

Infrastructure

INFRASTRUCTURE			
Designated point person			
Teams			
School Safety Team			
Threat Assessment Team			
Data For Decision Making			
Internal			
External			
Staff Professional Development			
Emergency Operations Plan			
Other: Site Appropriate			
Liaison			
District			
Families			
Community			

The definitions in this glossary are to deepen your understanding of the key terms in the Comprehensive School Safety Checklist.

Infrastructure Glossary:

Designated point person. Although the principal is ultimately responsible, in larger schools often another staff person is designated to oversee the elements of the school's safety plan daily in coordination with the principal.

Teams. In a comprehensive plan, multidisciplinary groups of school staff are necessary. A School Safety Team comprised of a variety of disciplines especially key administrators, teachers, mental health professionals, safety/security personnel need to be appointed and to meet regularly to oversee planned safety and climate activities and to monitor progress, as well as outcomes.

Threat Assessment Team is a team with a special mission – to evaluate students who have threatened violence or to harm others. Members of this team need specialized training in a standard threat assessment protocol so that they can judge the threat level and take appropriate action as outlined in their Comprehensive Threat Assessment Plan. At a minimum, members of this team need to include: An administrator, a mental health professional and a security or safety officer. The team needs to have training in conducting a threat assessment, restorative practices, multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS), and laws regarding confidentiality.

Data for decision making. Without data, you may be implementing programs or strategies without knowing where the real problem lies and therefore miss opportunities to work on any underlying issues that are most likely to lead to lasting change.

Internal data could include regular tracking of discipline referrals, attendance, counselor visits, threats, etc. Student, parent, and staff surveys also provide valuable data for planning and monitoring. This information becomes a regular part of monitoring by your school safety team.

External Data might be helpful in dealing with a specific problem or issue such as increase in drug use or fights. External data might come from police reports, hospital emergency room admissions or probation report. Contacts with the community may facilitate access. National or state surveys such as the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBSS) or Monitoring the Future could provide helpful information. This information can be found through search engines.

Staff Professional Development. All school staff must have the knowledge and skills to carry out the Comprehensive School Safety Plan. All staff must know about this comprehensive plan and how to respond in case of an emergency. The data that you collect and analyze can provide additional topics that might be specific needs at your site. Examples of common staff or parent professional development that can increase safety at your site include, but are not limited to: Suicide, Bullying, Trauma informed practices, Social justice practices, Mental Health Awareness.

Liaison. Having contacts at both your District and the local community including parents is important in a school's daily work on providing a safe and protective environment for learning. It is essential in a time of crisis or threat to be able to call on supportive services and relationships with other community leaders.

District. One district role is to support principals. Know the chain of command for prevention, intervention, and response. Keep updated contact information in an easily accessible place and share the contact information with key staff. Maintain good relationships with the designated resources at the district level.

Families. Develop and maintain contact information for families for ongoing work and in case of an emergency. Identify leaders and influencers to provide input into plans and activities.

Community. Work with the district to identify and maintain contact with the appropriate community resources such as law enforcement, mental health services, health services, social service agencies.