



DISTRICT-WIDE SCHOOL SAFETY PLAN

Minerva Central School District
2025-2026 School Year

Adopted by BOE: August 21, 2025

Public Comment Period/posted on District website beginning June 13, 2025

Reviewed by DWST: June 2, 2025

Safety Team Appointed by BOE: August 21, 2025

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Introduction

Emergencies and violent incidents in school districts are critical issues that must be addressed in an expeditious and effective manner. New York State School Districts are required to develop a district-wide school safety plan designed to prevent or minimize the effects of serious violent incidents and emergencies and to facilitate the coordination of the district with local and county resources in the event of such incidents or emergencies. The district-wide plan is responsive to the needs of all schools within the district and is consistent with the more detailed emergency response plans required at the school building level. Districts stand at risk from a wide variety of acts of violence, natural, and manmade disasters. To address these threats, the State of New York has enacted the Safe Schools against Violence in Education (SAVE) law. Project SAVE is a comprehensive planning effort that addresses prevention, response, and recovery with respect to a variety of emergencies in each school district and its schools.

The Minerva Central School District supports the SAVE Legislation and intends to facilitate the planning process. The Superintendent of Minerva Central School encourages and advocates on-going district-wide cooperation and support of Project SAVE.

Section I: General Considerations and Planning Guidelines

A. Purpose

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

B. Identification Chief Emergency Officer

The Minerva Central School District designates the Superintendent, Candice Husson, whose duties shall include, but are not limited to:

- Coordination of communication between school staff, law enforcement, and other responders.
- Lead the efforts of the district-wide school safety team in the completion and yearly update by September 1st, of the district plan and the coordination of the district plan with the building-level emergency response plan (building plan
- Ensure staff understanding of the district-wide school safety plan
- Ensure the completion of the building plans for each school building and yearly update by September 1st;
- Assist in the selection of security related technology and development of policies for the use of such technology;
- Coordinate appropriate safety, security, and emergency training for district and school staff, including annual required training in the emergency response plan by September 15th; and
- Ensure the conduct of required evacuation and lock-down drills in all district buildings as required by Education Law section 807.

Chief Emergency Officer Contact Information

Name: Candice Husson

Phone: (518) 664-5727 x1100

Email: hussong@minervasd.org

Address: 1466 Co Rd 29, Olmstedville, NY 12857

C. Identification of School Teams

The Minerva Central School District Board of Education appointed a District-Wide School Safety Team consisting of, but not limited to, representatives of the School Board, students, teachers, administrators, parent organizations, school safety personnel and other school personnel. The members of the team area as follows were appointed on August 21, 2025:

- Nellie Halloran, Board of Education/Community Member
- Candice Husson, School Superintendent
- Teacher Organization Member
- Parent Organization Member
- Teresa Brannon-Strohmeyer, School Nurse
- Lynn Green, Confidential Secretary
- Matthew Dupay, Capital Region BOCES Risk Management Specialist
- Kenneth Smith, Facilities Director/Bus Driver

D. Concept of Operations

The district plan is directly linked to the individual building plans for each school building. Protocols reflected in the district plan guide the development and implementation of the individual building plans

In the event of an emergency or violent incident, the initial response to all emergencies at an individual building is by the building-level emergency response team. Upon the activation of the building-level emergency response team, the Superintendent of Schools or their designee is notified and, where appropriate, local emergency officials are notified. Efforts may be supplemented by County and State resources through existing protocols

E. Plan Review and Public Comment

Pursuant to Commissioner's Regulation 155.17 (e) (3), this plan was made available for public comment 30 days prior to its adoption. The district plan is adopted by the Board of Education after a public hearing that provides for the participation of school personnel, parents, students and any other interested parties.

While linked to the district plan, the building plan shall be confidential and shall not be subject to disclosure under Article 6 of the Public Officers Law or any other provision of law, in accordance with Education Law Section 2801-a. The building plan shall be kept confidential and shall not be disclosed except to authorized department or school staff and law enforcement officers.

The district plan and any amendments are submitted to the New York State Education Department within 30 days of adoption by posting this public plan on the district's website. The building plan is supplied to law enforcement agencies in Essex County and the NYS State Police within 30 days of adoption.

- This plan shall be reviewed and maintained by the District-wide School Safety Team and reviewed on an annual basis on or before July 1 of each year. A copy of the plan will be available at the School Superintendents Office.
- Full copies of the District-wide School Safety Plan and any amendments will be

submitted to the New York State Education Department within 30 days of adoption.

