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Revised Policy - Vol. 40, No. 1

8300 - CONTINUITY OF ORGANIZATIONAL OPERATIONS PLAN

The Board of Education shall develop and implement a Continuity of Organizational Operations Plan ("COOP") to enable it to conduct, if necessary, essential functions and critical services and operations (e.g., teaching and learning, transportation, business services, communication, computer/network systems support, facilities, maintenance, and safety and security) under all hazards/conditions. The District's COOP shall be (x) consistent with ~~() a component of [END OF OPTIONS]~~ the District's School Safety Emergency Management Plan (see Policy 8400 - School Safety Information and Policy 8402 - Emergency Operations Plan). Having a plan to recover from any type of crisis/emergency/disaster, regardless of its severity or the consequences of the incident/event, strengthens the District's resilience so it can operate with minimal impact on its primary mission/responsibility to educate the students enrolled in the District, involves teaching and learning, personnel, facilities, technology, transportation, food service, and other functional resources. ~~The Continuity of Organizational Operations Plan (COOP) provides the District with the capability of conducting its essential operations under all threats and conditions, with or without warning. Having a plan to recover from any type of disaster regardless of the severity and consequences of the emergency is critical to the recovery of operations and minimizing the impact on the District's teaching and learning, personnel, facilities, technology, transportation, food service, and other functional resources.~~

Scope of the Continuity Plan

The primary objective of the COOP is to restore the District's critical operational/business functions and the learning environment as quickly as possible after a crisis/emergency/disaster or threat event occurs. ~~[] The COOP shall include strategies aimed at resuming instruction and crucial business functions within _____ () [ENTER AMOUNT] () days () hours [END OF INTERNAL OPTIONS] [DRAFTING NOTE: Select a time period in which to restart district essential operations—e.g., two (2) school days, five (5) business days, forty-eight (48) hours.] of the disruption, along with procedures to implement secure remote work and instruction in a crisis/emergency/disaster, identify alternative sites and technology redundancy, and provide incident response integration with the District's cybersecurity incident management protocols. [END OF OPTIONAL SENTENCE]~~

The District will use the following process to achieve essential function resilience (i.e., business and learning continuity):

- A. identify essential functions;
- B. determine planning factors needed to accomplish the essential functions (e.g., staff and organization, equipment and systems, information and data, sites);
- C. conduct risk assessments for each planning factor; and

D. identify and implement continuity options.

Because the COOP contains sensitive information, by law, it functions and the learning environment as quickly as possible after a crisis or threat event occurs. A COOP contains critical and sensitive information that is confidential and exempt from public disclosure.

Planning for the continuity of operations of a school system in the aftermath of a disaster is a complex task. The current threat environment and recent emergencies, including acts of nature, accidents, technological emergencies, cybersecurity incidents (including data breaches, ransomware, and denial of service attacks), and terrorist threats and attacks, cyberattacks, and terrorist attacks and threats, have increased the need for viable continuity capabilities and plans that enable the District to resume and continue the essential functions in an all-hazards environment across a full spectrum of crises/emergencies/disasters. emergencies. Such conditions have increased the importance of having continuity plans in place that provide stability of essential functions across the various levels of public government and private enterprises.

The planning and development of continuity of an organizational operations plan, as well as the ongoing review, testing, and revision of such a plan, is important for the overall District as well as and also for each school () and department in the District. **[END OF OPTIONS]. [DRAFTING NOTE: While the preceding optional language is true, they do not need to be included if a district wants to simply state that its COOP is important to the district as a whole. The following sentence, however, is not optional and emphasizes the necessity for individual schools and departments to have individualized continuity of operation plans in place to address their unique needs and circumstances.]** Each school and operational department (e.g., transportation, information technology ("IT"), food service, and student services) shall maintain a site/department specific COOP aligned with the District wide COOP. The site/department specific COOPs are subject to annual submission to, and review by, the Superintendent.

~~The District wide plan describes how the District will respond as a.~~ total organization to a given emergency and describes the centralized resources and how they will be organized to implement the command and control necessary to function during the life cycle of the event. Individual school and department plans shall contain the details related to the continuity plan for those specific sites and functional areas to prepare for an incident/event, communicate throughout the duration of the incident/event, assess the impact of the incident/event on essential functions in the school/department, respond to the incident/event, and detail what will be done to recover from the incident/event. ~~contain the details related to the continuity plan for those specific sites and functional areas to prepare for an event, communicate throughout the duration of an event, assess the impact of an event on essential functions in the unit, respond to the event, and detail what will be done to recover from the event.~~

The COOP shall account for the needs of all students and staff, including individuals with disabilities, English learners, and students requiring health and/or behavioral supports in compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act ("IDEA"), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ("Section 504"), and the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA").

Preparation for, response to, and recovery from a disaster affecting administrative, educational, and support functions of the District's operations requires the cooperative efforts of external organizations, in partnership with the functional areas supporting the business of the District. This includes local government agencies, law enforcement, emergency management, medical services, and vendors necessary to District operations. The COOP outlines and coordinates all efforts by the District, in cooperation with other local and State agencies and businesses, to restore the essential functions of the District post-incident/event. ~~post-disaster.~~

The Superintendent shall provide that all relevant staff receive ~~()~~ annual ~~()~~ periodic **[END OF OPTIONS]** training on their roles in the COOP.

Key components of the COOP shall be communicated to employees, students, and families as appropriate.

The Superintendent shall develop and recommend the COOP for Board review and approval; however, the COOP shall be considered a confidential document not subject to release under State public records laws, and accordingly, no copies shall be provided for public review.

The Superintendent shall conduct an annual review of and update to, as necessary, the COOP. Additionally, the Superintendent shall conduct annual table-top exercises to assess the expected effectiveness of the COOP and after-action reviews post-incident/event. See Policy 8400 – School Safety Information and Policy 8402 - Emergency Operations Plan (which discusses the conduct of annual emergency management tests). ~~The Superintendent shall conduct () an annual () a periodic [END OF OPTION] review of the COOP.~~

The Role of Districts in Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operation Plans: A Companion to the School Guide
Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS): Technical Assistance Center
National Incident Management System (NIMS)

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FEMA's Continuity Guidance Circular (2024 Update)

Guide for Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operation Plans

The Role of Districts in Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operation Plans:
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