

# Health & Safety *focus*

ADDRESSING THE HEALTH AND SAFETY  
NEEDS OF OUR 56 SUBSCRIBING NASSAU  
COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

## Nassau BOCES & Nassau County Police Department Partner on School Safety



Nassau County Police Commissioner Patrick Ryder explains breaching tools utilized by police officers to enter classrooms with locked doors.

On June 13th, in response to the recent school shooting at the Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, Nassau BOCES and the Nassau County Police Department partnered to offer a workshop on school safety. The program, which took place at the Morrelly Homeland Security Center in Bethpage, was directed at school superintendents and school board members.

Attendance was outstanding with 102 participants representing 55 school districts. Police Commissioner Ryder assured school districts that Nassau County officers were trained and equipped to respond to an active shooter situation and would not hesitate to respond. He also commented on the outstanding relationship that exists between his department and schools.



From left: Lieutenant Robert Connolly; Commanding Officer Nassau County Police Commissioner Patrick J. Ryder; Nassau BOCES District Superintendent Dr. Robert R. Dillon



## Access to 911 Emergency Services - Have You Tested Your System?

In response to the recent school shootings, numerous on-line threats and other potential emergencies school districts are reviewing all aspects of their emergency response plans. The most critical component of any plan is the assurance that communication and emergency notification systems are functioning properly. Many school districts have not recently reviewed and tested their access to 911 emergency services. In addition to testing 911 calling capability, all schools districts need to ensure that they are in compliance with Kari's Law, which mandates direct dialing to 911 and internal notification. We exercise and test numerous components of our emergency response plans to become aware of potential issues prior to the actual emergency. Testing of the 911 system is one of the most important. When performing validation testing **Test Calls Must Be Cleared Through a 911 Nassau County Police Department Shift Manger** who can be contacted by calling 516-573-8880. Once you have completed testing please inform Mr. Vincent LaRusso of Nassau BOCES Telecommunications at 516-832-2745. If you need further assistance please contact your Nassau BOCES In-District Health & Safety Specialist.



# Compliance Issues

Answers to recent compliance questions arising in school districts.

**Q. A recent review by the NYS Comptroller's Office on Mental Health Training required for schools under the SAVE legislation noted 12 components that should be included. What are they?**

- Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder
- Psychotic Disorders
- Eating Disorders
- Substance Use Disorders
- How to Access Crisis Support
- Mood Disorders
- Personality Disorders
- Anxiety Disorders
- Behavioral Disorders
- Suicidal Behavior
- Trauma and Stress Related Disorders
- Whom to Turn to

Of the twenty school districts audited only two school districts offered all of the components. Twelve school districts offered at least one of the components while six had none of the recommended components at all.

**Q. What are some of the major considerations when reviewing school building access and vulnerability?**

School districts should consider a layered approach when reviewing school building access focusing on the school grounds perimeter, communication inside and outside the building, entrances to the building, and entrance to the classroom. Specifics include:

- Security booths and perimeter monitoring
- Security guard duties defined
- Security guard duties documented
- Signage that is prominent
- First floor windows closed
- Classroom doors locked
- Hiding areas not created by foliage/trees
- Building access limited - one way in/out
- Intercom/cameras at entrances
- Visitors identified when still outside
- Appointment system established
- Visitor management system
- Escort system established in building
- ID cards for staff and students
- Training on procedures for staff/students

Department of Curriculum,  
Instruction and Technology

Health & Safety Training  
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The Nassau BOCES *Health & Safety Focus* is a review of health and safety issues for subscribing school districts. Questions and comments on this document are welcome. Please contact the Health & Safety Training and Information Service staff at:

516-396-2387, or fax to  
516-997-0446, or e-mail  
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