Section II: General Emergency Response Planning

The district plan provides the framework for the building plan. The purpose of a uniform plan is to ensure district-wide continuity for emergency responses. These general emergency responses are used to assist school employees, students, parents and emergency responders learn one system that can be used in the Minerva Central School District.

New Policies and Plans

- Extreme Heat Plan: The School District Board of Education has adopted policy XXXXX pursuant to New York State Senate Bill 2025-S775, and Education Law 409n, related to extreme heat in classrooms and educational spaces. Refer to Board of Education Policy XXXXX for further information
- Bus Accident Plan: The District has updated it's Bus Accident Plan. This plan covers all possible bus accident scenarios for recovery and accountability of students.

Identification of sites of potential emergency, including:

- The district-wide school safety team in conjunction with local officials has identified areas outside of school property that may impact a district facility during an emergency. Factors that were considered included population, presence of hazardous materials, and potential for emergency based on national trends and proximity to district property.
- A list of areas has been identified as having the potential to impact within the district. This list has been created for reference and awareness. The list is not all-inclusive for every emergency. However, these areas have been identified as having the most probable impact on district facilities or district boundaries should they have or create an emergency. A list of potential community-based hazards or emergency situations has been noted in the building plan.
- The district- wide school safety team has recognized that there are many factors that could cause an emergency within our school building. There are also factors that need to be considered when responding to an emergency. A list of potential internal and external hazards or emergency situations has been noted in the building plans.

The district has developed multi-hazard response guides. These guidelines are located in the building plan and are in Incident Command System (ICS) format. Plans for taking the following actions in response to an emergency where appropriate include, but are not limited to:

- **Shelter-in-Place/Shelter:** Shelter students and staff inside building because it is safer inside the building than outside.
- **Hold-in-Place/Hold:** Restrict movement of students and staff within the building while dealing with short-term emergencies.
- **Evacuation:** Evacuate students and staff from the building.
- **Secure Lockout:** Students and staff remain inside locked school buildings during incidents that pose an imminent concern outside of the school/
- **Lockdown:** Secure students and staff inside locked classrooms during incidents that pose an

immediate threat of violence in or around the school.

- Before, during and after school hours, including security during evacuation and evacuation routes
- School Cancellation
- Early Dismissal

Emergencies include, but are not limited to:

Air Pollution	Earthquake	Heating System Failure	Natural Gas Leak
Anthrax/Biological	Elec. System Failure	Hostage Situation	Radiological
Aviation Crash	Energy Supply Loss	Intruder Situation	Roof Leak/Failure
Bldg. Structural Failure	Epidemic	Loss of Building	School Bus Accident
Bomb Threat	Explosion	Loss of Buses	Severe Weather
Civil Disturbance	Fire Alarm Evacuation	Mass Casualty	Threats of Violence
Crimes Against People	Flood	Medical Emergency	Water Emergency

The district has identified various district resources that may be available for use during an emergency, including the identification of personnel, equipment and shelters.

Using ICS the district has identified the school officials authorized to make decisions during an emergency. Through ICS, the procedures to coordinate the use of school district resources and manpower during emergencies, including the identification of the officials authorized to make decisions and of the staff members assigned to provide assistance during emergencies are clearly defined. ICS also identifies the staff members and their backups assigned to provide assistance during emergencies.

The district has policies and procedures for annual multi-hazard school safety training for staff and students, including strategies for implementing training related to multi-hazards. By October 1 of each school year, the superintendent provides written information to all students and staff about emergency procedures. All staff receive annual training by September 15th on the building plan which includes components on violence prevention and mental health. New employees hired after the start of the school year receive this training within 30 days of hire or as part of the district's existing training program, whichever is sooner. The district certifies that this training is completed by October 1st every year in the New York State Education Department (NYSED) Basic Education Data System (BEDS).

The following procedures, which have been established to provide this training on an annual basis, include but are not limited to: early dismissal/go home drill, shelter-in place/shelter, hold-in-place/hold, evacuation/fire drills, secured lockout, lockdown, tabletop exercises and Incident Command System training.

The district conducts drills and other training exercises to test components of the emergency response plan, including the use of tabletop exercises, in coordination with local, county, and state emergency responders and preparedness officials. A debriefing concludes each test to determine if changes to the plan are necessary.

