



Green Tech High Charter School  
District-Wide Safety Plan  
2020-21  
School Year

## **Introduction**

Emergencies and violent incidents in school districts are critical issues that must be addressed in an expeditious and effective manner. New York State school districts are required to develop a district-wide school safety plan designed to prevent or minimize the effects of serious violent incidents and emergencies and to facilitate the coordination of the district with local and county resources in the event of such incidents and emergencies. The district-wide plan is responsive to the needs of the district and is consistent with the more detailed emergency response plans that are required at the school building level. District face risks from a wide variety of acts of violence, natural, and manmade disasters. To address these threats, New York State has enacted the Safe Schools Against Violence in Education (SAVE) law. Project SAVE is a comprehensive planning effort that addresses prevention, response, and recovery in respect to a variety of emergencies in each school district and its schools. Enacted into law in 2001, Project SAVE (also known as Education Law 2801-a) is fully supported by Green Tech High Charter School. The Superintendent/Principal for GTH, and the School Board of GTH, encourages and advocates on-going district-wide cooperation and support of Project SAVE.

New York State Education Law § 2801-a, as well as Education Law Section 807, (as Chapter 54 of the Laws of 2016, have both been amended as of July 1, 2016. This plan addresses Commissioner's Regulations 155.17(b)(13), as well as 155.17(c)(1)(i-xix), as prescribed by law.

## **Section I: General Considerations and Planning Guidelines**

### **A. Purpose**

Green Tech High Charter School's District-Wide Safety Plan was developed pursuant to Commissioner's Regulation § 155.17, New York State Education Law § 2801-a, and Education Law Section 807. At the direction of the GTH, the Superintendent of the school is tasked with the formation of a District-Wide School Safety Team and one of the charges of the District-Wide Team is the development and maintenance of the District-Wide Safety Plan and the Building-Level Safety Plans.

**As required in New York State Education Law § 2801-a, GTH will designate Superintendent Paul Miller as its Chief Emergency Officer for the 2020-2021 school year.**

### **B. Identification of School Teams**

GTH has a District Emergency Response Team comprised of Albany Police Commander, School Board member, Gth admin team members, A Teacher and a Parent and other members of various Building Level Safety Teams. The initial response at GTH will be by the Building Level Emergency Response Team, which may differ slightly from the Safety Team.

### **C. Concept of Operations**

The District-Wide School Safety Plan is directly linked to the individual Building-Level Emergency Response Plans for Green Tech High Charter School. The protocols listed in the District-Wide School Safety Plan will be used to guide the development and implementation of the individual Building Level Emergency Response Plans.

The development of the District-Wide School Safety Plan is a continuous and collaborative effort that includes an Albany police commander, school board member, GTH admin team members, a teacher, a parent and other members of the Building Level Safety Team.

The Superintendent of Schools has designated himself as the Chief Emergency Officer for the 2019-20 school year. The Chief Emergency Officer (or designee) is responsible for coordinating communication between staff and law enforcement and first responders and for ensuring the staff's understanding of the district-level safety plan. The Chief Emergency Officer (or designee) shall be responsible for ensuring complete and yearly update of the building-level emergency response plans.

In the event of an emergency or violent incident, the initial response to all emergencies at an individual school will be by the Building-Level Emergency Response Team. Green Tech School District consists of the following facilities:

- Green Tech High Charter School ( 99 Slingerland St Albany NY 12202)
- Albany Community Charter School (42 S Dove Albany NY 12202) (Strictly used as an Evacuation Site.)

All staff members in the District will be trained on the Building Level Safety Plans during the first days of work in late August or early September, at the District's first professional development day. If a staff member is hired after that date, they will be trained within 30 days of their hire date. All information pertaining to an emergency or violent incident will be directed to either the Building Principal/Designee or the District Emergency Response Team.

Upon the activation of the Building Level Emergency Response Team, the Superintendent of Schools (Principal) or his/her designee and District Emergency Response Team will be notified.

When appropriate, local emergency officials will be notified by calling 9-1-1.

Town/Village, County, and State resources through existing established protocols may supplement the emergency response efforts.

