



FIRE SAFETY POLICY

EMERGENCY DRILLS

Guiding Principle and Purpose

It is the policy of the Rhode Island School for the Deaf that the following legal mandates shall be strictly adhered to. The following is intended to assure that RISD students and staff are in a safe environment and that we comply with **RI G.L.16-21-4 and 16-21.8**

(a) "It shall be the duty of the principal or other person in charge of every public school or private school, college, university, or postsecondary institutions or educational institution within the state, having more than twenty-five (25) pupils, to instruct and train the pupils by means of drills, so that they may in a sudden emergency be able to leave school buildings and dormitories in the shortest possible time and without confusion or panic."

"Emergency Drills shall be age appropriate and developmentally appropriate and shall include and involve all school personnel, including school-based mental health professionals as well as substitute teachers. School officials shall work towards and implement wherever possible, trauma-informed practices into emergency drills to address the concerns and well-being of students and school personnel."

It is the responsibility of all employees to follow emergency procedures. Staff should remain calm and proceed as trained, leading students to safety as quickly as possible.

Parental Notification- "Each September at the commencement of the school year, schools shall provide parents or guardians with a written notification containing an overview of all emergency drills training, together with a description of each drill and its components.

As required, the school will conduct 15 emergency drills annually, eight drills during Sept./Oct./Nov., and 7 drills in April, May, and June.

Four (4) of these drills must be “obstructed” meaning one or more exits in the building must be blocked off or not used.

Two(2) of the drills will be “Lockdown” drills and will be conducted in September and January.

Evacuation Drill “An Administrator may, in the administrator’s discretion, replace one fire drill with an evacuation drill to incorporate emergency procedures for responding to explosive hazard(s) in the school such as a bomb threat or gas leak...”

Lockdown drills shall also be designed, instructed, and conducted to protect school building occupants from potential dangers in the building, and in conjunction with the local police if possible. (signed /lock down practice/ with students).

Lockdown drills may be announced in advance at the discretion of the school administrator.

Students, teachers, and staff are prohibited from being required to participate in active shooter simulations

Modifications (16-21.8-3) School administrators and support personnel shall have the discretion to modify an emergency drill or training for students they determine is appropriate. School Administrators and support personnel may include and consult with a student’s individualized education plan team or federal section 504 plan team in making these modifications.

GUIDELINES FOR EVACUATION

Each classroom and office has a TV monitor connected to the school’s emergency alert system. These monitors will display emergency alert messages and instructions, allowing anyone (hearing and or deaf) to get the same critical information at the same time.

Evacuation routes and an Emergency Procedures Guide will be posted in every room in the building.

Red and green “School Emergency Placards” are provided for use during drills and actual emergencies to quickly and visually indicate that all students and staff have safely evacuated the building and are accounted for.

Fire doors should be closed as people exit. Students and staff who exit the school during a sudden evacuation drill shall proceed to the front of the property and line up along the sidewalks adjacent to the soccer field.

During sudden evacuation drills, there should be no talking or signing. All eyes should be on the safety marshals, attentive and looking for signed and voiced instructions as to how to proceed.

Safety marshals will roam looking for anyone who needs assistance. Teachers shall take attendance. Any missing students will be reported to an administrator or fire marshall using the visual prompts of the red sign for missing student(s) and the green sign for all present.

No one may reenter the building without permission until the ALL CLEAR signal is provided.

Follow-up: Classroom teachers and support personnel will discuss the drill following each drill to ensure that no misinformation, misunderstandings, or undue fears exist. Mental health and counseling staff will be on-call following each drill to work with students who may be upset or traumatized by the drills.

Rhode Island School for the Deaf Board of Trustees:

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