



NEWS RELEASE

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CPS SCHOOL EMERGENCY EXERCISE TESTS PREPARATION **Simulation Involves Police, Fire, Medical and Disaster Responders**

The morning begins like any other at the Academy of World Languages, a Cincinnati Public School District K-8 magnet school in Evanston. Students settle into their first class. Teachers take attendance and then open the morning's lessons. But, suddenly, normalcy is shattered: A student who feels he has been bullied enters a classroom area with a gun. As shots ring out and students cry out in pain, it is clear that a major emergency is under way.

So starts the scenario for the full-scale school emergency exercise conducted at the Academy of World Languages, 2030 Fairfax Avenue in Evanston, on Friday, October 17, as part of a \$500,000 federal grant award to Cincinnati Public Schools. As the day unfolded, the emergency involved police, fire and medical responders and evolved to a second school, Hoffman-Parham School in Evanston, which served as a reunification site for parents and students.

The grant, awarded in 2007, is designed to help Cincinnati Public Schools and the Archdiocese of Cincinnati strengthen emergency response preparation by conducting training for school employees and by partnering with local police and fire departments, medical and health agencies, disaster response experts including the American Red Cross, and parent groups including Parents for Public Schools of Greater Cincinnati.

The simulation was intended both to identify strengths and potential areas for further improvement to better prepare for emergencies.

Specifically, the exercise was developed to test:

- Written emergency procedures
- Lockdown procedures
- Evacuation procedures
- Relocation procedures
- Notification and reunification procedures
- The School Incident Response Team
- The ability of school and district administrators to respond to an incident
- The District Incident Response Team
- Interagency and communications procedures
- Triage of parents, students and staff to identify appropriate mental health support
- Communication to parents and media.

Partnering agencies in the simulation included City of Cincinnati police and fire and health departments, Children's Hospital Medical Center; the American Red Cross; Metro bus service; and CPS staff, students and parents.

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