborers and Grounds man	Performs all cleaning and sanitization and necessary upkeep of the buildings.
Support	District Clerical Staff	Provides necessary support for all Administrators.
Health Services	Nursing	Directs all Health Services.

Reducing Risk Through Remote Work and Staggered Shifts

Through assigning certain staff to work remotely and by staggering work shifts, we can decrease crowding and density at work sites and on public transportation.

Remote Work Protocols

Non-essential employees and contractors able to accomplish their functions remotely will be enabled to do so at the greatest extent possible. Working remotely requires:

1. Identification of staff who will work remotely
2. Approval and assignment of remote work
3. Equipping staff for remote work, which may include:
 - a. Internet capable laptop
 - b. Necessary peripherals
 - c. Access to VPN and/or secure network drives
 - d. Access to software and databases necessary to perform their duties
 - e. A solution for telephone communications
 - i. Note that phone lines may need to be forwarded to off-site staff

The Superintendent of Schools and the District Administrative Staff will determine the level of remote working for all district employees in conjunction with all NYSDOH guidelines.

Staggered Shifts

Implementing staggered shifts may be possible for personnel performing duties which are necessary to be performed on-site but perhaps less sensitive to being accomplished only within core business hours. As possible, management will identify opportunities for staff to work outside core business hours as a strategy of limiting exposure. Regardless of changes in start and end times of shifts, **North Tonawanda City School District** will ensure that employees are provided with their typical or contracted minimum work hours per week. Staggering shifts requires:

1. Identification of positions for which work hours will be staggered
2. Approval and assignment of changed work hours

The Director of Facilities will work with the Superintendent of Schools or a designee to formulate a calendar that schedules employees based on the needs of the District.

Personal Protective Equipment

The use of personal protective equipment (PPE) to reduce the spread of infectious disease is important to supporting the health and safety of our employees and contractors. PPE which may be needed can include:

- Masks
- Face shields
- Gloves
- Disposable gowns or aprons

Note that while cleaning supplies are not PPE, there is a related need for cleaning supplies used to sanitize surfaces, as well as hand soap and hand sanitizer. The Coronavirus pandemic demonstrated that supply chains were not able to keep up with increased demand for these products early in the pandemic. As such, we are including these supplies in this section as they are pertinent to protecting the health and safety of our employees and contractors.

Protocols for providing PPE include the following:

1. Identification of need for PPE based upon job duties and work location
2. Procurement of PPE
 - a. As specified in the amended law, public employers must be able to provide at least two pieces of each required type of PPE to each essential employee during any given work shift for at least six months
 - b. Public employers must be able to mitigate supply chain disruptions to meet this requirement
3. Storage of, access to, and monitoring of PPE stock
 - a. PPE must be stored in a manner which will prevent degradation
 - b. Employees and contractors must have immediate access to PPE in the event of an emergency
 - c. The supply of PPE must be monitored to ensure integrity and to track usage rates

The Director of Facilities and the Custodial Supervisor will be responsible for insuring the proper PPE is available at all buildings for required applications. The District will work to ensure we maintain a six month supply of PPE as directed above for all faculty and students. An extra supply of PPE will be available in all buildings for the Principals, Nurses, or Custodial staff. The **North Tonawanda City School District** participates in the Orleans/Niagara Cooperative Bid Purchasing Agreement. It provides a comprehensive list of suppliers and products used for maintaining employee safety, disinfecting, and sanitization protocols.

Surplus PPE will be stored in a dry, secured central location. Access to the surplus PPE can only be made by the Director of Facilities or the Custodial Supervisor as this will ensure the accurate accountability of all supplies on hand. The Custodial Supervisor will be responsible for keeping accurate records and reporting.

