

coordination with school mental health providers. This may include the need for re-evaluation of current special education placements, ability of the program to continue to meet the students' educational needs, the necessity for additional support services and a coordination of services with outside providers. Documentation requests and assessment plans indicating ability to return to school setting may be made and required in compliance with both Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and/or the Federal Educational Right to Privacy Act (FERPA) and will also be maintained in confidential counseling files.

In addition, mental health providers will comply with The New York Secure Ammunition and Firearms Enforcement Act (SAFE) of 2013. "The SAFE Act amends the Mental Hygiene Law (MHL) by adding a new §9.46, which requires that mental health professionals who are currently providing treatment services to an individual make a report, if they conclude, using reasonable professional judgment, that the individual is likely to engage in conduct that would result in serious harm to self or others."²

Implied or Direct Threats of Violence, Acts of Violence and Response Protocols

Each building shall develop a Building Level Emergency Response Plan and shall provide instruction to students, staff and visitors to prepare them to respond to disaster and emergency situations in a practical way. It shall be standard operating procedures for staff and students to be familiar with the Building Level Emergency Response Plan to ensure each individual knows what to do in an emergency and how to do it should the need arise. The Plans shall identify potential sites of emergency including but not limited to, buildings, grounds, buses, field trips, and work sites and shall contain the following elements.

- Procedures for the safe evacuation of students, staff and visitors in the event of a serious violent incident or other emergency
- Designation of an emergency response team comprised of school personnel, local law enforcement officials, and representatives from local, regional and/or state emergency response agencies; other appropriate incident response teams; and a post-incident response team that includes appropriate school personnel, medical personnel, mental health counselors and others who can assist the school community in coping with the aftermath of a violent incident
- Procedures for assuring that crisis response and law enforcement officials have access to floor plans, blueprints, schematics or other maps of the school interior, school grounds and road maps of the immediate surrounding area
- Establishment of internal and external communication systems in emergencies

² Source: <https://safeact.ny.gov/>