#### **D. Plan Review and Public Comment**

This plan shall be reviewed and maintained by the District and Building Level Emergency Response teams on an annual basis. When significant changes are made, pursuant to Commissioner's Regulation 155.17(e)(3), this plan will be made available for thirty (30) days prior to adoption. The district-wide and building-level plans may be adopted by the Board of Education only after at least one public hearing that provides for the participation of school personnel, parents/guardians, students, and any other interested parties. This plan must be formally adopted by the Board of Education.

***While linked to the District-Wide Safety Plan, the Building-Level Safety Plans shall be deemed confidential and shall not be subject to disclosure under Article 6 of the Public Officers Law or***

*any other provision of law, in accordance with Education Law, Section 2801-a.*

Full copies of the District-Wide Safety Plan and Amendments must be submitted to the New York State Education Department upon adoption by the School Board.

## **Section II: Risk Reduction / Prevention and Intervention**

### **A. Prevention / Intervention Strategies**

#### ***Program Initiatives***

GTH has offered programs and activities for improving communications among students and staff in order to report potentially violent incidents, such as:

- Athletic Programs (soccer club, basketball inter-mural and 3 HS level teams, football, baseball, and Track )

- Safe School Helpline® training for all staff, students and Administrators

- Utilization of the Safe Schools Helpline for reporting potential violent incidents

The New York State School Safety Guide (2013, with 2015 revision)

- Dignity For All Students (DASA) training

- A School Resource Officer provided by Albany city is stationed near Green Tech High Charter School.

- The Guidance Departments and school Social Workers work with students.

#### ***Training, Drills, and Exercises***

GTH has developed policies and procedures for annual multi-hazard school safety training for staff and students, including the strategies for implementing training related to multi-hazard incidents. All drills required by the New York State Education Department are satisfied annually. The district has established the following procedures for annual multi-hazard school safety training for staff and students:

- The District will submit certification to the New York State Education Department that all school staff has undergone annual training on the emergency response plan, and that the school safety training includes components on violence prevention and mental health.

New employees hired after the start of the school year will receive training within thirty (30) days of hire. The School will certify that all school staff receives this training by September 15<sup>th</sup> of each year, or within thirty (30) days of hire, whichever is sooner.

- Full participation in the Annual Early Dismissal – Go Home Evacuation Drill.

- Full participation in eight (8) Fire Drills annually.

- Full participation in four (4) Lockdown Drills annually.

- Full participation in two (2) Shelter-In-Place Drills annually.

- Full participation in two (2) Lockout Drills annually.

- Full participation (when time permits) for an Evacuation / Accountability Drill.

- The Transportation Department conducts three (3) bus drills annually.

- The District-Wide Safety Committee meets four (4) times a year to discuss school safety.

- Building-Level Safety Teams meet to discuss school safety and school climate.

- The District's Schools will conduct drills with input from local law enforcement, local fire departments, and local EMS agencies.

Note: Following each drill, there will be a debriefing to discuss the exercises and determine if changes need to be made to the emergency response plan. Notes will be taken to assist with the evaluation process.

### ***Implementation of School Security***

GTH has developed policies and procedures related to school building security, including the following:

- All schools have a locked single point of entry through which employees and visitors enter.
- All staff must have photo ID badges while in school buildings.
- All visitors must sign-in and put on a visitor sticker before entering school.
- Security cameras monitor school entrances and surrounding areas.
- A police officer from the Albany Police Department serves as the School Resource Officer every day at GTH. He may also report to other duties as needed.
- All employees must be fingerprinted and pass a thorough background check before starting work in the District.
- Students must adhere to the School's Code of Conduct, which contains information on the range of consequences that may be imposed if students misbehave. This information is reviewed with students each year during the opening weeks of school.
- Safety training is provided annually.
- An annual safety audit will be conducted with the Districtwide Safety Coordinator and Building Administration

**Note: Policies and procedures are continually being evaluated and shaped by real-life experiences. The District-Level and Building-Level plans will continue to evolve as such.**

### ***Vital Education Agency Information***

GTH School District consists of one(1) education facility.

## **B. Hazard Identification**

The identification of sites of potential emergencies are located in on page 7 of the Building-Level Safety Plans.

## **Section III: Response**

### **A. Notification and Activation of Internal and External Communications**

The district policies and procedures for contacting local law enforcement in the event of an emergency or violent incident are located in each Building-Level Emergency Response Plan. Each plan identifies individuals who are authorized to initiate contact with local law enforcement agencies. All

communications during an incident at a school building will flow through the Incident Command Center. Emergency services will be requested via 9-1-1.

