



City of Chicopee
CHICOPEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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Richard W. Rege, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Parent(s) or Guardian(s):

Over the years, the Chicopee Public Schools has developed and implemented an Emergency Response Plan. The purpose of this plan is to ensure that all students and staff enjoy a safe and healthy school environment. We have set guidelines and procedures for a variety of serious situations, which have been known to occur in schools across our nation.

We have been preparing and training our staff with the assistance of the Chicopee Police Department and the Massachusetts State Police School Safety Task Force. All schools in the Chicopee Public Schools have All Hazards Teams, which are prepared to assist students, staff, and visitors in the case of an emergency situation. Our teachers and other school staff have been trained in procedures for enhanced lockdowns and evacuations. We work closely with emergency service providers to ensure that they know our procedures and that we know what their response will be to any given situation. In short, we believe that we have made great strides in assuring that the schools in our District are safe places for our children to learn.

The time has come to test our emergency preparedness. At least one Enhanced Lockdown Drill, and possibly more, will occur each school year on a random basis beginning this school year, 2017-2018. The goals of drills throughout the school years are to improve our ability to protect students, save lives, and reduce injuries. These practice drills allow us to evaluate our emergency response plans and improve our response skills. Your children will be prepared for these drills through discussions and reminders from their classroom teachers throughout the school year. We want this drill to be a learning experience for everyone involved and not a stressful situation.

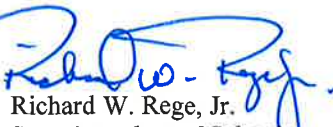
At times in the past, many of you have heard of "events" at one of our schools requiring an emergency service response. Should this occur, please do not rush to the school site or call the school office. In the event of a lockdown (or an enhanced lockdown drill), no one will be allowed to enter the school or to leave the school. There will be no exceptions to this and we apologize in advance if this causes any inconvenience.

Specific plans have been developed for each school building which details where parents may go to receive information and updates in a true emergency. In the case of such a situation, you will be notified of these locations through the Connect-ED/robo-calls, the media, and the Chicopee Police Department. If we were to announce these locations in advance there is a chance that they may be compromised. We are planning for the safety of all involved.

The safety of your children, the staff and you, their parents or guardians, is of the utmost importance to us. We ask that you help us to ensure this by cooperating with our procedures and encouraging your children to do the same. In addition, please have a conversation with your child about these upcoming drills, if you deem it appropriate. Lastly, our goal, while practicing these important safety procedures is to ensure that all students feel safe.

Thank you for your trust in us and your cooperation.

Sincerely,


Richard W. Rege, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools