

Individualized Accommodations and Supports during Emergency Situations and Evacuations § 22.1-274.7.

Frequently Asked Questions



The 2025 General Assembly passed HB 1806 to support the inclusion in Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) of students with disabilities' individualized accommodations and supports during emergency situations and evacuations. IEP Teams should address, as appropriate, individualized accommodations and supports for students with disabilities during emergency situations and evacuations. This document can be used as guidance for IEP Teams.

Who is part of the Team that makes decisions for emergency and evacuation planning for a student with disabilities?

Emergency evacuation planning for a student with disabilities is a collaborative effort. The decision-making team for this plan is typically the same team responsible for developing the students' IEP. The Team includes:

- Parents/Guardians
- School Administrator/Designee
- General Education Teacher(s)
- Special Education Teacher(s)
- Related Service Providers
- Student (when appropriate)
- Other relevant school staff

What type of emergency situations and evacuations should be considered by IEP Teams?

IEP Teams should consider the following:

- Evacuation (Fire)
- Lock-down
- Shelter-in-place
- Natural Disasters
- Bus Emergencies

Are all students with disabilities required to have emergency situations and evacuations as part of their IEP?

HB 1806 mandates that, if appropriate and identified by the IEP Team as a need, each IEP for students with disabilities shall contain a section addressing individualized accommodations and supports for the student during emergency evacuations. The IEP Team shall discuss the students' specific needs related to emergency evacuations at the initial IEP and annually.

Who should IEP Teams consider when discussing planning?

The IEP Teams should consider students who may need additional support, particularly those with mobility challenges, limited decision-making abilities, heightened fears/anxiety, or physical and sensory disabilities.

What factors should IEP Teams prioritize when creating emergency situations and evacuation plans to ensure student safety and support?

The Team should clearly address all aspects of the students' specific needs to keep them safe and supported. The plan should be comprehensive, practical, and integrated into the students' overall educational program.

What items should be considered when creating a plan?

Any equipment, medication, and strategies used by a student throughout a school day should be considered when developing an emergency situation or evacuation plan. If the student has a behavior intervention plan, the behaviors addressed through that plan should be considered when determining the supports the student may need during an emergency situation or evacuation.

Do all staff members need to be aware of the emergency situations and evacuation plans within the school building?

Yes, an emergency plan is only successful when all school staff responsible for the plan know exactly what to do. Sharing detailed information about the specific supports and accommodations included in a student's emergency plan and practicing these during drills will help to prepare the school and the student when an emergency occurs.

What are IEP Teams' next steps?

- Review IEPs annually to ensure emergency planning is included.
 - Train staff on procedures and roles.
 - Schedule practice drills with accommodations in place.
 - Revise plans as needed.
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Resources

- U.S. Department of Homeland Security, et al. [*Inclusive Emergency Planning: Strategies and Resources for K-12 Schools and School Districts*](#). SchoolSafety.gov, June 2024
- Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) Technical Assistance Center. [*Integrating K-12 Students with Disabilities into School Emergency Management Planning*](#). U.S. Department of Education
- Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services. [*Virginia Educators' Guide for Planning and Conducting School Safety Drills*](#). Commonwealth of Virginia
- [*School Safety Drills and Exercises for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder \(ASD\): Tips and Resources for Educators*](#). NASP