Staff Exposures, Cleaning, and Disinfection

Staff Exposures

Staff exposures are organized under several categories based upon the type of exposure and presence of symptoms. Following CDC guidelines, we have established the following protocols:

- A. If employees or contractors are exposed to a known case of communicable disease that is the subject of the public health emergency (defined as a 'close contact' with someone who is confirmed infected, which is a prolonged presence within six feet with that person):
 - 1. Potentially exposed employees or contractors who do not have symptoms should remain at home or in a comparable setting and practice social distancing for the lesser of 14 days or other current CDC/public health guidance for the communicable disease in question.
 - a. As possible, these employees will be permitted to work remotely during this period of time if they are not ill.
 - b. All necessary parties will be notified of staff exposure through contact tracing.
 - c. See the section titled Documentation of Work Hours and Locations for additional information on contact tracing.
 - 2. CDC guidelines for COVID-19 provide that critical essential employees may be permitted to continue work following potential exposure, provided they remain symptom-free and additional precautions are taken to protect them, other employees and contractors, and our constituency/public.
 - a. Additional precautions will include the requirement of the subject employee or contractor, as well as others working in their proximity, to wear appropriate PPE at all times to limit the potential of transmission.
 - b. In-person interactions with the subject employee or contractor will be limited as much as possible.
 - c. Work areas in which the subject employee or contractor are present will be disinfected according to current CDC/public health protocol at least every hour, as practical. See the section on Cleaning and Disinfection for additional information on that subject.
 - d. If at any time they exhibit symptoms, refer to item B below.
 - e. The Superintendent of School, or his designee, in the organization is the decision-maker in these circumstances and who is responsible for ensuring these protocols are followed.
- B. If an employee or contractor exhibits symptoms of the communicable disease that is the subject of the public health emergency:
 - 1. Employees and contractors who exhibit symptoms in the workplace should be immediately separated from other employees, customers, and visitors. They should immediately be sent home with a recommendation to contact their physician.
 - 2. Employees and contractors who exhibit symptoms outside of work should notify their supervisor and stay home, with a recommendation to contact their physician.

3. Employees should not return to work until they have met the criteria to discontinue home isolation per CDC/public health guidance and have consulted with a healthcare provider.
 4. **North Tonawanda City School District** will require sick employees to provide a negative test result for the disease in question or healthcare provider's note to validate their illness, qualify for sick leave, or return to work unless there is a recommendation from the CDC/public health officials to do so.
 5. CDC criteria for COVID-19 provides that persons exhibiting symptoms may return to work if at least 24 hours have passed since the last instance of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications. If the disease in question is other than COVID-19, CDC and other public guidance shall be referenced.
 6. The Director of Human Resources in the organization must be informed in these circumstances and who is responsible for ensuring these protocols are followed.
- C. If an employee or contractor has tested positive for the communicable disease that is the subject of the public health emergency:
1. Apply the steps identified in item B, above, as applicable.
 2. Areas occupied for prolonged periods of time by the subject employee or contractor will be closed off.
 - a. CDC guidance for COVID-19 indicates that a period of 24 hours is ideally given before cleaning, disinfecting, and reoccupation of those spaces will take place. If this time period is not possible, a period of as long as possible will be given. CDC/public health guidance for the disease in question will be followed.
 - b. Any common areas entered, surfaces touched, or equipment used shall be cleaned and disinfected immediately.
 - c. See the section on Cleaning and Disinfection for additional information on that subject.
 3. Identification of potential employee and contractor exposures will be conducted
 - a. If an employee or contractor is confirmed to have the disease in question, the Superintendent, or his designee, should inform all contacts of their possible exposure. Confidentiality shall be maintained as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
 - b. Apply the steps identified in item A, above, as applicable, for all potentially exposed personnel.

We recognize there may be nuances or complexities associated with potential exposures, close contacts, symptomatic persons, and those testing positive. We will follow CDC/public health recommendations and requirements and coordinate with our local public health office for additional guidance and support as needed.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

CDC/public health guidelines will be followed for cleaning and disinfection of surfaces/areas. Present guidance for routine cleaning during a public health emergency includes:

1. As possible, employees and contractors will clean their own workspaces in the beginning, middle, and end of their shifts, at a minimum, in conjunction with District custodial staff.
 - a. High traffic/high touch areas and areas which are accessible to the public/constituents will be disinfected at least hourly.
 - b. The Custodial Supervisor under supervision from the Director of Facilities will coordinate and establish cleaning guidelines and schedules for all cleaners to cover the common areas listed above.
2. Staff tasked with cleaning and disinfecting areas will be issued and required to wear PPE appropriate to the task.
3. Soiled surfaces will be cleaned with soap and water before being disinfected.
4. Surfaces will be disinfected with products that meet EPA criteria for use against the virus in question and which are appropriate for that surface.
5. Staff will follow instructions of cleaning products to ensure safe and effective use of the products.

