

Enhancing Safety through Early Intervention: Prevention Strategies to Protect the K-12 Community

Arizona Business & Education Coalition School Safety & Security Summit

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Agenda

- **K-12 RISKS & THREAT ENVIRONMENTS**
- **SCHOOL SAFETY BEST PRACTICES**
- **BYSTANDER REPORTING**
- **EMERGENCY PLANNING**



Our School Safety Perspective

OVERVIEW

THE CISA SCHOOL SAFETY TASK FORCE (SSTF) WAS ESTABLISHED TO SUPPORT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS IN STRENGTHENING THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 12 (K-12) SCHOOLS ACROSS THE COUNTRY. THE SSTF'S WORK CENTERS AROUND BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF K-12 SCHOOL SAFETY COMMUNITY AND ADMINISTERING THE **FEDERAL SCHOOL SAFETY CLEARINGHOUSE** AND

SCHOOLSAFETY.GOV

SCHOOL SAFETY ISSUE AREAS

- BULLYING AND CYBERBULLYING
- CHILD EXPLOITATION
- CYBERSECURITY
- EMERGENCY PLANNING
- INFECTIOUS DISEASE & PUBLIC HEALTH
- MENTAL HEALTH
- PHYSICAL SECURITY
- SCHOOL CLIMATE
- TARGETED VIOLENCE
- TREAT ASSESSMENT & REPORTING



MISSION

THE SSTF ENHANCES THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF SCHOOLS BY:



FOSTERING CHANGE THROUGH OUTREACH, ENGAGEMENT, AND EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGNS



FACILITATING ACTION BY CREATING, COORDINATING, AND DISSEMINATING RESOURCES, PRODUCTS, AND TOOLS TO SUPPORT SCHOOLS IN IMPLEMENTING AND STRENGTHENING THEIR PHYSICAL SECURITY POSTURES



EQUIPPING STAKEHOLDERS WITH TRAINING AND EXPERTISE TO APPLY RECOGNIZED BEST PRACTICES IN THE CONTEXT OF THEIR SPECIFIC COMMUNITIES, VENUES, AND SCHOOLS































**CYBERSECURITY
& INFRASTRUCTURE
SECURITY AGENCY**



K-12 School Safety Risk & Threat Environment Trends

CISA SCHOOL SAFETY TASK FORCE

What Teachers Are Saying...

	1 ST MOST COMMON	2 ND MOST COMMON	3 RD MOST COMMON	4 TH MOST COMMON	5 TH MOST COMMON	6 TH MOST COMMON	7 TH MOST COMMON
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS	 57% Bullying	 10% Teacher Attacks	 8% Fights	 7% Self-Harm	 7% Other Crimes	 6% Active Shooter	 3% Drugs
MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS	 58% Bullying	 17% Fights	 8% Self-Harm	 7% Drugs	 4% Active Shooter	 3% Other Crimes	 2% Teacher Attack
HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS	 31% Bullying	 25% Drugs	 17% Fights	 13% Self-Harm	 4% Other Crimes	 4% Active Shooter	 3% Teacher Attacks
ALL LEVELS TEACHERS	 49% Bullying	 12% Fights	 11% Drugs	 10% Self-Harm	 6% Teacher Attacks	 5% Other Crimes	 5% Active Shooter

Source: Teachers' Views on School Safety: Consensus on Many Security Measures, But Stark Division About Arming Teachers | RAND

Current Trends within the K-12 Environment



Targeted Violence

67% of public schools reported having at least one violent incident, and 59% reported having at least one nonviolent incident.¹



Cybersecurity Threats

Since 2016, there has been a total of 1,331 publicly disclosed school cyber incidents affecting U.S. school districts across a wide array of incidents.²



Hoax Calls & Swatting

In the 2022-2023 school year, 63.8% of all violent incidents were false reports of an active shooter within the school (i.e., Swatting).³



Unreported Concerning Behavior

94% of school attackers told a classmate or someone within their school about their plans for violence prior to taking action.⁴



Sources:

¹ DoE National Center of Educational Statistics, 2024. ² K12 Security Information Exchange (K12 SIX), 2022.

