

Health & Safety – Latest Rules and Regs

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10-7-2025
Josh Reiss
Richard Shaw

Lead In Drinking Water (LIDW)

Deadline for initial sampling December 31, 2025

Completed every 3 years. Next sampling window January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2028

When lab results are received:



1 Business Day

Results exceeding the action level shall be reported to Local Health Department



10 business Days

Results exceeding the action level shall be reported to staff, parents, and guardians



10 business Days

All test results and applicable information reported to the NYSDOH Health Commerce System

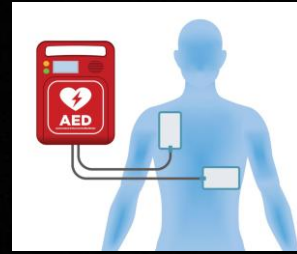


6 Weeks

All test results and applicable information placed on the school's website

https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/lead/lead_testing_of_school_drinking_water.htm

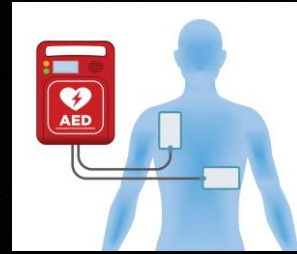
Desha's Law (S.5539A/A.785A)



Mandatory Cardiac Emergency Response Plans (CERPs)

- The use of appropriate personnel to respond to incidents involving any individual experiencing sudden cardiac arrest or similar life-threatening emergency on any school site owned or operated by a school or at a location of a school sponsored event, including but not limited to all athletic programs.
- Specific procedures for incidents involving an individual experiencing sudden cardiac arrest or a similar life-threatening emergency while attending or participating in an athletic practice or event while on school grounds that are venue specific.
- Integration of nationally recognized, evidence-based core elements, such as those recommended by the American Heart Association.
- Consideration of how to best integrate cardiac emergency response plans into community Emergency Medical Services (EMS) responder protocols.
- [Template plan](#)

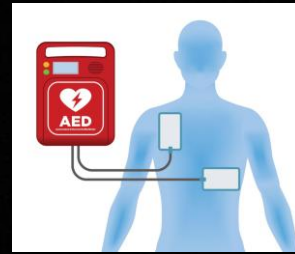
Desha's Law (S.5539A/A.785A)



What did not change:

- Schools must have sufficient AEDs
- At least One staff member shall be trained in CPR/AED and be present at all approved school activities/including after school events, extra curricular activities and interscholastic sports
- School should have a collaborative agreement with an emergency health care provider
- Training shall be provided by a nationally recognized approved agency
- Appropriate maintenance and testing on all AED devices
- Post signage at the main entrance to school indicating locations of AEDs
- Notification to EMS Regional Council of the location and types of AEDs (PAD Plans)
- Reporting of AED use to Regional EMS Council

Desha's Law (S.5539A/A.785A)



Date/deadline	Required Action
Sept. 1, 2025	Policies and Procedures for response to sudden Cardiac Arrest be included in Building Emergency Response Plans
Oct 1, 2025	Deadline for Building and District Level Emergency Response Plans submitted in NYSED Portal. (Building level plans MUST have a Sudden Cardiac Arrest Annex)
October 1, 2025	Post URL for District Wide Safety Plan
At Least 30 days prior to Jan 20, 2025	Hold Public Hearing on Amended District Wide Safety Plan to include Sudden Cardiac Arrest Language
Jan 20, 2026	AED Equipment, Maintenance and signage, and school safety training regarding cardiac emergency response plans in DISTRICT -Wide Safety Plans
Jan 20, 2026	School Safety training for students and staff must include training in sudden cardiac arrest
Jan. 20, 2026	District wide Safety team MAY provide Voluntary first aid, CPR/AED training to school staff, including members of the Building Level Response team
Jan 20, 2026	Post Updated URL for District Wide Safety Plan

Bell to Bell Cell Phone Ban

What is your district or BOCES doing?

If collecting phones, how is that done?

Are there discussions about RFID Paint?

What are your challenges?

https://youtu.be/_ER1Hpnf5o4?si=2O6lF_QhsxYH4ck8



Coaches First Aid Training Requirement is eased

Effective July 30, 2025, Commissioner's Regulation 135.5 eliminated NYSED approved courses.

First aid courses now shall be from a nationally recognized organization, (e.g., American Red Cross, American Heart Association, NSC, etc.).

Each district's board of education is responsible for ensuring that each coach holds individual, verifiable certification that meets the standards required in regulation.

Staff members with current NYSED course certification is valid for the duration of the certification period. When they are due for re-certification, they will need to take a nationally recognized basic or standard first aid course.



Building-Level Emergency Response Plan (BLERP)

Changes are relatively minor. Adjustments in the instruction's sections for each topic mainly to clarify certain requirements.