Provision of Leave and Designation and Recording of Absences from Work

Provision of leave for employees and/or contractors, and designation and recording of absences from work, shall be handled consistent with applicable law, applicable contracts, and guidance from regulatory authorities having jurisdiction.

Documentation of Work Hours and Locations

In a public health emergency, it may be necessary to document work hours and locations of each employee and contractor to support contact tracing efforts. Identification of locations shall include on-site work, off-site visits. This information may be used by **North Tonawanda City School District** to support contact tracing within the organization and may be shared with local public health officials.

**North Tonawanda
City
School District**

**Emergency Remote
Instruction Plan**

Reviewed June 2024

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Introduction

The **North Tonawanda City School District** developed the following **Emergency Remote Instruction Plan** to address the instruction of students if extraordinary circumstances prevent students and staff from physically attending school. The **Emergency Remote Instruction Plan** meets the requirements of New York State Education Commissioner's Regulations for inclusion in the District-Wide School Safety Plan.

Background Information

The NYS Education Department (NYSED) authorized a "snow day pilot" program during the Covid-19 pandemic 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years. This program allowed school districts to deliver instruction remotely on days in which they would otherwise have closed due to an emergency.

To give districts greater predictability, in September 2022, the NYSED Board of Regents amended section 175.5(e) of the Commissioner's regulations to codify this flexibility. Districts that would otherwise close due to an emergency may, **but are not required to**, remain in session and provide instruction through remote learning and count these instructional days towards the annual hours requirement for State Aid purposes. Instruction must be provided to all students and be consistent with the definition of remote instruction, as explained below. In addition, beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, such instruction must be consistent with the school district's **Emergency Remote Instruction Plan**.

NYSED also amended section 155.17 of the Commissioner's regulations to require public schools, BOCES, and county vocational education and extension boards amend their **District-Wide School Safety Plans** to include plans for remote instruction beginning with the 2023-2024 school year. This gives the public an opportunity to provide feedback on such plans for remote instruction prior to their adoption. The **Emergency Remote Instruction Plan** must include the methods that the school district will ensure the availability of: devices; internet access; provision of special education and related services for students with disabilities; the expectations for time spent in different remote modalities.

Such plans also require that each chief executive officer of each educational agency located within a public school district report information on student access to computing devices and access to the internet each year.

NYSED additions to section 100.1 of the Commissioner's regulations define the term "remote instruction." This definition identifies various ways in which remote instruction may be delivered, but which must include, in all situations, regular and substantive teacher-student interaction with an appropriately certified teacher.

The NYS Board of Regents adopted the amendments noted above that became effective as a permanent rule on September 28, 2022. Sections 200.7, 200.16, and 200.20 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education were amended, and became effective September 13, 2022, and December 12, 2022, as an emergency action for the preservation of the general welfare to permit approved special education providers to provide remote instruction in the 2022-2023 school year on days they would otherwise close due to an emergency and to count such instructional days towards 14 minimum requirements and to identify the ways in which such

remote instruction may be delivered. These amendments relate to remote instruction and its delivery under emergency conditions for students in approved private schools for the education of students with disabilities, state-supported schools, state-operated schools, and approved preschool special education programs. These updated regulations now provide the same flexibility for remote instruction under emergency conditions that was given to school districts. The effective date of the final rule was January 25, 2023.

Remote Instruction

The Commissioner's regulations define remote instruction as "instruction provided by an appropriately certified teacher, or in the case of a charter school an otherwise qualified teacher pursuant to Education Law §2854(3)(a-1), who is not in the same in-person physical location as the student(s) receiving the instruction, where there is regular and substantive daily interaction between the student and teacher." For the purpose of this plan, remote instruction means the instruction occurring when the student and the instructor are in different locations due to the closure of one or more of the district's school buildings due to emergency conditions as determined by the Superintendent of Schools. Emergency conditions include, but are not limited to, extraordinary adverse weather conditions, impairment of heating facilities, insufficient water supply, prolonged disruption of electrical power, shortage of fuel, destruction of a school building, shortage of transportation vehicles, or a communicable disease outbreak, and the school district would otherwise close due to such an emergency.