³ Educator's School Safety Network, 2022. ⁴ U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center, 2021



SchoolSafety.gov



SCHOOLSAFETY.GOV

FEDERAL SCHOOL SAFETY CLEARINGHOUSE

Federal and State Resources, Guidance, and
Tools to Create Safe School Environments

SUPPORTING STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS ARE INNATELY CONNECTED TO STUDENTS' SUCCESS IN THE CLASSROOM AND TO A THRIVING SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT.



PREVENTING BULLYING

BULLYING & CYBERBULLYING INCREASES THE RISK FOR DEPRESSION, ANXIETY, SLEEP DIFFICULTIES, LOWER ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT, AND DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL.



AVERTING VIOLENCE

IMPROVING SCHOOLS' PHYSICAL SECURITY AND INVOLVING SCHOOL PERSONNEL WHO ARE TRAINED TO PREVENT, RECOGNIZE, AND RESPOND TO THREATS OF VIOLENCE.



ENSURING ONLINE SAFETY

THESE ATTACKS CAN IMPACT A SCHOOL'S ABILITY TO CARRY OUT ITS EDUCATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND PROTECT SENSITIVE STUDENT AND STAFF DATA.



IMPROVING SCHOOL CLIMATE

DEVELOPING STUDENTS WITH STRONG CHARACTER WHO ARE CONNECTED TO THEIR PEERS, EDUCATORS, AND COMMUNITIES IN MEANINGFUL WAYS CAN IMPROVE SCHOOL CLIMATE, AND BEHAVIORAL AND ACADEMIC OUTCOMES.



INTERVENING WITH SUPPORT EARLY

IDENTIFY AND ADDRESS THREATENING OR ESCALATING BEHAVIORS BEFORE THEY LEAD TO VIOLENCE.

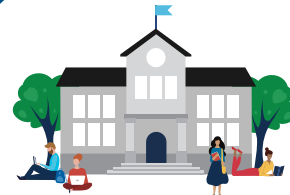


TRAINING, EXERCISES, & DRILLS

PREPARES STUDENTS, TEACHERS, STAFF, PARENTS, AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS FOR THE ACTIONS TO TAKE BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER SAFETY INCIDENTS.



HOLISTIC SAFETY



SAFETY TOPICS



BULLYING & CYBERBULLYING



CHILD EXPLOITATION



CYBERSECURITY



EMERGENCY PLANNING



INFECTIOUS DISEASES & PUBLIC HEALTH



MENTAL HEALTH



SCHOOL CLIMATE



TARGETED VIOLENCE



THREAT ASSESSMENT & REPORTING

KEY TOOLS & FEATURES



SAFETY READINESS TOOL



STATE SEARCH TOOL



RESOURCE LIBRARY



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



GRANTS FINDER TOOL



K-12 COMMUNITY BULLETIN



COMMUNICATIONS CENTER



Tools & Features

GRANTS FINDER TOOL



EASILY FIND AND APPLY FOR SCHOOL SAFETY-SPECIFIC FUNDING TO ENHANCE SAFETY.

- REAL TIME ALERTS FOR NOFO'S & RELEASES
- DECISIONS AIDS DESIGNED FOR NON-GRANT WRITING PROFESSIONAL
- SCHOOL SPECIFIC

Link: schoolsafety.gov/grants-finder-tool

STATE SEARCH TOOL



ENABLES SCHOOLS TO LOCATE AND ACCESS STATE-SPECIFIC SCHOOL SAFETY RESOURCES, PROGRAMS, CONTACTS, AND OPPORTUNITIES.

Link: schoolsafety.gov/state-search-tool

SAFETY READINESS TOOL



ASSISTS USERS IN EVALUATING THEIR RESPECTIVE SCHOOL'S SAFETY POSTURE ACROSS TEN ELEMENTS AND PROVIDES A TAILORED ACTION PLAN.

