

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Mayor, City of Baltimore

Neil E. Duke, Esq.
Chair, Baltimore City Board of
School Commissioners

Andrés A. Alonso, Ed.D.
Chief Executive Officer

May 16, 2013

The Honorable Bernard C. "Jack" Young
President, Baltimore City Council
City Hall, Room 400
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

RE: Informational Hearing
City Council Bill (Resolution) 13-0110R

Dear Council President Young:

On May 1, 2013, the Baltimore City Council introduced the above-captioned resolution, regarding emergency preparedness and safety in our schools and communities in the wake of the recent Newtown and Boston tragedies.

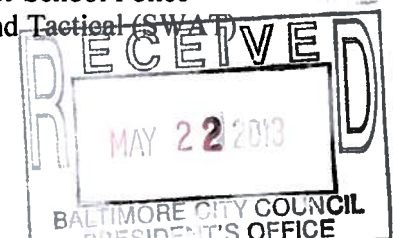
In 2007, City Schools developed the Critical Response and School Emergency Management Guide, a planning model that provides a focus on an "all hazards approach" for incident management and emergency prevention, preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation programs and activities. The Guide is a "standard and consistent" model required for all schools, and is consistent with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) guidelines. **The Guide has been and continues to be reviewed annually for improvements, updates, and ease of use for school administrators.**

Central Office maintains an electronic database providing quick access for the receipt and review of each school's site-based specific safety plan. The plan reflects each school's unique characteristics, population, students/adults needing special assistance, re-unification procedures, building and community "hazard assessments," and identifies areas of emergency utility cut-off systems.

Since the incidents at Newtown and Boston, City Schools has instituted the following security measures:

- Required Central Office teams to visit all schools and meet with principals regarding their school's emergency safety plan.
- Required all principals to practice two drills during the month of January 2013, to include the lock-down drill and one other universal response drill activity. Schools are mandated to conduct two drills during the first two weeks at the start of the school year and one drill per month during the school year.
- Scheduled "active shooter" classroom and practice training for School Police personnel with the Baltimore City Police Special Weapons and Tactical (SWAT) unit.

**GREAT KIDS
GREAT SCHOOLS**



Comments

In addition, City Schools implement the following security measures for SY 2013-14:

- Compared emergency safety plans with other school districts – assessed components for inclusion or improvements to existing local plan.
- Incorporated school opening procedures to include security inspections in all schools and grounds.
- Required School Police to initiate 5 of the 10 required school drills and evacuations.

School safety has been and will continue to be a top priority for City Schools. We are making a concerted effort to ensure that schools take a much broader view of their role in terms of critical emergencies, in order to be prepared to act accordingly. We believe that effective school safety planning should be proactive, and developed in collaboration with school staff, students, and community partners.

City Schools will gladly testify regarding this critical issue. Thank you for inviting us to participate in this process.

Sincerely,



Andrés A. Alonso, Ed.D.
Chief Executive Officer

C: Dawana Sterrette, Legislative Liaison
Alice Watson, Department of Health and Safety
Marshall T. Goodwin, Chief of School Police
Karen Webber, Executive Director – Student Support and Safety

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