Unscheduled School Delays and Early Releases

Instructional hours that a school district scheduled but did not execute, either because of a delay to the start of a school day or an early release, due to emergency conditions, may still be considered as instructional hours for State Aid purposes for up to two instructional hours per session day, provided the School Superintendent certifies such to NYSED, on the prescribed NYSED form, that an extraordinary condition existed on a previously scheduled session day and that school was in session on that day ([NYSED Part 175.5](#)).

The **Emergency Remote Instruction Plan** shall identify various ways in which instruction may be delivered, including synchronous and asynchronous instruction. In all situations, remote instruction requires regular and substantive teacher-student interaction with an appropriately certified teacher.

Synchronous instruction engages students in learning in the direct presence (remote or in-person) of a teacher in real time. During remote instruction, students and teachers attend together from different locations using technology. Asynchronous instruction is self-directed learning that students engage in learning without the direct presence (remote or in-person) of a teacher. Students access class materials during different hours and from different locations. During an emergency closing, synchronous instruction is the preferred method of instruction, whereas asynchronous instruction is considered supplementary instruction.

Ensuring Accessibility and Availability (Internet, Computers / Devices)

The **North Tonawanda City School District** shall survey families to find out who has a reliable high-speed internet connection. A survey conducted in 2020 identified families who live in the district that do not have access, therefore remote learning is a challenge, if not impossible, for these students. Since 2020, every student who enrolls in the district provides information on internet access and computer accessibility. All survey information is stored and available in the e-school data system. When students do not have internet access, the district works with the families to develop a plan to provide instructional materials for them as well as a process for recording attendance and grading. The district works with the community to provide locations where internet access could be used if they are able to use these locations.

Commissioner's regulation 115.17(f) outlines the annual data collection that districts must submit to SED every year by June 30. It requires the school district to survey families regarding internet and device access at the student's place(s) of residence. The chief executive officer (School Superintendent) shall survey students and parents and persons in parental relation to such students to obtain information on student access to computing devices and access to internet connectivity. [Fill out our survey](#)

District policy 7150 and procedures are followed to ensure computing devices are made available to students or other means by which students will participate in synchronous instruction.

North Tonawanda City School District Emergency Remote Instruction Plan

POLICIES	<p>The plan adheres to guidance set forth in the following Board of Education policies: 7150 and REG 7150 AR 5153.1 Emergency Regulation Regarding Student Registration and Attendance; 7315 Student Use of Computerized Information Resources (Acceptable Use Policy); 7316 Student Use of Personal Technology: for High School Use Only. Not Applicable at the Middle, Intermediate or Elementary Schools; 3410 Code of Conduct on School Property; 6111 Code of Conduct for All District Personnel; 6411 Employee Computer Use Agreement; 7312 Student Dress Code</p>
INTERNET AND DIGITAL DEVICE ACCESS	<p>The school district provides all students in grades K-12 access to a personal computing device iPad. In the event of an emergency, closing provisions will be made to the greatest extent possible to ensure that all students have their device at home for instruction.</p> <p>The school district participates fully in the SED Digital Access Survey along with locally developed surveys [Fill out our survey] to assess how many students have internet access at home. The district provides hotspots to any families that indicate a need for reliable internet to facilitate access to learning at home.</p> <p>All faculty should have an alternative general activity for students in the event that widespread power outages or other disruptions to connectivity occur preventing synchronous connection. If students lose connectivity, then the expectation is they will complete the alternate assignment provided.</p>
PEDAGOGY	<p>All teachers in grades K-12 will use SeeSaw K-3 and Schoology 4-12 as their primary instructional platform.</p> <p>Several districts provided instructional technology software programs are available to support instruction along with a wide array of other resources curated by faculty. Teachers will utilize these programs to differentiate instruction, accessing a variety of delivery methods that best suit their course, grade level, and teaching style. The instructional approach may include a combination of:</p> <p>Synchronous “Live” Instruction - Using Microsoft TEAMS along with other digital platforms, teachers will deliver real time instruction to a full group or subset of students. Teachers may incorporate asynchronous or project-based opportunities within this model.</p> <p>Teachers will make personal connections with all students during scheduled class times via Microsoft TEAMS. These connections will allow teachers to take attendance, introduce new content or skills and will allow students to connect with their teachers and peers in order to be guided through lessons, ask questions, and maintain personal relationships. The duration of these synchronous connections depends on the grade level and daily instructional</p>