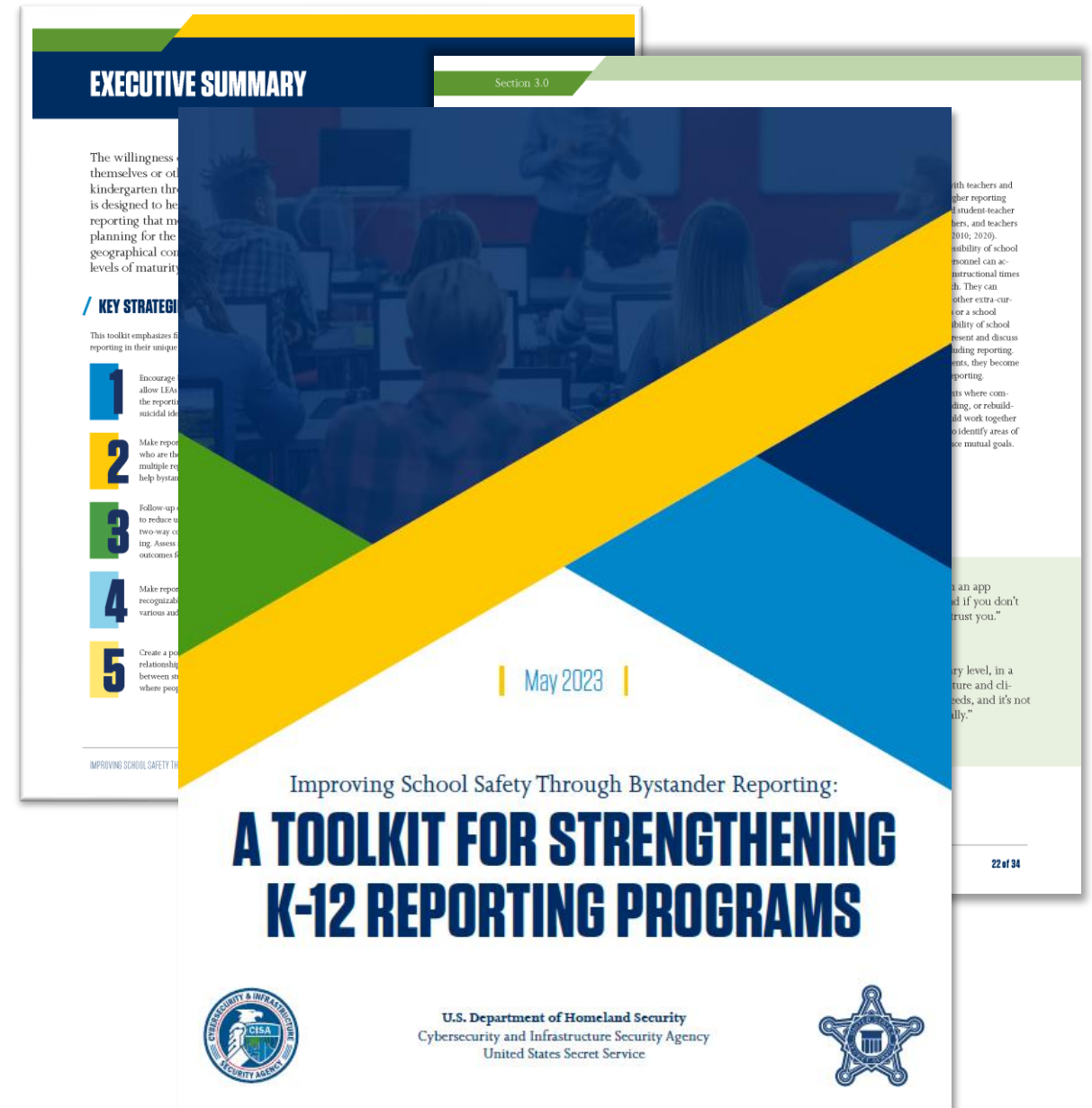
Link: schoolsafety.gov/safety-readiness-tool#no-back



CISA-USSS K-12 Bystander Reporting Toolkit

SCHOOL SAFETY TASK FORCE (SSTF)
NATIONAL THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER
(NTAC)

1st Edition | 2023



Importance of Early Identification

THE FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO YOUTH VIOLENCE ARE COMPLEX AND FAR-RANGING, BUT RESEARCH SHOWS THAT **EARLY IDENTIFICATION** OF THREATENING OR CONCERNING BEHAVIORS AND **INTERVENTION** REDUCES VIOLENCE.



DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR PRIOR TO THE PANDEMIC, **80 PERCENT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS** RECORDED THAT ONE OR MORE INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE, THEFT, OR OTHER CRIMES HAD TAKEN PLACE, AMOUNTING TO **1.4 MILLION INCIDENTS**.



