Forming a School Behavioral Threat Assessment Team

Threat Assessments

The Final Report and Findings of the Safe School Initiative (SSI): Implications for the Prevention of School Attacks in the United States. U.S. Secret Service (USSS) and U.S. Department of Education (ED)

This publication describes the Safe School Initiative (SSI) study, defines targeted school violence, and discusses the prevalence of school violence in U.S. schools. The study's methodology, findings, and implications are described following an in-depth examination of examination of 37 incidents of targeted school shootings and school attacks in the US from 1974 through June 2000. The report also discusses the use of a threat assessment to help prevent school violence.

http://rems.ed.gov/docs/FinalReportandFindingsofSafeSchoolInitiative.pdf

Threat Assessment in Schools: A Guide to Managing Threatening Situations and to Creating Safe School Climates. USSS and ED

This guide provides a process for identifying, assessing, and managing students who may or may not pose a threat to themselves or other, including targeted violence in schools. The guide discusses topics such as the key findings of the SSI study of targeted school violence, how to implement and conduct a school threat assessment process, and how to manage threatening situations.

http://rems.ed.gov/docs/ThreatAssessmentinSchools.pdf

Prior Knowledge of Potential School-Based Violence: Information Students Learn May Prevent a Targeted Attack. USSS and ED

Findings from research that explored what steps students with prior knowledge of school-based attacks took, if any, after learning the information are provided in this document. The study describes six key findings, such as bystanders often misjudged the likelihood and immediacy of the planned attack, and implications for encouraging students to share information about school-based violence with an adult(s).

https://rems.ed.gov/docs/DOE_BystanderStudy.pdf

School Violence and Active Shooters

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Active Shooter Situations. Describing Unique Challenges Involved in Preparing for, Responding to and Recovering from a School-Based or Postsecondary Institution Shooting. REMS TA Center

This one-hour archived webinar provides information to help schools and institutions of higher education (IHEs) enhance the development and implementation of emergency operations plans (EOPs) in active shooter situations. The webinar describes some of the unique challenges involved in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from an active shooter incident.
http://rems.ed.gov/ActiveShooterSituations.aspx

Guide for Preventing and Responding to School Violence. International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), Office of Justice Programs, DOJ

The purpose of this document is to present different strategies and approaches for members of school communities to consider when creating safer learning environments. The guide discusses the role of school administrators, students, and parents or guardians before, during, and after an incident of school violence. Information is also provided on working with the media, legal considerations, and additional resources.
https://www.bja.gov/Publications/IACP_School_Violence.pdf

The School Shooter: A Threat Assessment Perspective. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

This resource discusses how to assess threats, provides a four-pronged threat assessment approach to help prevent school shootings, and the intervention process. The document also provides a list of suggested readings and possible actions that can be taken in a school to strengthen its threat response program.
https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/stats-services-publications-school-shooter-school-shooter

School Climate

Creating a Safe and Respectful Environment in Our Nation's Classrooms. ED and the National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments (NCSSLE)

This training toolkit is designed for trainers to assist teachers in creating a positive school environment and meaningful relationships with students. Two modules of instruction are provided with accompanying resources such as a trainer's guide, PowerPoint and handouts.
https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/creating-safe-and-respectful-environment-our-nations-classrooms-training-toolkit

ED School Climate Surveys. ED

This webpage provides the adaptable ED School Climate Surveys (EDSCLS) and associated web-based platform. EDSCLS allows states, local districts, and schools to collect and act on school

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climate data. Information is provided on measures, administration, data reports, data interpretation, and a national benchmark study.
https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/edscls

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Technical Assistance (TA) Center. ED
The PBIS TA Center provides information to states, districts, and schools on how to establish, scale up and sustain the PBIS framework. Resources are categorized into those for the school, family, community, evaluation, research, and training.
https://www.pbis.org/

School Climate and Discipline. ED
This series of webpages provides tools, data, and resources to help create positive school climates. Information includes the prevalence, impact, and legal implications of suspension and expulsion of students and resources on effective alternatives.
http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/school-discipline/index.html

School Climate and Emergencies. REMS TA Center
On this webpage, factors that contribute to a positive school climate are discussed. In addition, suggestions are given on how to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment, use multi-tiered interventions and support, and promote social and emotional competencies. Additional related resources are also provided.
http://rems.ed.gov/K12PPStep02.aspx

Bullying

StopBullying.gov
This website provides information from various government agencies on what bullying is, what cyberbullying is, who is at risk, and how to help prevent and respond to bullying. Resources and information is provided in both English and Spanish.
http://www.stopbullying.gov/

School-Based Bullying Prevention. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)
Individuals who may have an interest in this resource include school administrators, teachers and school staff, students, parents, practitioners, and other professionals who work with youth. The website provides resources, including an iGuide, to highlight the problem of bullying in schools and how to implement a school-based bullying prevention program.
http://www.ojjdp.gov/mpg-iguides/topics/bullying/index.html

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Understanding Bullying. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
In this two-page fact sheet, the CDC discusses several topics related to bullying such as why bullying is a public health problem, who is at risk from bullying, and how to help prevent bullying. Additional resources are also provided.
http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/bullying_factsheet.pdf

Federal Laws and Regulations

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA): A Guide for First Responders and Law Enforcement. FBI and ED
This two-page document describes what FERPA is, information that schools can provide to law enforcement, and the conditions under which schools can non-consensually disclose information.
https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/ferpa-guide.pdf/view

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule: A Guide for Law Enforcement. HHS and FBI
This short guide details what the HIPAA Privacy Rule is, who must comply with the HIPAA Privacy Rule and who is not required to. In addition, the resource discusses the circumstances under which a HIPAA covered entity may disclose protected health information (PHI) to law enforcement.
https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/hipaa-guide.pdf/view

Additional Resources

EOP ASSIST. REMS TA Center
EOP ASSIST is available for state agencies, school districts, and schools as either a web-accessible software application or offline tool. The resource directs planning team members through a process that will result in the output of an EOP according to Federal guidelines for developing a high-quality school EOP.
http://rems.ed.gov/EOPinteractivetools.aspx

Guide for Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operations Plans
This guide is aimed at the K-12 community and was created by the Departments of Education (ED); Justice (DOJ), led by the FBI; Homeland Security (DHS), led by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); and Health and Human Services (HHS). The resource describes

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principles of emergency management planning, and a process for developing, implementing, and continually refining an EOP.
http://rems.ed.gov/K12GuideForDevelHQSchool.aspx

The Collaboration Toolkit for Community Organizations: Effective Strategies to Partner with Law Enforcement. Community Oriented Policing Services, DOJ
The goal of this toolkit is to help community organizations strengthen partnerships with law enforcement, further the community's role as a partner in crime reduction efforts, and identify and address social issues that diminish quality of life and threaten public safety. The toolkit provides information such as how to build trust and a step-by-step approach to successful collaboration.
http://ojp.gov/fbnp/pdfs/Collaboration_Toolkit.pdf

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