

CRISIS RESPONSE PLAN

The Islesboro School Committee recognizes that crisis situations can arise unexpectedly yet must be responded to in an organized and thoughtful manner. Possible crisis situations could include suicide, natural disaster, a faculty member's death, a student's death, rape, car or school bus accidents, destruction of school facility and threats of or actual harm to students or staff from a source outside the school.

To facilitate the development of a crisis response plan and to help carry out that plan, the School Committee authorizes the Principal to establish a crisis response team. The team's membership could include the Principal, guidance person, the teaching staff, local public safety departments, local human services agencies, the clergy and parents.

Once named, the crisis response team should be assembled to create specific but flexible plans that will allow school officials to communicate accurate information to students, parents, the media, and the community as needed and to respond to any materials, physical and/or emotional needs that arise as a result of the crisis, including alternative relocation sites. The plan should include specific information concerning how a state of emergency or crisis headquarters will be located, and who will serve as spokesperson during the crisis. The plan should also include provisions for notification of school personnel at the earliest convenience.

For situations that may result in strong emotional reactions by students, the crisis response plan should provide for counseling services to be provided, as the situation required, by the school guidance personnel, community social services resource people, and/or local clergy. Special care should be taken to avoid the announcement of deaths to large assemblies. If potentially upsetting news needs to be delivered to the student body, it should be given by the homeroom teacher, class advisors, or other individuals who could respond appropriately to questions that may arise.

The crisis response plan should include a means to evaluate the effectiveness of each instance that the plan is used. If the plan is not utilized during the school year, a yearly review shall be conducted to ensure that all aspects of the plan remain current.

The Superintendent shall develop specific regulations designed to implement this policy and present such regulations to the School Committee for its review.

Cross Reference: EBCC

Revised: August 13, 2002