IN 2020, STUDENTS AGES 12–18 EXPERIENCED **285,400 VICTIMIZATIONS AT SCHOOL**, TRANSLATING TO A RATE OF 11.2 VICTIMIZATIONS PER 1,000 STUDENTS AT SCHOOL.



Source: [Behavioral Approach to Violence Prevention 2.0](#) | Homeland Security ([dhs.gov](#))



Behaviors that may indicate: ■ Concern ■ Heightened Concern ■ Imminent Concern

The Reporting & Prevention Continuum



Localizing Reporting Programs

ATTRIBUTION

WILL THE PROGRAM
ACCEPT ANONYMOUS
AND/OR CONFIDENTIAL
REPORTS?

ACCESSIBILITY

WHAT TYPES OF
REPORTING MODES AND
TECHNOLOGIES WILL BE
OFFERED?

AVAILABILITY

WHEN WILL STAFF
BE AVAILABLE TO
FIELD AND TRIAGE
REPORTS?

TRAINING & OUTREACH

HOW WILL SCHOOL
COMMUNITY MEMBERS LEARN
ABOUT THE PROGRAM AND
THEIR INDIVIDUAL
RESPONSIBILITIES?

REPORT INTAKE & INITIAL PRIORITIZATION

WHO WILL MAKE AN INITIAL
DETERMINATION OF PRIORITY?
WHO WILL FORWARD TO
APPROPRIATE SCHOOL STAFF OR
OUTSIDE SERVICES? WHO WILL
FOLLOW-UP, IF NEEDED?

RESPONDING TO REPORTING

WHO WILL ASSESS
INFORMATION RECEIVED?
WHO WILL MANAGE ANY
IDENTIFIED CONCERNS?

Strengthen Reporting

SECTION 1.0



ENCOURAGE BYSTANDER REPORTING



ACCESSIBILITY AND SAFETY



EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPARENCY



MAKE REPORTING A PART OF DAILY SCHOOL LIFE



POSITIVE SCHOOL CLIMATE

LINK: [CISA.GOV/RESOURCES-TOOLS/RESOURCES/K-12-BYSTANDER-REPORTING-TOOLKIT](https://cisa.gov/resources-tools/resources/k-12-bystander-reporting-toolkit)

SECTION 2.0



CUSTOMIZING REPORTING SYSTEMS TO YOUR ENVIRONMENT

SECTION 3.0



STRATEGIES TO STRENGTHEN YOUR SCHOOL'S REPORTING

SECTION 4.0



RESOURCES FOR YOUR SCHOOL TO TAKE ACTION

WORKSHEETS



IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS FOR YOUR SCHOOL



SchoolSafety.gov



Federal Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) Resources

Federal School Safety Clearinghouse

Federal Resources for Emergency Planning
and Inclusion

Emergency Planning Strategies & Resources

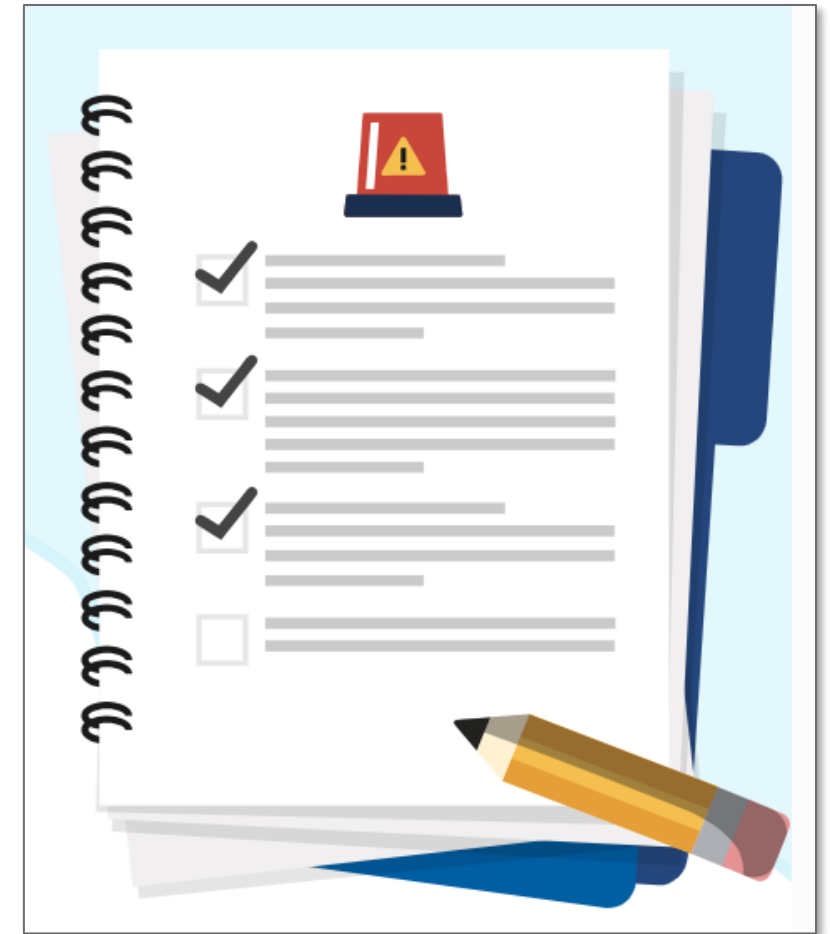
Prepare for emergency events and know how to respond and recover.

