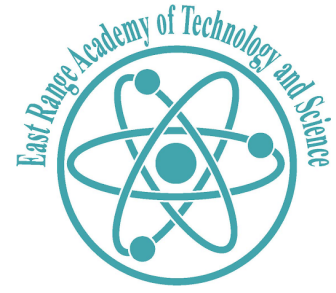


Board Policy
528



School Safety Drills

Adopted: 8-14-2023

I. PURPOSE

Student and staff safety is our top priority. East Range Academy reviews safety and security procedures regularly and follows consistent systems to ensure our staff members are prepared to handle crisis situations and provide students with support. Our staff members are trained in our procedures and students to participate in specific emergency drills throughout the year: five fire drills, one tornado drill, and five lockdown drills.

II. FIRE DRILLS

In order to assure the safety of our students, five fire drills are held throughout the year. When the fire alarm sounds, the students and staff leave the building in a quiet, orderly fashion using the nearest exit. Exit diagrams are posted on every classroom door. In the event of a fire, families would be notified and students would be picked up at designated evacuation sites.

III. TORNADO DRILLS

One tornado drill is held in the spring to coordinate with the Statewide Tornado Drill Day. Students will report to a designated safe area free of potentially falling debris, and practice crouching in a protective position.

IV. LOCKDOWN AND ACTIVE SHOOTER DRILLS

A. Definition

“Active shooter drill” means an emergency preparedness drill designed to teach students, teachers, school personnel, and staff how to respond in the event of an armed intruder on campus or an armed assailant in the immediate vicinity of the school.

An active shooter drill is not a “simulation” and may **not** include any sensorial components, activities, or elements which mimic a real-life shooting.

B. Drill Guidelines

Active shooter drills must be:

- Accessible, developmentally appropriate and age appropriate, including using appropriate safety language and vocabulary

- culturally aware
- trauma-informed
- inclusive of accommodations for students with mobility restrictions, sensory needs, developmental or physical disabilities, mental health needs, and auditory or visual limitations.

Students are **prohibited** from participating in an active shooter drill if it does not meet these criteria.

ERATS will annually provide at least one hour or class period of evidence-based violence prevention training (in-person, virtually, or digitally). ERATS currently uses the ALICE system: Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate.

Drill procedures must include time for teachers to debrief with their students.

Active shooter drills must not be combined or conducted at the same time as any other type of emergency preparedness drill.

C. Notification

An announcement of upcoming training **must be made prior to** the training.

Schools **must provide notice** of a pending active shooter drill, and the **right to opt a student out** of participating, to every student's parent or legal guardian before the drill is conducted. Alternative safety education must be provided to opted-out students.

D. Feedback and Analysis

Students must have the opportunity to contribute to the school's safety and violence prevention planning.

The ERATS School Board must consider at a regularly scheduled board meeting the effect of the drills on safety, and mental health and wellness of students and staff.

E. Active Shooter Simulations

An "active shooter simulation" is an emergency exercise designed to teach adult school personnel and staff how to respond in the event of an armed intruder on campus or an armed assailant in the immediate vicinity of the school; these exercises incorporate sensorial components, activities, or elements **mimicking a real-life shooting** including, but not limited to, simulation of tactical response by law enforcement.

An active shooter *simulation* is **not** an active shooter *drill*.

Students must **not** be required to participate in active shooter simulations. Simulations must **not** take place during regular school hours if a majority of students are or are expected to be present at the school. A student's parent or legal guardian must have the opportunity to **opt into** participating in a simulation.