In the event of an emergency, staff, students and visitors will be notified in one or more of the following manners:

- Telephone (landline and cellular)
- Bus Radios
- Runner with Verbal Message
- Automated Notification Message
- News Media
- School Portable Radios
- Intercom
- E-mail/text
- Social Media

The district has established guidelines for staff and students that in the event that they initially discover an emergency situation, or impending emergency, that they will notify the Building Principal (or his/her designee) and provide them with information regarding the situation.

Procedures for notifying parents/guardians are outlined in the Building-Level Emergency Response Plan. This includes the use of an Automated Notification Message, E-mail, and/or the use of the local media.

**B. Situational Responses**

The District has developed multi-hazard emergency response plans. These guidelines are present in the Threat and Hazard Specific Annexes in the Building-Level Emergency Response Plan (pg.12-13.) The emergencies addressed in these plans include, but are not limited to:

Active Shooters	Bomb Threat	Biological Hazards
Civil Unrest	Fire/Smoke	Hazardous Materials Release
Hostage Situation	Intruder	Kidnapping
Mass Illness	Missing Students	Natural Gas Leaks
Natural Hazardous/ Severe Weather/Extreme Weather	Power Failure/Power Outage	Structural Compromise/ Collapse
Terrorist Threats/ Online Threats	Waters Problems	

(Other emergencies may be added by the Building Principals or designated person.)

In addition to having plans to address specific hazards, our plans also include procedures that would be used during an emergency. These procedures include, but are not limited to:

- Shelter-In-Place
- Hold-In-Place
- Evacuate
- Lockout
- Lockdown
- Duck / Cover / Hold (Severe Weather)
- Carbon Monoxide Alarm Procedures
- Fire Alarm Procedures

These guidelines provide basic instructions for responding to any given incident, such as

- Contacting emergency response agencies
- Moving occupants from an area of danger to an area of safety
- Assembling the emergency response team and implementing the incident command system
- Notifying school administrators and the District Emergency Response Team of an incident
- Community / parent notification
- Sheltering and student release procedures
- Aftermath and recovery

***Responding to Acts of Violence: Implied or Direct Threats***

The Crisis Response Plan and the Multi-Hazard Emergency Response Plans in each Building-Level Emergency Response Plan provides guidance on the district’s policies and procedures for responding to implied or direct threats of violence by students, teachers, other school personnel, or visitors to the school.

The following procedures are addressed in the plan, and may be used by district:

- Contacting parents/guardians in the event of a direct or implied of violence by a student against themselves, including the threat of suicide.
- The use of staff trained in de-escalation or other methods to diffuse a situation.
- The filing of a DASA (Dignity for All Students Act) form in the event of a bullying incident.
- Informing the Building Principal of a threat of violence (direct or implied).
- Determining the threat level with the District Emergency Response Team.
- Activating the District-Level and/or Building-Level Risk Assessment Team.
- Contacting local law enforcement if needed.
- Monitoring the situation until the situation is resolved.

***Acts of Violence / Other Emergencies***

The Crisis Response Plan and the Multi-Hazard Emergency Response Plans in each Building-Level Emergency Response Plan provides guidance on the district’s policies and procedures for responding to violence by students, teachers, other school personnel, or visitors to the school.

The following procedures are addressed in the plan, and may be used by district:

- Determine the level of the threat with the District Emergency Response Team or the Building- Level Emergency Response Team.
- If the situation warrants, isolate the immediate area and evacuate surrounding areas.
- Inform the Building Principal and the District Emergency Response Team.
- If necessary, initiate a lockdown, shelter-in-place, or a lockout and contact local law enforcement.
- Monitor the situation. Initiate early dismissal, sheltering, or evacuation procedures as needed.

**Note: GTH “Code of Conduct” outlines policies and procedures for responding to acts of violence.**

***Response Procedures***

The Incident Command System, as well as the Multi-Hazard Emergency Response Plans in each Building-Level Emergency Response Plan provides guidance on how to respond to various emergencies.

