


WHY SCHOOL SAFETY PLAN

School safety is complex and requires differentiated strategies that promote mental health, prevent violence, provide guidance to intervene, and prepare a response to threats to school safety. Different strategies are necessary to respond to a variety of situations in your school.

The School Safety Spectrum resources are meant to assist in the development of a Comprehensive School Safety Plan. Resources are broken down into the three areas of the spectrum: prevention, intervention, and response.

SCHOOL SAFETY SPECTRUM



SITUATION	APPROACH	RESPONSE TO SITUATION
DAILY ACTIVITIES	PREVENTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support students and families to feel connected to the school Coordinate communication with families Establish clear and consistent policies and boundaries Use common language that the entire school community understands
THREATS	INTERVENTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement threat assessment Implement referrals for services Create specialized, individualized systems of support for academic and behavioral needs
ACTIVE DANGER	RESPONSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activate emergency preparedness crisis response Contact district and first responder liaisons Contact social and emotional support services for students and staff Prepare to recover and get back to the business of teaching and learning

DIFFERENT LEVELS OF THREATS TO SAFETY

- Prevention** – Practices and activities that support students, staff, and families to feel connected to the school. Use a common language that the entire school community understands. Teach safety protocol and practice safety procedures.
- Intervention** – Threats can come from individuals, social media, and rumors. Have a trained threat assessment team/process.
- Response** – With imminent danger, activate emergency safety protocols on which staff and students have been trained. Activate emergency communications plan.

WHAT CAN WE DO TOGETHER IN OUR SCHOOLS TO KEEP SAFE?

ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIONS FOR SCHOOL LEADERS	RELATIONSHIP ACTIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS
Create a positive school climate	Ask more questions and listen
Engage youth, families, and community partners	Collaborate with others on school climate systems
Prioritize actions to promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice	Create positive relationships with others
Change climate systems with teams	Acknowledge what is working well
Secure funding for safety activities	Participate in school activities

CONNECTEDNESS IS PREVENTION

The more students feel that they belong in the school, the less likely that they will engage in risky or unsafe behaviors and the higher their level of achievement will be.

THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF BUILDING A SAFETY TEAM

Your school must be ready to respond to a variety of situations a school can face. A school safety team can use the Comprehensive School Safety Plan Checklist to assess your school's safety readiness. A team administrators, health, and mental health professionals, teachers, law enforcement, and other staff concerned about safety guides the school safety and climate activities.

Check out the section in the guide on **team development**.

Check out the section in the guide on **action planning**.