

FOUR PHASES OF EMERGENCY PLANNING

Rochester Public School's Emergency and Crisis Plans account for all likely hazards and reflect the 4 phases of emergency planning:

PREVENTION: the district addresses the safety and integrity of facilities (building structure), security (controlled access to school), and the culture and climate of schools (student intervention and discipline) through policy and curriculum.

PREPAREDNESS: this is the process of developing a comprehensive approach to addressing school safety focusing on prevention, intervention, response, and recovery. Each school site updates their crisis management plan on an annual basis and reviews this periodically. The District fully complies with the state laws that require schools to annually practice crisis drills such as lockdowns, fire drills, and tornado drills.

RESPONSE: the district is prepared to utilize a variety of procedures during a crisis. For example, evacuation (leaving the building when outside conditions are safe), lockdown (to protect occupants from potential dangers in the building), soft-lock-down (used when an incident is occurring in the neighborhood and off of school property but requires police or fire responders, or incidents such as medical emergencies of students or staff. Teaching and learning still occur but passing between halls and guests entering the building may be halted).

RECOVERY: this is about restoring the learning environment and infrastructure of the school as quickly as possible. The four components within RPS's recovery plan include emotional, academic, physical or structural, and business or fiscal needs.