



# Keeping our Schools Safe: A Layered Approach

Brenna Morse, Director, Tennessee School Safety Center, March 7, 2019

# Building A Foundation for Safe Schools

## Security

- prevention & protection
- access control/visitor management
- law enforcement partnerships
- surveillance

## Preparedness

- hazard awareness & mitigation
- emergency planning
- training & drills

**RELATIONSHIPS**

**Safe Schools**

## Climate

- engaging instruction
- welcoming & supportive environment
- freedom from fear

## Student Support

- health & wellness
- mental health supports
- family engagement

# School Security

- Prevention and Protection – School Security Assessments
  - Access Control
  - Vehicle Access
  - Perimeter Control
  - Signage
  - Surveillance
  - Lighting

# School Security Cont.

- Relationships with Local Law Enforcement
  - School Resource Officers
  - School Security
  - Off-Duty Officers
- Role of a School Resource Officers
  - Law Enforcement
  - Educator
  - Counselor



# Emergency Preparedness

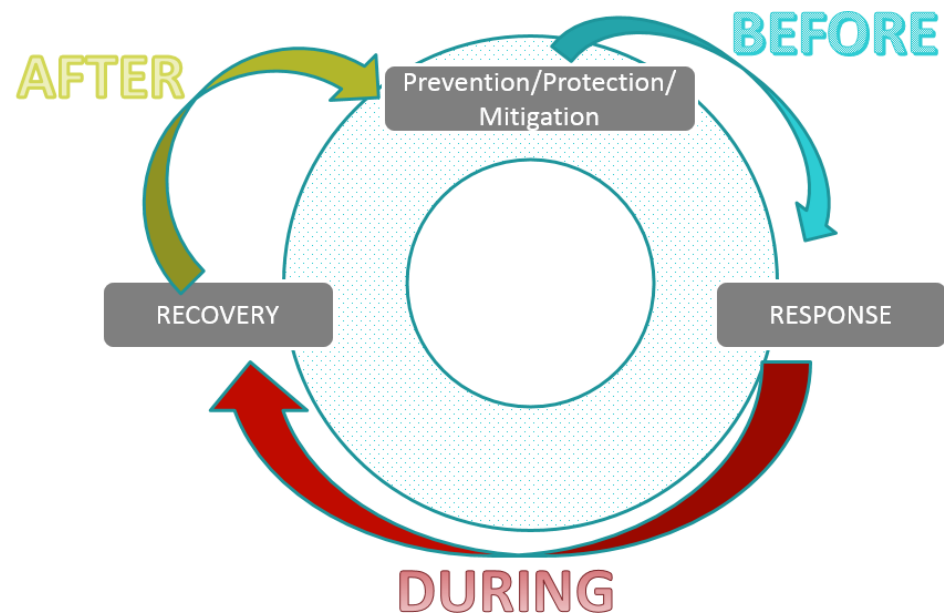
## ■ Hazard Identification

- Threats/hazards that exist in the school community
  - Natural
  - Technological
  - Human-Caused
- Threats/hazards that exist on the school grounds
- Threats/hazards that exist within the school building



# Emergency Preparedness Cont.

- Emergency Planning
  - **Planning** is more important than the plan
  - Before/During/After
  - Identified Roles and Responsibilities



# Activity: Emergency Preparedness

FLOODING			"Evacuation"
A flood occurs when water, due to dam failures, rain, or melting snows, exceeds the absorptive capacity of the soil and the flow capacity of rivers, streams, or coastal areas. Flooding can occur anytime, throughout the year, but is typically associated with the spring season.			
DATE	TIME	PREPAREDNESS MEASURES	RESPONSIBLE PARTY
		Weather radios are installed and maintained.	
		Evacuation drills are conducted as specified in TCA.	
		Participate in community weather briefings through local emergency manager.	
DATE	TIME	RESPONSE PROCEDURES	RESPONSIBLE PARTY
		<b>EVACUATE</b> the building when notified.	
		Assist in the movement of students and staff with special needs.	
		Shutdown appropriate utility and building systems.	
		Account for all students, visitors, and school personnel.	
		Activate relocation plan if needed.	
		Activate reunification plan if needed.	
DATE	TIME	RECOVERY TASKS	RESPONSIBLE PARTY
		Report damage assessments.	
		Provide counseling services if needed.	

# Emergency Preparedness Cont.

- Training and Drills
  - Stakeholder training
  - Practice how you respond and then you will respond how you practice
- Required Drills
  - Fire Drills: (1) every thirty school days with (2) fire drills occurring during the first thirty days of the school year. Additionally, (4) fire safety announcements conducted annually.
  - Intruder Drill: (1) annually in coordination with local law enforcement



# Required Drills Cont.

- Required Drills
  - CPR/AED: Each school having one or more AED must complete annual CPR/AED training for all school personnel and conduct (1) drill annually.
  - Additional Drills: (3) additional drills not requiring full evacuation annually.
  
- \*Each school within 100 miles of the New Madrid Fault Line must complete (2) earthquake drills annually.

# School Climate

- See Something, Say Something...Do Something!

“I feel safe at my school and I feel like I am part of a community that looks out for each other and has a standard of caring for each other...Sure tempers flare, things happen, but it doesn't challenge the fundamental sense of community”

-Teacher of 6 years

# Creating Positive School Climates

- What is “School Climate”?
  - It’s our inner-barometer of safety and belonging
  - It’s based on our “gut” feeling
  - It influences how we behave and whether we choose to engage
  - We all determine how we influence the climate around us

# Characteristics of Positive School Climate

- Clear and high expectations for performance and behavior
- Strong attachment to the school and education process
- High level of parent involvement
- Opportunities for students to learn life skills



# School Climate Data

- Out of 16,292 middle school students that completed a climate survey, 68.8% say that they would report a threat to the school/other students to someone in authority.
- Out of 13,097 high school students that completed a climate survey, 61.4% say that they would report a threat to the school/other students to someone in authority.

# Student Support

- Health and Wellness
  - Students with stronger health and wellness are less likely to miss school due to illness, which keeps them more connected to the school
  - Strong health and wellness increases the likelihood for a more positive school climate
- Mental Health Supports
  - Enable students to achieve their full potential by implementing a comprehensive school-based mental health program
    - Social/personal development
    - Resiliency
    - Substance abuse
    - Effects of childhood trauma
    - Stigma associated with mental health
- Family Engagement
  - Enhance the health and well-being of students by engaging families

# The Thread between: Relationships

- Community - School
- Student - Peer
- Student - Staff
- Staff - Staff
- Family



# Contact Information

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