601 – Emergency and Risk Management

Purpose

The Board of Education is committed to protecting the safety and wellbeing of students, staff, and visitors, and to safeguarding District property and operations through effective emergency preparedness, response, and risk management practices.

The Board recognizes that proactive planning, coordinated response, and continuous risk mitigation are essential to ensuring continuity of learning and operations, maintaining public confidence, and supporting resilient school and worksite communities.

Guidelines / Objectives

In support of this commitment, the Board establishes the following objectives:

i. Provide a coordinated and systematic approach to emergency preparedness, response, and recovery.

ii. Reduce risks to people, property, and operations through proactive identification and mitigation strategies.

iii. Support timely, effective, and well-communicated responses to emergencies and critical incidents.

iv. Ensure alignment with provincial legislation, regulations, and recognized emergency management frameworks.

v. Promote collaboration with local authorities, emergency responders, First Nations rights-holders, Indigenous partners, and community agencies.

vi. Support continuous improvement through training, monitoring, and review of emergency and risk management practices.

Policy

The Board is committed to ensuring that Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools maintains effective emergency and risk management practices that protect the safety of students, employees, and the broader school community.

1. The Board expects the District to:

    a) Establish and maintain emergency and risk management frameworks supporting preparedness, mitigation, response, recovery, business continuity, and cybersecurity resilience.

b) Take reasonable steps to identify, assess, and reduce risks associated with District operations, activities, and third-party interactions.

c) Ensure that schools and worksites are prepared to respond to emergencies and critical incidents through planning, training, and coordination.

d) Ensure alignment with the BC Emergency Management System (BCEMS).

e) Promote clear roles, responsibilities, and communication protocols during emergency situations.

f) Support continuity of learning and operations during and following disruptive events.

The Board affirms that emergency preparedness and risk management are shared responsibilities and that all members of the school community are expected to act responsibly, follow established procedures, and contribute to safe environments.

Delegation

2. The Board delegates to the Superintendent responsibility for:

a) The implementation of this policy.

b) Developing, implementing, and maintaining administrative procedures that support this policy.

c) Ensuring compliance with applicable legislation and emergency management standards.

d) Establishing appropriate prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery processes.

e) Ensuring that staff, students, and, where appropriate, families are informed of emergency protocols and expectations and are informed in a timely fashion during significant incidents.

f) Coordinating with relevant external agencies and partners in emergency and risk management matters.

g) Following significant emergencies or critical incidents, the Superintendent shall ensure a review is conducted and report to the Board as appropriate.

Monitoring

3. The Board is responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of this policy.

Legal References:
Adopted: 2026.11.25