



About The RCRT

The Regional Crisis Response Team, consisting of professionals from participating component school district, has two main purposes. The first is to provide guidance and support to students, staff and administrators following a crisis in a given district. Second, the RCRT serves as a resource to help build the capacity of school-based mental health professionals in our region and develop a common language and response to a crisis.

Draw upon the support of surrounding districts and professionals when the support needed in a crisis is beyond your capacity to provide alone. Respond in kind when your neighboring districts experience a crisis and need additional support.

For more information or to become a member of the RCRT, please contact:

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Regional Crisis Response Team



**Districts joining together
to provide guidance and support
to students, staff and administrators
following a crisis**



Professional Learning & Curriculum Support
Southern Westchester BOCES
pd.swboces.org/safety_and_facilities





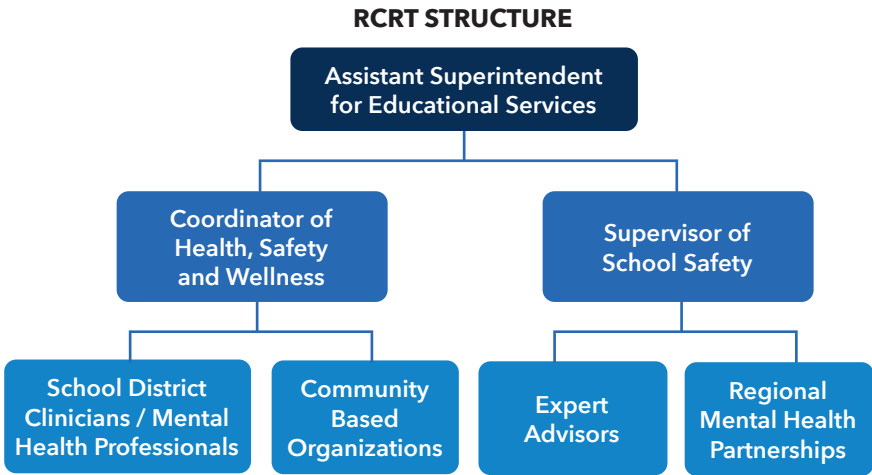
Who we are

The RCRT is part of a larger commitment by Southern Westchester BOCES to build a foundation for safe and supportive schools and to address the full spectrum of school crisis response.

A school crisis is any traumatic event that disrupts the coping and problem-solving abilities of students and school staff. This may include acts of violence, natural disasters or the unexpected death of a student or staff member. (NEA)

Purpose

- To provide guidance and support to students, staff and administrators following a crisis in a school district
- To serve as a resource to help build the capacity of school-based mental health professionals in our region and develop a common language and response to a crisis



Members

The team consists of volunteers from districts and community mental health agencies within the region:

- Mental health professionals from SWBOCES-region districts
- Westchester County Department of Community Mental Health
- Participating Agencies
- Advisors

Services

- An in-district presence to provide counseling services
- Observation, consultation, follow-up and debriefing
- Planning for continued support



How it works

The RCRT is activated when a school district administrator contacts the BOCES facilitator following a crisis. The facilitator will collect information about the situation and determine what services are needed.

The facilitator then contacts RCRT members to ask that they report to the district to provide requested services or be on standby in case they are needed.

At all times, RCRT members defer to district leaders, who know the needs of their school or community best.

The facilitator will also reach out to Community Based Organizations to request support as needed. Contact with the school district will continue for the duration of the crisis.

The Steps:

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| Step 1 | The District gathers facts |
| Step 2 | The District reaches out to activate the RCRT |
| Step 3 | The RCRT provides support in the district |
| Step 4 | The RCRT debriefs and identifies next steps |

Debriefing

When the crisis is concluded, the RCRT will be available to facilitate on-site debriefings with district staff and team members.

Debriefing is ongoing within the RCRT and with districts on request.

Analysis includes helping to identify the need for additional or ongoing support.