AURORA PUBLIC SCHOOLS Adopted October 2007 Revised March 2017 Reviewed June 2021

## CRISIS MANAGEMENT COMMUNICATIONS

**APS Code: KDEA** 

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of developing and implementing a written plan for communicating with the media and public in the event of a crisis. The Superintendent will utilize the district School Safety, Readiness and Incident Management Plan to develop and implement crisis communication plans, as needed.

LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 22-32-109.1 (4)

## APS Code KDEA-R

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## CRISIS MANAGEMENT COMMUNICATIONS

During a crisis, the district spokesperson shall communicate with the media and public as follows:

- 1. Attempt to define the type and extent of the crisis as soon as possible.
- 2. Inform employees what is happening as soon as possible.
- 3. Designate a central location as the crisis communication center to coordinate information gathering and dissemination.
- 4. Instruct employees to refer all information and questions to the communication center.
- 5. Remind employees that only designated spokespersons are authorized to talk with news media.
- 6. Take initiative with news media and let them know what is or is not known about the situation.
- 7. Contact the top administrator or designee to inform him or her of the current situation, emerging developments and to receive clearance for statements to the media and public.
- 8. Delay releasing information until facts are verified and the district's position regarding the crisis is clear.
- 9. Provide a uniform, concise, clear and consistent message.
- 10. Assign sufficient staff members to handle phones and seek additional information.
- 11. Have key people relieved from their normal duties so they may focus on the crisis.