Emergency Plans and Procedures

By having emergency plans and procedures in place, practicing these plans through exercises and drills, and collaborating with local partners, schools can take a variety of **preventative and protective measures** to help keep students and educators safe.

- **Developing a School Emergency Operations Plan**
- **Training and Exercises**
- **Planning for Recovery**

Link: schoolsafety.gov/emergency-planning

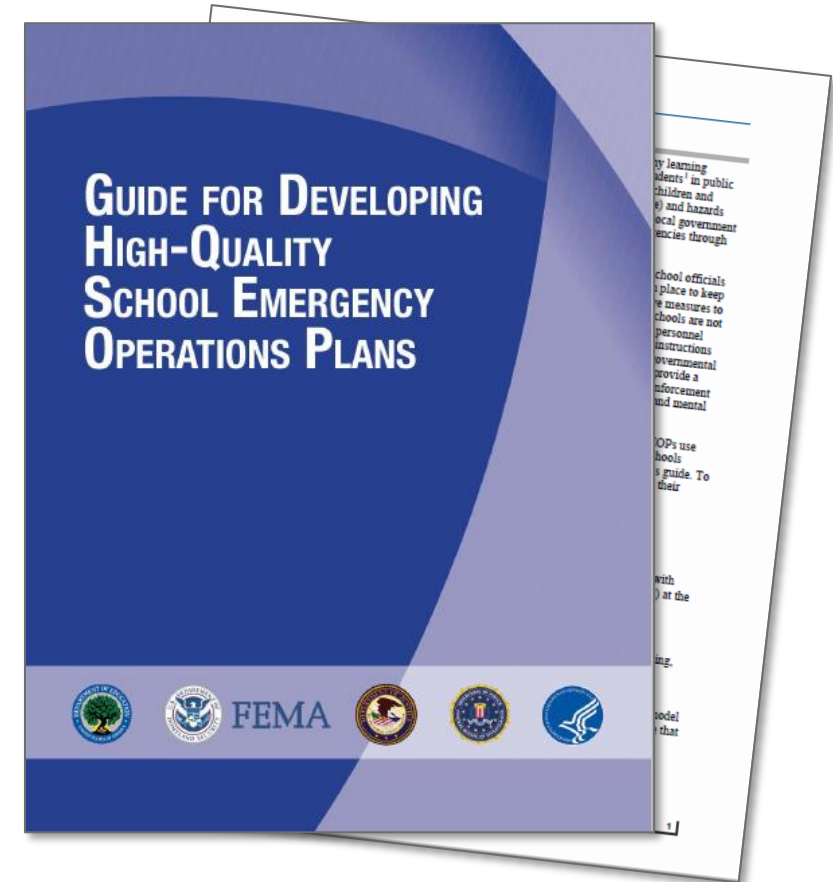


Guide for Developing High-Quality EOPs

The Guide For Developing High-quality School Emergency Operations Plans (EOP) was developed by multiple federal agencies.

This guide is organized in four sections:

1. The principles of school emergency management planning.
2. A process for developing, implementing, and continually refining a school EOP with community partners at the school building level.
3. A discussion of the form, function, and content of school EOPs.
4. “A Closer Look,” which considers key topics that support school emergency planning, including addressing an active shooter, school climate, psychological first aid, and information-sharing.