Fire and Emergency Drills

The Education Law §§ 807(1-a), 807 (b): Fire and Emergency Drills July 2016 amendments expanded fire drill requirements to also include emergency drills to prepare students to be able to respond appropriately in the event of a sudden emergency. The statute now requires twelve drills be conducted each school year, four of which must be lock-down drills. The remaining eight are required to be evacuation drills. There is still a requirement that eight of the required twelve drills must be completed in the first half of the school year (September 1 to December 31st). The district will inform parents/guardians of upcoming lockdown drills no less than 1 week prior to each scheduled drill.

Drills and trainings are to be conducted in a trauma-informed, developmentally and age-appropriate manner, which includes;

- No use of props, actors, simulations, or other tactics intended to mimic a school shooting, incident of violence, or other emergency.
- Students and staff will be informed prior to the commencement of any drill or training exercise.

Exercises that do include props, actors, simulations, or other tactics intended to mimic a school shooting or other act of violence or emergency may not be conducted on a regular school day and when school activities such as athletics are occurring on school grounds. In addition, such exercises cannot include students without written consent from parents or persons in parental relation.

The statute explicitly requires schools to conduct lock-down drills, which are essential, because they prepare students and staff to respond to the highest level of threat with the most urgent action and the least margin for error. The goal is to have schools conduct drills where they immediately clear hallways, lock doors and take positions out of sight to practice their ability to put the building into a protective posture as quickly as possible. These emergency measures allow time for responding law enforcement to arrive on scene and neutralize the threat. If possible, law enforcement should be involved in the drills to help prepare students and staff for their interactions and release from lock-down by uniformed officers. However, law enforcement involvement is not required by the new legislative mandate. Other protective actions such as lock-out or shelter in place are emergency actions that are usually preceded by some degree of warning time and do not require the immediate response necessary for a lock-down. While the school should be well versed in their lock-out and shelter in place protocols, lock-down is the only type of protective action that is specifically required by the statute.

Section III: Responding to Threats and Acts of Violence

The Minerva Central School District has policies and procedures for dissemination of informative materials regarding the early detection of potentially violent behaviors, including, but not limited to: the identification of family, community, and environmental factors to teachers, administrators, parents and other persons in parental relation to students of the school district or board, students and other persons

deemed appropriate to receive such information. The district has participated in programs such as: The Sweethearts and Heroes organization that addresses school climate, mental health and bullying through presentations and activity groups. The district additionally employs a staff psychologist, full time guidance director, full time special education teacher, and a full-time school health officer/teacher who are instrumental in assisting the district in identifying early warning signs in students, early Intervention/prevention strategies, and the development of the district's Workplace Violence Prevention Program.

The Minerva Central School District has adopted and implemented a Workplace Violence Prevention program in alignment with the expansion of Section 27-b of Labor Law to elementary and secondary public education facilities that was signed into law in September 2023. As such, the district has adopted a workplace violence policy, conducted a workplace risk evaluation, developed a written plan, training program and incident reporting process. The Workplace Violence Prevention program is intended to protect district employees.

Beyond the scope of the Workplace Violence Prevention program, the district refers to its Crisis Intervention Plan via the post-incident response team and the Multi-Hazard Emergency Response Guides located in the building plan. These are reviewed by the district-wide school safety team to ensure content and consistency throughout the district. These policies and procedures are for responding to implied or direct threats of violence by students, teachers, other school personnel including bus drivers and monitors, and visitors to the school, including threats by students against themselves, which includes suicide. The following types of procedures are addressed in the plan:

- Informing the Superintendent or designee of implied or direct threats.
- Determining the level of threat with the Superintendent and building-level emergency response team members.
- Contacting appropriate law enforcement agency, if necessary.
- Monitoring the situation, adjusting the district's responses as appropriate to include possible implementation of the building-level emergency response team.
- Communication with parent/guardian. When a student implies or specifically threatens self-inflicted violence including suicide, the principal of the school in which the student attends directly contacts the respective parents/guardians.

The Multi-Hazard Emergency Response Guides in the building plan provide guidance on the district's policies and procedures for responding to direct acts of violence (i.e., Crimes Against Persons, Hostage Taking, Intruder and Kidnapping) by students, teachers, other school personnel including bus drivers and monitors, and visitors to the school, including consideration of zero-tolerance policies for school violence. The following types of procedures are addressed in the plan:

- Inform the Superintendent/designee
- Determine the level of threat with the superintendent/designee and the building-level emergency response team.
- If the situation warrants, isolate the immediate area.
- Monitor the situation; adjust the level of response as appropriate; if necessary, initiate lockdown, evacuation, sheltering and/or early dismissal procedures as needed, if needed.
- Contact appropriate law enforcement agency.

NOTE: The Minerva City School District's "Code of Conduct" describes policies and procedures for responding to acts of violence by students, teachers, other school personnel and visitors to the school.