- Identification of decision-makers (Incident Command Team)
- Plans to safeguard students and staff
- Procedures to provide transportation, if necessary
- Procedures to notify parents/guardians
- Procedures to notify the media
- Debriefing procedures

***Arrangements for Obtaining Emergency Assistance from Local Government***

A section on Emergency Communications in each Building-Level Emergency Response Plan provides guidance for obtaining assistance during emergencies. During an emergency, the following may occur:

- The Principal(or his/her designee) will contact the local law enforcement center via 9-1-1 or other emergency number. The dispatcher and first responders will determine services needed by the school.
- The Superintendent of Schools (or his/her designee) will contact Questar III BOCES.
- The Superintendent of Schools (or his/her designee) will contact the highest-ranking village, town, or county official (as needed) to provide notification or request assistance.

***Procedures for Obtaining Advice and Assistance from Local Government Officials***

The district will use the policies and procedures in the Incident Command System sections in the Building-Level Emergency Response Plan to obtain advice and assistance from local government officials (village, town, county) who are responsible for implementation of Article 2-B of the Executive Law. The types of procedures for obtaining advice and assistance from local governments could include the following:

- The Principal (or his/her designee) will contact the highest-ranking village, town, or county official (as needed) to provide notification or request assistance.

***District Resources Available for Use in an Emergency***

- a) On a daily basis, buses are available to transport students. They are present in the morning at school opening and at day end dismissal. They are a fleet of leased buses from a vendor and not the property of the school; therefore, they are not at the school's disposal during the day. Any evacuation between morning start and day end needs to be on foot at designated evacuation spots.
- b) All rooms in building are equipped with a computer and telephone. Limited medical supplies are available in the nurse's office. A defibrillator is also available in the nurse's office. Classrooms have televisions and the main office has a fax machine.
- c) Depending on need and the scope of the emergency, additional help may be sought from neighboring schools: Albany Community Charter School, 42 S Dove St Albany NY 12202
- d) Depending on need and the scope of the emergency, additional help may be sought from the following sources:
  - i) Albany Fire Department
  - ii) Emergency Medical Services

- iii) Albany Police Department
- iv) Albany County Sheriff's Department
- v) New York State Police

***Procedures to Coordinate the Use of District Resources and Personnel During Emergencies***

- a) Upon receiving notice of an emergency in which the health and safety of students or staff is at risk, the principal or his designee will implement emergency response procedures. This person is responsible for contacting the appropriate staff and coordinating the general response. Individual members of the Safety Team are responsible to contact various other including community emergency service agencies.
- b) Members of the Safety Team shall report to or maintain verbal contact with the Command Center. The Command Center is located in the principal's office or other suitable location if that office is unavailable. In the case of an emergency that involves the use of fire or police resources, the team will yield command to the appropriate emergency authority, and shall work cooperatively with the on-site commander to ensure optimal response.
- c) **Evening and Weekend Emergencies** - In the case of an emergency when an event is being held at the school, the responsible staff person shall immediately notify the Business Manager who will contact the principal to determine the need to initiate the Emergency Response process. Because the school can only be opened on weekends by the Principal or Business Manager, either person would be present at that time.

***Protective Action Options***

The Building-Level Emergency Response Plan, as well as policies and procedures set forth by the Principal of Schools, describes the following actions in response to an emergency where appropriate: school cancellation prior to the start of school, early dismissal, evacuation before, during, and after school hours, and sheltering procedures.

**Section IV: Recovery**

**A. District Support for Buildings**

GTh has only one building. It will follow the protocol for the particular Emergency.

A debriefing of the incident will take place to evaluate the response and address the future needs of the GTH.

**Reference # 1**

There is one school building covered by the District-Wide School Safety Plan. The addresses of the building, contact names and telephone numbers for building staff, classroom emergency plan, and evacuation plans are listed in the Building-Level Emergency Response Plan. This shall be updated annually.

**Reference # 2:**

A list of law enforcement agencies that have copies of the Building-Level School Safety Plan are included within the Building-Level School Safety Plan. This shall be updated annually.

All materials herein are in accordance with the following:

New York State Education Law 2801-a

New York State Education Law Section 807

New York State Commissioner's Regulations Sections 155.3, 155.7, and 155.17

Article 6 of the New York State Public Officer's Law

Article 2-B of the New York State Executive Law