The biggest changes are,

- Lockout is now Secure Lockout
- ICS team added for after school activities
- Emergency response teams for after school events
- Functional Annexes reworded to include new terms and more descriptions
- More details on the communications aspect as well as reunification
- Added a transportation annex (optional for this school year)



Building-Level Emergency Response Plan (BLERP)

Transportation Annex - Required in 2026-27

Purpose

The purpose of this annex is to ensure that procedures are in place to manage transportation resources to safely and efficiently transport students and staff during school incidents and emergencies. This annex applies to all transportation-related activities during an incident/emergency involving school buses, school-owned vehicles, and contracted transportation services. It includes transportation during school hours, extracurricular activities, and school-sponsored events.



Drills

- **Evacuation Drills:** At least 8 are required, with 4 of those utilizing fire escapes or secondary means of egress if available.
- **Lockdown Drills:** At least 4 are required.
- **Timing:** At least 8 drills, including 6 evacuation drills and 2 lockdown drills, must be completed by December 31st.
- **Early Dismissal:** At least one early dismissal drill conducted annually
- **Summer School:** Schools with summer school must conduct at least 2 drills during the summer session, one within the first week.
- **Additional Drills:**
 - 3 Bus safety drills
 - Schools with residential accommodations must conduct at least 4 evacuation drills after sunset and before sunrise.



Drills

- Drills shall occur after annual training in emergency procedures has been provided to students and staff
- Drills and training shall be conducted in a trauma-informed, developmentally and age-appropriate manner (no weapons, simulations, etc.)
- Drills shall be completed on different days of the week and during different times of the school day. [NYSED Memo June 11, 2024](#)
- New Reporting Requirement
- When a school building is closed due to the activation of a building-level emergency response plan, the school superintendent must provide timely notification to the BOCES district superintendent.



Drill Notification

- **Timing:** Must provide notice at least one day, but no more than seven days, before conducting a drill.
- **Content:** The notification should include the type of drill (e.g., evacuation, lockdown) and a general timeframe for when the drill will occur. However, the exact date and time of the drill should not be announced in advance.
- **Method:** The specific procedures for notification should be documented in the district-wide school safety plan. Common methods include email, text alerts, and potentially district websites, though posting specific drill dates on websites is not recommended. Some districts use platforms like ParentSquare for communication.

In addition to notification before a drill, it's also important to remember:

- **Announcement During Drills:** Students and staff must be informed that the activity is a drill when it occurs. For example, a lockdown drill might be announced as, "This is a drill. Lockdown, Lockdown, Lockdown. This is a drill".
- **Evacuation Drills:** Evacuation drills are an exception and may not be announced as drills due to NYS Fire Code requirements and the potential for alarms to obscure announcements.

Building Maps in BLERP Shall Now Include

- School name and address
- Key to define any symbols used
- Compass indicating North
- Windows, interior doors, room numbers
- Common areas and administrative offices labeled by use
- Labels indicating building entrances/exits with alphabetic or numeric identifiers assigned (e.g. “Door A” or “Entrance 2”)
- Location of water, gas and electrical shutoffs
- Location of fire alarm panels, fire sprinkler control valves, and if applicable fire department key boxes
- Location of emergency and security equipment
- Locations or emergency supplies or “go kits”



Site Maps in BLERP Shall Now Include

- The school name and address
- A key to define any symbols used
- A compass indicating North
- Labeled buildings, outbuildings, fields, parking lots
- Building entrances/exits with alphabetic or numeric identifiers assigned (e.g. “Door A” or “Entrance 2”);
- Parking area and property entrances/exits
- Designated fire lanes and fire apparatus access roads, evacuation routes
- Street names
- Emergency response areas to include the reunification areas
- Hazardous material location





Six Teams Every School Needs

(As needed, any team members may be on more than one team)

Required by Education Law 2801-a and Commissioner's Regulation 155.17

1. **District-Wide School Safety Team**
2. **Building-Level Emergency Response Planning Team** (think of this as the building-level safety team)
 1. **Emergency Response Team** (could be considered a crisis team)
 2. **Post-Incident Response Team** (could be considered a crisis team)

Required by Commissioner's Regulation 155.5

1. **Health and Safety Committee**

Recommended by Safety and Risk Management:

1. **Threat Assessment Team** (may soon be required)



Six Teams Every School Needs

1. District-Wide School Safety Team

- A. In single building districts this team will be very similar to the building-level emergency response planning team
- B. Maintains the District-wide school safety plan
- C. Holds regular meetings (recommended quarterly) to discuss district-wide concerns;
 - i. codes of conduct
 - ii. visitor policies
 - iii. MOUs with outside agencies/evacuation sites
 - iv. safety training for staff & students
 - v. anonymous reporting mechanisms
 - vi. policies for contacting law enforcement & parents
 - vii. transportation safety
 - viii. remote learning plan





District-Wide School Safety Team

Required Members:

- **Board Representatives:** Members of the school board according to the New York State School Boards Association.
 - **Teachers:** Representatives from the teaching staff.
 - **Administrators:** School administrators.
 - **Parents:** Representatives from the parent organizations.
 - **School Safety Personnel:** Individuals involved in school safety, such as security staff or school resource officers.
 - **Other School Personnel:** Other staff members who can contribute to the team's work.
- Optional Student Member:** A student representative can be included but is not mandatory.

