

# Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: \_\_\_\_\_ H. \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 11/29/07

**Topic:** First Review of the Resource Guide for Crisis Management and Emergency Response in Virginia Schools

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## Origin:

\_\_\_\_ Topic presented for information only (no board action required)

X Board review required by

X State or federal law or regulation

\_\_\_\_ Board of Education regulation

\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

X Action requested at this meeting \_\_\_\_\_ Action requested at future meeting: \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

## Previous Review/Action:

\_\_\_\_ No previous board review/action

\_\_\_\_ Previous review/action

date \_\_\_\_\_

action \_\_\_\_\_

## Background Information:

In 1996, the Virginia Department of Education developed and produced the first publication of its kind in the country – the *Resource Guide for Crisis Management in Schools*. This publication had its roots in the manual, “Crisis Affecting Youth” that was originally developed as a part of the Department of Education’s Youth Risk Prevention Project in the early 1990s.

In 1999, the Virginia General Assembly amended Section 22.1-278.1 of the *Code* by requiring the Board of Education to develop a *Model School Crisis Management Plan* by July 2000. In response to heightened concerns about school safety following the Colorado school shootings in April 1999, the schedule for developing the plan was accelerated. The plan was reviewed and approved by the Board of Education at its June 24, 1999, meeting.

In 2002, the Virginia Department of Education developed a new publication: the *Resource Guide for Crisis Management in Virginia Schools*. The publication was not an update of the original *Resource Guide for Crisis Management in Schools* (1996). Instead, it was completely rewritten to reflect current best practices in crisis management. Numerous permissions have been given to state departments of education across the country to reprint the materials from the three different publications.

The 2006 session of the Virginia General Assembly passed legislation (SB 75) that requires changing the term “school crisis emergency management plan” to “school crisis emergency management and medical emergency response plan” and requires that the plan include a medical emergency response plan. The revisions to the

Code, as prescribed in section 22.1-279.8 are outlined as follows:

D. Each school board shall ensure that every school that it supervises shall develop a written school crisis, ~~and~~ emergency management, *and medical emergency response* plan, consistent with the definition provided in this section. The Department of Education and the Virginia Center for School Safety shall (i) provide technical assistance to the school divisions of the Commonwealth in the development of the school crisis, ~~and~~ emergency management, *and medical emergency response* plans *that describe the components of a medical emergency response plan developed in coordination with local emergency medical services providers, the training of school personnel and students to respond to a life-threatening emergency, and the equipment required for this emergency response.*

Upon consultation with local school boards, division superintendents, the Virginia Center for School Safety, and the Coordinator of Emergency Management, the Board of Education shall develop, and may revise as it deems necessary, a model school crisis, ~~and~~ emergency management, *and medical emergency response* plan for the purpose of assisting the public schools in Virginia in developing viable, effective crisis, ~~and~~ emergency management, *and medical emergency response* plans. Such model shall set forth recommended effective procedures and means by which parents can contact the relevant school or school division regarding the location and safety of their school children and by which school officials may contact parents, with parental approval, during a critical event or emergency.

### **Summary of Major Elements**

The new publication, *Resource Guide for Crisis Management and Emergency Response in Virginia Schools*, represents both best practice and the most recent information available. It was developed with the assistance of a representative advisory group from school divisions and state agencies. While the material in the new publication has been completely revised and updated, the most significant changes are centered around “Chapter IV: Medical Emergencies” and include:

- School Medical Emergency Response Planning
- Steps in Planning for Medical Emergencies
- Protocols
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Automatic Electronic Defibrillator Programs

### **Superintendent's Recommendation:**

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board waive first review of this request and approve the *Resource Guide for Crisis Management and Emergency Response in Virginia Schools* and permit the Department to make final technical edits as necessary.

**Impact on Resources:** Posting the new resource guide on the Department’s Web site will require no funding; however, financial resources will have to be identified in order to provide hard copies of the new resource guide.

### **Timetable for Further Review/Action:**

The Department plans to have the new resource guide posted on the Web site no later than January 4, 2008.