

The District recognizes the need for careful planning before a crisis occurs, utilizing available resources, and efficiently working with community agencies in a preplanned procedure to resolve or intervene in a crisis situation.

A goal of the District is to protect the safety and well-being of students, faculty, and community members in any crisis which might occur in the District.

The term crisis means a situation which is unusual or abnormal, and in which circumstances are such that the individual(s) involved is/are highly stressed and in need of assistance. A crisis may consist of elements of surprise, insufficient information, escalating flow of events, loss of control, intense scrutiny by the news media and the public, a siege mentality, and/or a short-term focus. Generally, there is no time to plan how to respond.

Crisis may include, but not be limited to: natural disasters, hazardous material spills, national or regional emergencies, bomb threats, fires, kidnapping, threats of violence against student(s) or employee(s), and death or injury of a student or employee by accident, illness, or suicide.

A District-wide team may provide assistance to building administration, faculty, and students in the event of a crisis situation in both St. Maries Joint School District No. 41 as well as other school districts. The declaration of a crisis situation and request for team assistance will be determined by the building principal and superintendent. A District team will be trained and will follow a planned procedure in dealing with other agencies, the news media, emergency services, and community members.

The team will be comprised of members specifically trained in crisis response. Other trained members of the community may also be included as determined by the team leader. Other members may include a parent(s), family services worker/mental health professional, physician, or private practitioner. Members will be chosen on the basis of their training and ability to respond effectively in a crisis situation.

The team will develop, and periodically review and revise, a crisis intervention framework for responding to a variety of crisis situations.

**Policy Cross Reference:**

**Legal Reference:**

**Policy History:**

Reviewed: 03/13/2006  
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