

School Safety from A to Z

School Safety from A to Z brings some order to the chaos of school safety planning.

Consider the following prevention points and issues:

- A.** School Ecology, Universal Measures and Effective Behavior Support. School policies should set clear limits; school atmosphere should build hope and positive relations; students should be successful; assets should be emphasized and enhanced.
- B.** Targeted measures. Individually tailored measures for alienated or at-risk youth.
- C.** Problem identification and data collection.
- D.** Staff training in constructive behavioral intervention and confrontation management.
- E.** Student training in empathy, anger management, problem solving and conflict resolution.
- F.** Crisis planning with specific scenarios and corresponding flip charts to guide decisions about lockdowns, directed response, room clears, evacuations, school cancellation or early dismissals.
- G.** Physical ecology of the school. (See Safe School Design, below)
- H.** Physical ecology of the surrounding community; risks and resources nearby.

The following crisis management concerns require attention:

- I.** Location issues: indoor vs. outdoor crises; isolation and the availability of resources.
- J.** Teacher role: your actions as a target are different from your actions as a witness.
- K.** Offender characteristics: your response will be different for intruders, strangers, relatives, ex-students and students.
- L.** Verbal and physical intervention.
- M.** Multi-tasking: protecting students and yourself while intervening and calling for help.
- N.** Confrontation management specifics; de-escalation techniques.
- O.** Staff intervention as reinforcement for pro-social skills being taught.
- P.** Policy violations vs. criminal behavior.

Finally, aftermath planning is essential, covering:

- Q.** Contacting 9-1-1 and the crisis team.
- R.** Identifying the danger zone, securing a perimeter and opening command posts.
- S.** Student release procedures, accountability and reassurance.
- T.** Emotional and physical health care.
- U.** Communication and rumor control.
- V.** Documentation.
- W.** Research and follow-up on similar events elsewhere
- X.** Establish safe rooms for counseling; on-call short notice substitutes.
- Y.** Healing, re-integration, conferencing, accountability and first day back plans.
- Z.** Memorial service management.