
Issue Date: November 22, 2024

Emergency Operation Plan Communication Package

Purpose

The Agency of Education's (AOE) Operations Team and Vermont School Safety Center continue to support all Vermont schools, including public school districts and approved and recognized Independent Schools, on Emergency Planning and Response. These efforts are critical to the operations for all schools. As we approach the winter weather season, please be reminded of the statutory requirements for all-hazards Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) and please take note of available state resources.

Statutory Requirements

As a reminder, Act 29 of 2023 requires that all Vermont public and approved and recognized independent schools:

- Develop an EOP in collaboration with local emergency management partners and first responders. Please reach out to your [local emergency partners](#) to assist in the updating of your EOP.
- Maintain an EOP that is at least as comprehensive as the AOE-created [All-Hazards Emergency Operations Plan Template](#).
- You may choose to utilize the [All-Hazards Emergency Operations Planning Guide](#), which serves as an accompanying guidance document to the Template.
- Have a completed EOP in place by July 1, 2024.*

*Please note that your EOP does not need to be submitted to the AOE.

Resources

EOP Office Hours

In an effort to provide comprehensive and ongoing support related to all-hazards EOP development, Sunni Eriksen (Vermont Emergency Management) and Rob Evans (School Safety Liaison Officer) will hold EOP office hours on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 12pm-1pm to provide technical assistance in maintaining a robust and comprehensive EOP. Office Hours will begin in January 2025. Please see [the EOP Office Hours Meeting Link](#) to join.

Web resources

- [AOE Act 29 website](#)
- [Vermont School Safety Center \(VSSC\) website](#)



- [Template – All-Hazards Emergency Operations Plan](#)
- [Planning Guide – All-Hazards Emergency Operations Plan](#)
- [SchoolSafety.gov November 2024 School Safety Community Bulletin](#)
- [Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools \(REMS\) EOP resources](#)

VEM Training Calendar

Please visit the [Vermont Emergency Management Training Calendar](#) to learn more about upcoming EOP trainings provided by Vermont Emergency Management (VEM), as well as other relevant school safety-related trainings.

Past Webinar Recordings

In March of this year, the Agency of Ed hosted an EOP webinar with Independent Schools to review and discuss the new requirements for EOPs as provided in Act 29. To view the webinar, please see the [EOP Webinar for Vermont Independent Schools video link](#).

EOP Trainings

EOP Development for Rural Schools – February 18, 2025

The Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools Technical Assistance Center (REMS) is hosting an EOP Development for Rural Schools Training on Tuesday, February 18, 2025. This one-day, virtual training will provide valuable resources and information regarding EOP development, specifically for schools in a more rural setting. Registration link is forthcoming. Please contact Sunni Eriksen (sunni.eriksen@vermont.gov), Vermont Emergency Management, with questions.

Contact

For more information regarding the development of EOPs, including threat and hazard-specific annexes, please contact Sunni Eriksen (sunni.eriksen@vermont.gov) of Vermont Emergency Management and/or Rob Evans (revans@cosecure.com), School Safety Liaison Officer.

For more information regarding school safety requirements as provided by Vermont law, please contact, Taylor Goodwin (taylor.goodwin@vermont.gov), Safe and Healthy Schools Coordinator.