

**Mt. Blue Regional School District
129 Seamon Road, Suite 2
Farmington, Maine 04938**

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September 27, 2018

Dear Parents,

We are writing to share some general information about the RSU 9 emergency preparedness efforts. First of all, we are honored that you share your children with us every day, and we take that responsibility very seriously. Because of that, we have long-standing plans that are pertinent to a variety of emergencies, and we update them frequently to improve them and keep them relevant. Our schools have practiced lockdown/shelter-in-place drills for the last several years, and students from kindergarten through high school have always participated in these seriously and appropriately.

Our district has a school safety committee made up of teachers, administrators, law enforcement, fire rescue, emergency medical services and parents. This group meets on a regular basis to review emergency response procedures, discuss preplanning and takes any step possible to ensure the safety of our schools and community. Some of these efforts have been to increase the number of lockdown/shelter-in-place drills. These drills have proven to be very useful in reducing issues surrounding active threats.

As part of our planning efforts, we work closely with our public safety agencies to develop procedures to follow in the event of a situation at one of our campuses. All RSU 9 staff have received training in steps they can take to help minimize the effects of an active threat event, which includes training staff on the Avoid, Deny, Defend (ADD) training model. Our plans also include procedures on Lockdown, Lock-Out, and Student/Parent reunification.

Below is a description of some keywords that are important for you to understand.

Lockdown: A lockdown may be called when there is a security issue on the school grounds or closely affecting the school campus which may create a situation where students, guests, and staff would be most effective to stay put, get out of sight, and secure their location. When a building is in lockdown, NO ONE will be permitted access to the building. (Emergency personnel does have access)

Lock-Out: A lock-out may be called when there is an external security issue outside of the building. A lock-out will keep staff and students within the building and limit access to the school.

Reunification: The reunification plan is district-wide and tailored for each building to address the goals of the plan. During a situation where student/guardian reunification will take place, we will send messages through the school notification system or by making phone calls to explain where to report.

Committed to providing an environment where students can achieve their maximum potential

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We have a very modern school notification system that we will use during school incidents. Please keep in mind that with the many different social media platforms available at our fingertips, it will be impossible for us to get ahead of any message which may be put out there, even if it isn't correct information. Our plans do include to communicate with parents/guardians using the school notification system as soon as we have accurate information to disseminate. The system allows for multiple notifications to be made simultaneously and will also reduce the number of personnel needed to get out these vital communications.

What you can do to help enhance our school safety plans:

- Ensure your contact information is up-to-date with your child's school.
- Do not call the school immediately after learning of an incident involving the school because this will interrupt the procedures school staff will be following.
- Do not just arrive at the school campus expecting to pick up your child. In some situations, the campus may be on lock-down, and law enforcement will be prohibiting access to help ensure the safety of the students and staff.
- Be prepared to receive a school notification message and follow the requests of the administrator. The news may be an update of the situation, advisement of the relocation of the students, or a request for assistance with the school reunification procedures.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding our safety planning, please feel free to speak with your child's school principal. These conversations may be very helpful to keep you informed and understand the procedures we are taking to ensure the safety of everyone at our schools.

You are welcome to join us on October 24th at 6 pm for a School Safety Forum. The Forum will be located at the Mt. Blue Campus in the forum. Several folks from the school safety committee will be present to discuss school safety topics. If you have specific questions before the meeting, please email them to our committee at schoolsafety@mtbluersd.org.

Thank you,

RSU 9 School Safety Committee

Tina Meserve, Superintendent
Monique Poulin, MBHS Principal
Todd Demmons, Asst. MBHS Principal and
Assistant Foster Tech. Director
Melissa Williams, Director Foster Tech
James Black, MBMS Principal
Nicole Goodspeed, CBS Principal
Keith Acedo, AHS / Cushing Principal
Lisa Sinclair, CCHS Principal
Tracy Williams, WG Mallett Principal
Glenn Kapiloff, Director Adult Ed
Jonathan Chalmers, Director of Facilities
Joan Dawson, Dept. of Corrections - JCCO

Terry Bell, Chief Farmington Fire Department
Tim Hardy, Director Franklin EMA
Amanda Simoneau, Deputy Director Franklin EMA
Bridgette Gilbert, Farmington PD / RSU 9 SRO
Shane Cote, Deputy Chief Farmington PD
Edward Hastings, Sergeant Farmington PD
Matt Casavant, Sergeant Maine State Police
Matt Brann, Sgt. Franklin County Sheriff's Office
Ethan Kyes, Officer Wilton PD
Kyle Ellis, Supervisor Franklin County RCC
Lee Ireland, Operations Manager Northstar EMS
Wendy Schlosser, School Nurse