



**OPTIONS-BASED FIRE & EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS DRILL Policy**
EFFECTIVE: 7.18.2024

STATEMENT OF POLICY

It is the policy of Connected Circles to conduct age-appropriate options-based response to violent intruder drills and fire drills, and to adopt and maintain an all-hazards emergency operations plan, as part of the school's overall school safety plan.

Definitions

1. **Options-Based Response to Violent Intruder Drill:** For the purpose of this policy, options-based response to violent intruder drill means that there are different actions educators and students can take if confronted by a violent intruder.
2. **School site:** school building(s) operated by the school.

Administrative Responsibilities

The director or designee shall ensure that:

1. The school conducts age-appropriate options-based response to violent intruder drills in the fall and spring semester of each academic year. The school must evaluate which approach is best and adapt that approach to the developmental level of their students, including for students with disabilities, language barriers, and mobility needs.
2. Options-based response to violent intruder drills are conducted following the guidance issued by the Vermont School Safety Center and the Vermont School Crisis Planning Team, which includes trauma-informed best practices for implementing options-based response to violent intruder drills.
3. Parents and guardians are notified not later than one school day before an options-based response to violent intruder drill is conducted.
4. Completion of the options-based response to violent intruder drills is reported to the Agency of Education in a format approved by the Secretary.
5. Fire drills are conducted following current guidance issued by the Vermont School Safety Center and the Vermont School Crisis Planning Team.
6. On or by July 1, 2024, an all-hazards emergency operations plan is adopted and maintained for Connected Circles that is at least as comprehensive as the template maintained by the Vermont School Safety Center. This plan must be reviewed and updated annually and in collaboration with local emergency first responders and local emergency management officials.