

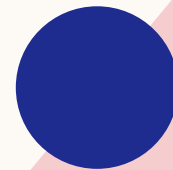
SAFETY DRILLS IN RHODE ISLAND SCHOOLS

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GUIDEPOSTS

Promote Safety

Do No Harm



EVACUATION AND LOCKDOWN

Everyone agrees we need to keep our state's children as safe as possible at school. There is little disagreement that fire drills and lockdown / "active shooter" drills are an essential part of the task. However, since the country has experienced a massive escalation in violence in schools there has been a lot of attention focused on the type and frequency of drills typically involving the entire school. In Rhode Island, our public schools are mandated to conduct entire school drills at least once a month.

PRIMARY GOALS

SAFETY

- Teachers and staff learn the procedures and expectations of the drill
- Focus on adults
- Focus on facilities
- Students learn where to go and to follow directions

LIMIT STUDENT TRAUMA

- Limit the sensory input
- Limit the sense of threat
- Allow for opt out
- Identify those at risk
- Train teachers and staff to identify those potentially harmed
- Provide opportunities for communication before and after drills

BEST PRACTICES

- Best Practice Considerations for Armed Assailants Drills in Schools
National Association of School Psychologists (NASP)
April 2020
- Participation of Children and Adolescents in Live Crisis Drills and Exercises
American Academy of Pediatrics Policy Statement
September 1, 2020

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Limit the frequency of all school drills.
2. Match intensity and demand on the students to their developmental level and age
3. Provide an opt out mechanism for those at risk
4. Involve school mental health staff in the planning and execution of all drills
5. Don't forget the low hanging fruit – building safety – lock doors, label exits, coordinate with fire and law enforcement

THANK YOU

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