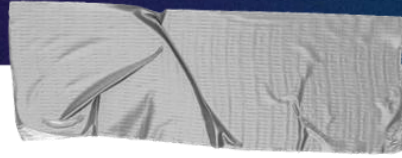


Six Teams Every School Needs

2. **Building-Level Emergency Response Planning Team** (think of this as the building-level safety team)

- A. One team for each instructional building
- B. Appoints the emergency response team and post-incident response team
- C. Maintains the building safety plan
- D. Holds regular meetings (recommended monthly) to discuss building-level safety concerns;
 - i. building safety & security
 - ii. conducting required drills
 - iii. internal & external communication during emergencies
 - iv. after hours building use
 - v. etc.





Building-Level Emergency Response Planning Team

This team includes:

- Teachers
- Administrators
- Bus drivers and monitors
- Parents
- School safety personnel
- Other school staff
- Community members
- Local law enforcement
- Fire officials, and
- Other emergency response agencies

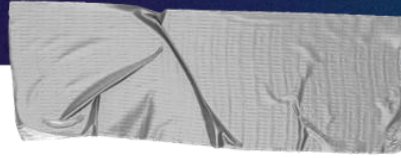


Six Teams Every School Needs

3. **Building-Level Emergency Response Team** (could be considered a crisis team)

- A. Responds during an emergency
- B. Uses the incident command system
- C. Coordinates with responding agencies





Building-Level Emergency Response Team

This team includes:

- Teachers
- Administrators
- Parents
- School safety personnel
- Other school staff (like bus drivers)
- Community members and
- Local emergency responders



Six Teams Every School Needs

4. **Post-Incident Response Team** (could be considered a crisis team)
 - A. Address the results of an emergency or crisis
 - i. medical staff
 - ii. mental health staff
 - iii. business official as needed
 - iv. other appropriate school staff



Six Teams Every School Needs

5. Health and Safety Committee

- A. Address health and safety concerns in occupied buildings.
- B. Monitor safety during construction or maintenance activities,
- C. Maintain schedules and initiate content for required notifications,
- D. Have scheduled public meetings,
- E. Investigation and disposition of health and safety complaints,
- F. Pesticide Designee per the Neighbor Notification Law,
- G. Asbestos Designee under AHERA.





Health & Safety Committee

The committee includes representatives from various stakeholder groups:

- Parents
- Union members
- School administrators.
- A/E and contractors during construction projects



Six Teams Every School Needs

6. Threat Assessment Team (may soon be required)**

- A. Evaluates actual or perceived threats
- B. Behavioral assessments
- C. Conducts investigations;
 - a. interviews
 - b. social media research
 - c. other digital means
- D. Directs responses accordingly
- E. Involves law enforcement as needed
- F. Works with County threat assessment team as needed

**Where this team exists, information regarding it is required (by 155.17) to be included in the district-wide school safety plan.





Threat Assessment Team

Teams usually include:

- School Safety and Security Coordinator
- School administrator
- School psychologist, and
- School Resource Officer

Other relevant staff like counselors, teachers, and social workers may also be included.



Threat Assessment

- Who is your district/building contact for reporting threats?
- How serious is the threat?
- What do you know about the person making the threat?
- Does this person have a plan?
- Do they have the means to carry out the threat?
- Law enforcement may have information you are not aware of

There are many threat assessment models available.

Two options are:

- DHS National Threat Evaluation and Reporting (NTERC)
- Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines (CSTAG)

The Pathway to Violence



Workplace Violence

- Annual review of risk factors - include after school events
- Annual review of incidents
- Where is your policy statement posted and to how do you obtain a copy of your workplace violence program?
- How do you report incidents of workplace violence
 - With your employer
 - With Department of Labor



Mandated Reporter - Again!

All mandated reporters must complete a new updated training, which adds guidance on identifying an abused or maltreated child when such child is an individual with an intellectual or developmental disability, **by November 17, 2026**.

15-Minute Addendum Update:

- Several providers are offering an Addendum for those who completed the April 2025 update.
- Addendum must be completed with the same provider used to complete the first update, using the same email address.
- Must have completed the first updated workshop in order to qualify for the 15-minute additional training.

All NYS approved providers were required to offer the second updated workshop starting on September 1, 2025.

All educators that did not complete the first updated training must take the entire second updated workshop (for a total of two hours in length)

New 2025 Building Codes

In effect December 31, 2025.

Some anticipated changes are,

- Carbon monoxide alarm requirements expanded
- Increased energy code requirements - especially for climate zone 6
- 8 NYS Counties changed from climate zone 6 to zone 5 (warmer)
- Additional ADA requirements updated to ICC A117.1 2017, including accessibility provisions for EV chargers



Have a great Conference!

