
CRITICAL INCIDENT RESPONSE

- POLICY -

The Board of Education recognizes that students, teachers, and staff may experience the stress and emotional trauma that can be connected to a critical incident. A critical incident is an event such as a sudden death, a violent act, or a suicide which has a traumatizing impact on the school, parents and/or community to such an extent that the school's mandate of education cannot be successfully fulfilled at that point in time.

To meet the needs of the school community during such critical incidents, the Board of Education supports and authorizes the establishment of a Critical Incident Response Team to assist both students and staff with the emotional, physical and cognitive reactions to such incidents.

- REGULATIONS -

1. The Critical Incident Response Team will be organized, supervised and dispatched by the Assistant Superintendent in consultation with the Superintendent of Schools and the school principal.
2. The Critical Incidence Response Team will be comprised of both District level staff and school-based personnel who have advanced training in counselling or critical incidents response. The District staff will include the Assistant Superintendent or designate and the Elementary School Counsellor. Other trained people from schools and community agencies may be contacted as necessary.
3. When a critical incident occurs, the Superintendent of Schools must be informed immediately. The Superintendent will then inform the Principal and the Assistant Superintendent. School principals and vice-principals and other supervisory personnel are then directed to follow the steps outlined in the Critical Incident Response Manual. It is the responsibility of the school principal to review the manual with the school staff at the beginning of each year.
4. The Critical Incident Response Manual will be evaluated annually and modified as necessary.

5. The Board shall endeavour to provide in-service to members of the Team to update skills and competencies in responding to critical incidents.