



## Dear First Response Community,

On March 15, 2024, the Agency of Education (AOE) and Vermont School Safety Center (VSSC) jointly released new guidance for all schools and school districts requiring the development of an All-Hazards Emergency Operations Plans (“EOPs”) per the Act 29 legislation of 2023. Act 29 of 2023, now included in the Title 16 § VSA 1480. The guidance distributed by the AOE and the VSSC included an explanation of the new requirements, planning tools, and the newly updated EOP Template and Planning Guide. We acknowledge that many schools and school districts are working hard to develop and refine these plans and may be reaching out to your organizations as they continue with this important work.

As we move closer to the start of the next academic year, we encourage agencies to consider the following action steps:

1. Share emergency contact information for all schools in your jurisdictional area
2. Work with your school to understand their evacuation and family reunification plans
3. Ensure plans are in place to gain access to the school during an emergency
4. Review school incident command post locations and potential staging areas for first responders during critical incident response
5. Review the schools options based response to an active shooter protocols to ensure how law enforcement responds to these types of incidents
6. Consider obtaining floor plans for the schools in your district to assist with critical incident response and crisis management
7. Review the schools behavioral threat assessment process to ensure you are engaged in these assessments at the appropriate time
8. Review the collaborative public information sharing process you would like to utilize when your agency is involved in a critical incident involving a school in your district
9. Consider participating in a school safety drill or exercise during the coming academic year
10. Consider convening a school safety meeting with educational leaders to discuss current and future school crisis planning initiatives and potential areas for future collaboration
11. Following a critical incident at a school in your district, work to facilitate an After Action Review to identify operational strengths and opportunities to enhance capabilities

For additional information, please contact Rob Evans (School Safety Liason Officer, [revans@cosecure.com](mailto:revans@cosecure.com)) or Sunni Eriksen (Vermont Emergency Management, [sunni.eriksen@vermont.gov](mailto:sunni.eriksen@vermont.gov))