Response protocols are identified in the building plan in the ICS format along with definitions of ICS roles and responsibilities. The Multi-Hazard Emergency Response Guides address specific procedures for responding to bomb threat, intruders, hostage takings and kidnapping.

The following protocols for appropriate responses to emergencies are provided as examples of responses to bomb threats, hostage takings, intrusions and kidnappings:

- Identification of decision-makers.
- Plans to safeguard students and staff.
- Procedures to provide transportation, if necessary.
- Procedures to notify parents.
- Procedures to notify the media.
- Debriefing procedures

The district has established policies and procedures to contact parents, guardians or persons in parental relation to the students in the event of a violent incident or an early dismissal. In the Minerva Central School District, the following communication methods are used:

- A "ParentSquare" mass notification feature in its phone system, which automatically sends one message out to all staff and persons in parental relations, which would inform them of the event.
- A "ParentSquare" mass notification feature in its e-mail system that would send one message out to all staff and persons in parental relations.

Section IV: Communication with Others

Arrangements for obtaining advice and assistance from emergency organizations and local government officials, including the county or city officials responsible for implementation of Article 2-B of the Executive Law, are noted in the NYS/BOCES Communication Flow Chart.

If there is a disaster within the district that has the potential to impact other educational agencies within the district boundaries, the Chief Emergency Officer activates the phone and/or e-mail mass notification system.

Along with the above-noted notification procedures, the district also maintains the following information about each educational agency in the confidential building plan:

- School population
- Number of staff
- Transportation needs
- Business and home telephone numbers of key officials of each such educational agency

Section V: Prevention and Intervention Strategies

The district has developed policies and procedures related to school building security, including the use of a school resource officer, and security devices and procedures.

Pursuant to Alyssa's Law, the district has installed within the schools and administrative building silent panic alarms that directly alert authorities during emergencies.

The district has a contract with the Essex County Sheriff's Office to employ a School Resource Officer (SRO). The contract is attached as Appendix B.

The Minerva Central School District has implemented procedures for the dissemination of informative materials regarding the early detection of potentially violent behaviors, including, but not limited to: the identification of family, community and environmental factors to teachers, administrators, school personnel including bus drivers and monitors, persons in parental relations to students of the district, students and other persons deemed appropriate to receive such information.

Responding to Acts of Violence: Implied or Direct Threats

The Crisis Response Plan and Multi-Hazard Emergency Response Action Guidelines in each Building-Level Emergency Response Plan provides guidance on the districts policies and procedures for responding to implied or direct threats of violence by students (including to themselves), teachers, other school personnel and visitors to the school. The following types of procedure(s) are addressed in the plan, and could be used by the district:

- Contacting parents, guardians, or persons in a parental relation to a student in the event of an implied or direct threat of violence by a student against themselves, including threat of suicide.
- The use of staff trained in de-escalation or other strategies to diffuse the situation.
- Informing the Building Principal of implied or direct threat.
- Determining the level of threat with Superintendent/Designee.
- Contacting appropriate law enforcement agency, if necessary.
- Monitoring the situation, adjusting the district's response as appropriate, and include possible implementation of Emergency Response Team.
- Implement components of the Building Level Emergency Response Plan in an effort to protect the safety and wellbeing of students, staff and visitors.

Acts of Violence

Section F (Multi-Hazard Emergency Response Action Guidelines) in the Building-level Emergency Response Plan provides guidance on the districts policies and procedures for responding to direct acts of violence by students, teachers, other school personnel and visitors to the school. The following types of procedure(s) are addressed in the plan, and could be used by the district:

- Determine the level of threat with Superintendent/Designee.
- If the situation warrants, isolate the immediate area and evacuate if appropriate.
- Inform the Building Principal/Superintendent.
- If necessary, initiate lockdown procedure, and contact appropriate law enforcement agency.
- Monitor the situation; adjust the level of response as appropriate; if necessary, initiate early dismissal, lockout, sheltering, hold in place or evacuation procedures.

Note: The Minerva Central School District "Code of Conduct" describes policies and procedures for responding to acts of violence by students, teachers, other school personnel and visitors to the school.

Response Protocols

Section E (Incident Command System), Section F (Multi-Hazard Emergency Response Action Guidelines), Section H (Bomb Threats), and Section J (Emergency Security and Intruder Procedures) in the Building-level Emergency Response Plan provides guidance on the district's policies and procedures for responding to bomb threats, hostage takings, intrusions and kidnapping. The following protocols are provided as examples:

- Identification of decision-makers.
- Plans to safeguard students and staff.
- Procedures to provide transportation, if necessary.
- Procedures to notify parents.
- Procedures to notify the media.
- Debriefing procedures.