	<p>plan but should be the primary mode of instruction and substantial enough to guide learning.</p> <p>Asynchronous “Flipped” Instruction - Using a variety of digital platforms, teachers will deliver captured or recorded lessons with associated expectations for students’ participation and assignment completion. “Flipped Classroom”. These activities may include teacher/student synchronous interactions for a portion of the lesson.</p> <p>Authentic Independent Instruction - Using a variety of methods, teachers will engage students in high quality learning activities. These activities must engage students in the learning process. Teachers will provide assistance to students in this mode of instruction through asynchronous and synchronous methods outlined above.</p>
STUDENT EXPECTATIONS	<p>All students will receive information on how to access course material and instruction from their teachers. Students are expected to follow all directions and requests to participate in instruction to the fullest extent possible. During synchronous instruction students are expected to be school ready. This includes being on time for class, engaging fully through video and audio as directed by their teacher, and presenting themselves in a manner that is in accordance with school expectations.</p> <p>All students are expected to practice appropriate digital etiquette and responsible behavior during assigned Microsoft TEAMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mute yourself on meets as directed by your teacher • Cameras are to be kept on during classroom meets unless directed specifically by your teacher to do otherwise. <p>Students are expected to work in an appropriate setting when participating remotely / on-line. Work places include a desk, table, kitchen counter, etc... Other locations are not appropriate or acceptable.</p> <p>Student dress must be appropriate in all platforms - the Student Dress Code section of the Student Handbook / Code of Conduct applies to students in all platforms.</p> <p>If there are any circumstances preventing full and appropriate participation the student should let the teacher know. As this is a required attendance day, students must fulfill expectations for satisfactory participation as determined by their teacher.</p>
DAILY SCHEDULE	<p>The virtual day will follow the same schedule framework as the HS, MS and Elementary School to which the student is assigned. As with all school schedules, appropriate breaks will be included in the daily schedule for students and faculty, including time for lunch. Students will attend all assigned classes at their scheduled time. The method of instructional delivery will vary to facilitate appropriate screen time per age level within these parameters. MS and HS teachers must be available for academic support during AAP (Tues-Thurs)].</p>

COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL: INTERVENTION	Teachers will follow the same communication protocols that are established in school for addressing areas of academic or behavioral need. This includes a combination of email, phone calls, and academic/behavioral referrals to the administration. All effective strategies should be accessed to maintain effective communication.
SPECIAL SERVICES	School districts are required to implement support services and accommodations, as indicated in students' IEPs or 504 Accommodation Plans, to the best of their ability. NYSED recognizes that there may be limitations to implementing certain services or accommodations through remote instruction and as a result, encourages districts to apply a "lens of reasonableness" to their approach.
NON- INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRANSPORTATION • FOOD SERVICE • MAINTENANCE • CUSTODIAL • CLERICAL/ ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT 	When a school district is in remote session, non-instructional services may still be required to report to work to perform critical services related to their area of expertise. In the event that the change to remote instruction is due to a snow or other weather emergency, such change will likely impact transportation and other critical services. Decisions whether or not non-instructional employees should report to work will be made and communicated in real time by the appropriate supervisor or administrator based on whether services can be provided in a safe and efficient manner.

NYSED Plan Requirements

1. Policies and procedures to ensure computing devices will be made available to students or other means by which students will participate in synchronous instruction;
2. Policies and procedures to ensure students receiving remote instruction under emergency conditions will access internet connectivity;
3. 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;
4. A description of how instruction will occur for those students for whom remote instruction by digital technology is not available or appropriate;
5. 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; and
6. 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.

Instructional Hours for State Aid and Reporting Requirements

Pursuant to Section 175.5 of Education Law the school district may decide to transition to remote instruction in the event emergency conditions dictate the closure of the PreK through Grade 12 facilities. Under the provisions of New York State Education Law and the district **Emergency Remote Instruction Plan** any instruction sessions provided during the closure of the school facilities are counted towards annual hour requirements for meeting 180 days required for State financial aid.

