



# SPENCERPORT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

---

## *Business Office*

71 Lyell Avenue - Spencerport, NY 14559

JONATHAN SALTZBERG

*Executive Director of Operations & Special Projects*

Phone: (585) 349-5121

Fax: (585) 349-5011

To: Board of Education  
Kristin Swann, Superintendent of Schools

From: Jonathan P. Saltzberg

Date: March 18, 2022

Re: First Reading of Policy 3511 Widespread Community Disasters from Natural, Terrorist or Infectious Causes

Please find attached to this memo a revision to Policy 3511. This policy was adopted in 2009 likely in response to the H1N1 outbreak. This policy was reviewed as part of the policy manual revisions process however the additional revision at this point is timely due to current events.

Given that the District has experienced a pandemic situation it is apparent that the policy needs to clarify the extent of the Superintendent's latitude to respond to the fast moving guidance issued from state and local agencies. The proposed wording changes will clarify that the Superintendent can implement districtwide mitigation strategies both with and without overarching state guidelines, when they see a need to support student learning and core operations. The wording also requires consultation with the District Medical Director as well as consideration of multiple data points when making the decision to implement in the absence of state guidelines.

Given the importance of these mitigation strategies it is my recommendation that the Board review and consider adopting the revision to policy 3511.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have as you review the policy.

Enc: Policy 3511

*Our Mission is to educate and inspire each student to love learning, pursue excellence and use knowledge, skills and attitudes to contribute respectfully and confidently to an ever-changing global community.*

**SUBJECT: ~~CATASTROPHIC,~~ WIDESPREAD COMMUNITY DISASTERS FROM NATURAL, TERRORIST OR INFECTIOUS CAUSES**

The Board of Education recognizes the profound impact a major catastrophic event such as but not limited to biologic, chemical, radiation exposures, widespread infectious diseases, such as pandemics, or disasters by forces of nature, may have on routine school function.

The Board of Education further recognizes the importance of a cooperative, integrated approach with local, state, and federal authorities according to the National Incident Management System (NIMS) to contain damage and safeguard our school community with the least disruption possible to normal instructional activities for our children and staff.

Accordingly, the Board will follow all local, state, and federal guidelines for the management of widespread disease or disasters, including but not limited to the need for school closure, sheltering, or use of a building for community assistance, as well as other yet unforeseen matters that a specific disaster may require. This will include a focus on planning and coordination, continuity of student learning and core operations, infection control, and communications. Infection controls can include mitigation strategies to prevent the spread of communicable diseases including but not limited to masking, social distancing, and remote learning, etc. The Superintendent can implement mitigation strategies, after consultation with the District Medical Director, even in the absence of local, state, or federal guidelines, when it is determined that controls are necessary to limit the spread of illnesses or to maintain the continuity of student learning and core operations. Factors such as student and staff absenteeism, rates of infection, vaccination rates, and alternative mitigation strategies, should be considered when implementing infection controls in the absence of official guidelines.

The Board of Education designates the Superintendent of Schools to work directly with the local and state Commissioners of Health (or designates according to NIMS) to implement an action plan at their direction. The Superintendent of Schools will also ensure that written agreements for mutual aid are in place according to NIMS guidelines.

The Board of Education further designates the Superintendent of Schools to work cooperatively with the County Supervisor (or designate according to NIMS) in whatever manner is necessary to maintain public order and the provision of widespread emergency assistance to the school and larger community, including facilitation of the use of school buildings as requested by local, state, or federal authorities as a point of dispensation of medical services, vaccinations, or medication, and/or sheltering community members.

Adopted: 05/12/09