2023 SUMMER PROGRAMMING SAFETY

A key priority of any school system is to maintain a safe learning environment for teachers and students. This can only happen when classroom security procedures are consistently implemented and followed. In kicking off the 2023 summer learning camps, we encourage you to consider the following emergency preparedness strategies to provide a safe learning environment for all during summer programming. School year guidance may be referenced here.

Review your Emergency Operations Plan

Emergency management planning is cyclical with ongoing reviewing and revising of the emergency operations plan (EOP). Review your school EOP to account for adjusted summer operational hours and any reduced staffing. Verify that your procedures can be conducted during summer with the operational and staffing patterns that you have established.

Staff Training

Meet with school staff to provide an overview of the emergency procedures and validate that each member understands their roles and responsibilities as identified in the EOP.

Lock Exterior Doors

Exterior school doors should be closed and locked at all times. Conduct frequent checks throughout the day to verify that the doors remain secure. If rocks, bricks, and other materials are sitting next to exterior doors, remove them immediately to prevent doors from being propped open.

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Conduct Emergency Drills

Emergency drills provide students and staff with the ability to practice their emergency procedures. During the summer session, we recommend completing the following drills with all occupants of the building:

Monthly Fire/ Evacuation Drills

(1) Lockdown Drill

(1) Severe Weather Drill

Emergency Go-Kits

Emergency go-kits contain emergency supplies and help school communities prepare for a range of threats and hazards. Go-kits should be:

- portable,
- easily accessible, and
- include resources such as medical supplies, emergency contact lists, student rosters, and communications equipment.

Plan for the Heat

One great thing we all love about summer is the warm weather and sunshine! As a reminder, heat injuries can occur quickly, but they can be prevented. Strategies include:

- Provide for frequent hydration and always have water available for emergencies.
- Keep water available while transporting students on buses, especially in cases where the bus is not equipped with air conditioning or to prepare for the event of vehicle breakdown.
- When scheduling outdoor activities, identify opportunities for shade, hydration, and rest.
- Train front-line staff to be observant for signs of heat-related illnesses. The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) has an online, no-cost Heat Illness Prevention training available.

For questions or requests for assistance, please contact Kimberly.Daubenspeck@tn.gov.

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