Annual Hourly Requirements for the purpose of apportionment of State Aid (for districts receiving foundation aid) are noted below:

- 450 instructional hours for pupils in half-day kindergarten
- 900 instructional hours for pupils in full-day kindergarten and grades one through six
- 990 instructional hours for pupils in grades seven through twelve

The district estimates the number of instructional hours it intends to claim for State Aid purposes for each day spent in remote instruction due to emergency conditions from a minimum of 1 remote instruction day due to emergency conditions, up to the full year's annual hourly requirement.

Reporting

IMMEDIATELY

Whenever a school building must close to instruction due to the activation of its **District-Wide School Safety Plan or Building-Level Emergency Response Plan**, a **Report of School Closure** must be submitted to the Commissioner of Education by the School Superintendent as required under CR 155.17(f) via the NYSED Report of School Closure portal. Even when remote instruction is provided during an emergency closure, a Report of School Closure must be submitted. This also applies when instruction can be delivered in an interim location or via another instructional modality.

When it is determined that it is safe to re-open a school building after an emergency closure, the School Superintendent must notify the Commissioner by completing a corresponding Report of School Re-Opening, via the NYSED Report of School Re-Opening portal.

The Report of School Closure is intended to provide immediate notification to the Commissioner regarding an emergency closure. The Report of School Re-Opening notifies the Commissioner of the re-opening and also collects the actual duration of the closure, the location and modality of instruction, and detailed information that may not have been available at the time of the closure.

Reasons for building closures may include, but are not limited to, natural disasters, power outages, instances of infectious disease, extraordinary adverse weather conditions and threats of violence. It is no longer required to submit a Report of School Closure for routine snow days.

Annually by June 30th

The School Superintendent shall notify the NYSED Commissioner of the results of the survey on student access to computing devices and access to internet connectivity through the Student Information Repository System (SIRS) every year by June 30th.

End of the School Year

The school district shall report the **Emergency Remote Instruction Plan** through the **State Aid Management System** at the end of the school year. After the close of the school year starting with the ending of 2023-2024, the School Superintendent reports remote instructional days under emergency conditions through the State Aid Management System and certifies this at the time NYSED's Form A is submitted as part of other required certifications. Using the NYSED prescribed form, the School Superintendent certifies to NYSED:

- That an emergency condition existed on a previously scheduled session day and that the school district was in session and provided remote instruction on that day;
- How many instructional hours were provided on such session day; and
- Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, that remote instruction was provided in accordance with the district's Emergency Remote Instruction Plan.

Board of Education Approval

As part of the **District-Wide School Safety Plan**, the school district's Board of Education shall make the **Emergency Remote Instruction Plan** available for public comment and public hearing for no less than thirty days (30) prior to adoption. The plan must be adopted as part of the District-Wide School Safety Plan annually prior to September 1st and posted on the district website in a conspicuous location.

Support for Students with Disabilities during Emergency Closing Virtual Instruction

School districts are required to implement support, services and accommodations, as indicated in students' IEPs or 504 Accommodation Plans, to the best of their ability, when providing virtual instruction.

Special education teachers who provide ICT, CT (direct/indirect) will initiate outreach to their students' general education teacher(s) to collaborate on instructional modalities and any necessary accommodations or modifications required of assignments or assessments for the day. When general education teacher is working with students synchronously, the special education teacher will participate in the lesson.

Special education teachers who teach resource room, self-contained special classes (12:1:1, 8:1:1, and 15:1) should follow the same guidance and expectations as classroom teachers in regard to pedagogy, content, class meetings, and flexibility.

Teacher aides are available for instructional support by way of participating in class meetings, keeping up on classroom assignments and expectations, and serving as additional academic support.

Related service providers are to provide “tele-therapy” services, to the best of their ability. Related service providers are expected to adhere to similar guidelines as other professionals in regard to student and teacher work at home, communication, and flexibility and they will use the students’ IEPs to determine an appropriate/reasonable level of communication and support.

Documentation Requirements: Special education personnel are expected to document all support and services provided to students during this time. Document the manner, means, duration of time, follow up efforts, etc. IEP progress monitoring is required to be collected and reported to parents following the schedule listed on students’ IEPs. Medicaid session notes continue to be a requirement for eligible related service providers. Special education teachers/service providers are responsible to hold any virtual professional meetings already scheduled on a day that becomes a virtual instruction day.