Arrangements for Obtaining Emergency Assistance from Local Government

Section D (Emergency Communications) in the Building-level Emergency Response Plan provides guidance for obtaining assistance during emergencies from emergency services organizations and local government agencies. The following examples are the types of arrangements that could be used by the district:

- The superintendent or his or her designee in an emergency will contact the regional emergency dispatch center by calling 911. The dispatcher will determine the appropriate services needed by the school.
- The dispatcher will contact Matt Watts, Director of Essex County Disaster Preparedness. Mr. Watts will coordinate assistance with Federal/State or Local Government agencies for needed assistance.
- The superintendent or his or her designee contacts the highest-ranking official from the Town of Minerva to provide notification and/or request assistance.

Procedures for Obtaining Advice and Assistance from Local Government Officials

The district will utilize procedures outlined in Section D (Emergency Communications) and Section E (National Incident Management System and Incident Command System) in the Building-level Emergency Response Plan for obtaining advice and assistance from local government officials including the county or city officials responsible for implementation of Article 2-B of the Executive Law. The types of procedures for obtaining advice and assistance from local governments during countywide emergencies could include the following:

- Superintendent/Designee in an emergency will contact emergency management coordinator and/or the highest-ranking local government official for obtaining advice and assistance.
- The district has identified resources for an emergency from the following agencies: County Civil Defense Office, Adirondack Chapter of the American Red Cross, Essex County Emergency Services Office, New York State Police, Essex County Public Health Department, Essex County Sheriff's Department, and Capital Region BOCES Health Safety Risk Management Services

District Resources Available for Use in an Emergency

- Section N (District & Building Resources and Supply Inventory) in the Building-level Emergency Response Plan identifies the district resources, which may be available during an emergency, which could include the identification of resources, such as available facilities, blankets, cots, food supply, communications equipment, fire extinguishers, first aid supplies, flashlights, bull horn, district vehicles and buses.

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

- Section E (Incident Command System) and Sections Q (Emergency Medical Resource Personnel) in the Building-level Emergency Response Plan provide a description of the district's procedures to coordinate the use of resources and manpower during emergencies. These sections include the identification of the officials authorized to make decisions and the staff members assigned to provide assistance during emergencies.

Protective Action Options

- Section G (Emergency Evacuation Procedures), Section K (Emergency Sheltering Procedures), Section L (School Cancellation and Early Dismissal Procedures) in the Building-level Emergency Response Plan describes the following actions in response to an emergency where appropriate: school cancellation prior to the start of school, early dismissal, evacuation before, during and after school hours, and sheltering procedures.

Section VI: Recovery

District Support for Buildings

- Section C (Crisis Response Plan) and Section E (Incident Command System) in the Building-level Emergency Response Plan provides resources for supporting the Emergency Response Team and Post-Incident Response Team at Minerva Central School. The district's Incident Command System Plan identifies alternates to relieve team members, and interfaces with the Crisis Response Plan to provide team members the opportunity to debrief and rehab in a controlled environment. Additionally, members of the Post-Incident Response Team will be provided with sufficient manpower to allow the rotation of personnel, and the opportunity to debrief and rehab in a controlled environment.

Disaster Mental Health Services

- The Administrative branch of the Post-Incident Response Team (Crisis Response Team) will work through the School Psychologist, Social Worker and Guidance Director, and School Health Officer to coordinate disaster mental health resources through the County Mental Health Department, community resources, neighboring school districts, and other disaster mental health resources to fully support members of the crisis response team.
- A debriefing of the Post-Incident Response Team is an essential part of the recovery phase following an emergency incident. The debriefing will be used in part to evaluate the district's plan for possible revisions.

Section V: Remote Instruction

Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, all public schools, boards of cooperative educational services (BOCES), and county vocational education and extension boards must include plans for remote instruction. The emergency remote instruction plan details how a school or district will provide education to students during times of closure due to an emergency. The Minerva Central School District Emergency Remote Instruction Plan describes the ways in which continues education will be provided through the availability of devices, internet access, provision of special education and related services for students and students with disabilities, as well as the expectations for the length of time spent in

remote learning situations. The remote instruction plan will be reviewed annually by district and building-level emergency response teams, adopted annually by the Board of Education and submitted to the New York State Education Department.

The Emergency Remote Instruction Plan can be found in Appendix