Principles of High-Quality EOPs

The following principles are key to developing a comprehensive school emergency operations plan (school EOP) that addresses a range of threats and hazards:

- Planning must be supported by leadership.
- Planning uses assessment to customize plans to the building level.
- Planning considers all threats and hazards.
- Planning provides for the access and functional needs of the whole school community.
- Planning considers all settings and all times.
- Creating and revising a model emergency operations plan is done by following a collaborative process.

Youth Violence Prevention

Youth violence is a significant public health problem that affects thousands of young people each day.

Violence in Schools

The factors that contribute to youth violence are complex and far-ranging, but research shows that **prevention efforts** by K-12 stakeholders can reduce violence and improve the school environment.

Preventing School Violence

A comprehensive approach that simultaneously targets multiple **risk and protective factors** is critical to having a broad and continued impact on youth violence.

Proactive Measures to Prevent School Violence



Positive school climate



Mental health support



Address bullying



Physical security measures



Lessen harms and prevent risk



Protective community environments



Support healthy development



Threat Assessment & Reporting

Identify and address threatening or concerning behaviors before they lead to violence.

Reporting on a variety of concerning student behaviors and other suspicious activities provides authorities and school personnel with the information they need to stop violence before it occurs. Having a threat assessment program, or a multidisciplinary group process, to evaluate these reports and respond to threats can significantly reduce violence, including mass casualty attacks.



Form a threat assessment team.



Provide training to team members.



Create a plan.



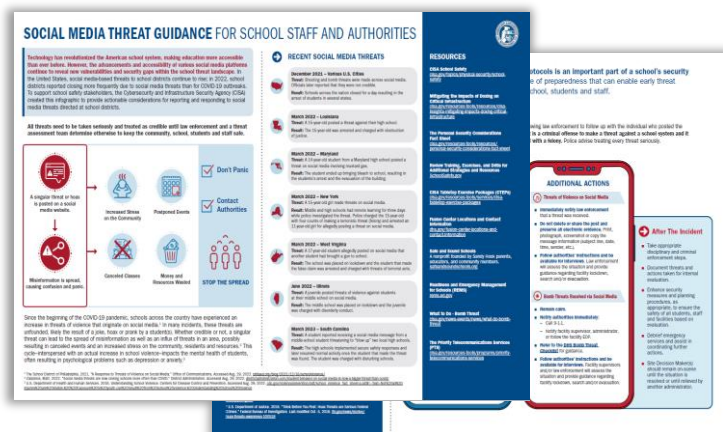
Communicate with stakeholders.



Assess outcomes.

New Resources for School-Based Threats

SOCIAL MEDIA THREAT GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOL STAFF AND AUTHORITIES INFOGRAPHIC



THIS PRODUCT HIGHLIGHTS SOCIAL MEDIA THREATS, PROVIDES MITIGATION AND RESPONSE MEASURES, AND CONNECTS SCHOOL SAFETY STAKEHOLDERS TO A SUITE OF TOOLS AND RESOURCES PROVIDED BY CISA AND ITS PARTNERS TO PROMOTE A CULTURE OF READINESS AND PREPAREDNESS.

LINK: [CISA.GOV/RESOURCES-TOOLS/RESOURCES/SOCIAL-MEDIA-THREAT-GUIDANCE-SCHOOL-STAFF-AND-AUTHORITIES-INFOGRAPHIC](https://www.cisa.gov/resources-tools/resources/social-media-threat-guidance-school-staff-and-authorities-infographic)



BOMBING PREVENTION ASSISTANCE FOR K-12 SCHOOLS



THIS PRODUCT PROVIDES K-12 SCHOOLS AND DISTRICTS WITH PRODUCTS, TOOLS, AND COUNTER-IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE (C-IED) STRATEGIES TO PROTECT, PREVENT, MITIGATE, AND RESPOND TO BOMBING THREATS.

LINK: [CISA.GOV/RESOURCES-TOOLS/RESOURCES/BOMBING-PREVENTION-ASSISTANCE-K-12-SCHOOLS](https://www.cisa.gov/resources-tools/resources/bombing-prevention-assistance-k-12-schools)



Question & Answer

THANK YOU



**FOR ADDITIONAL [SCHOOLSAFETY.GOV](https://www.schoolsafety.gov) NEWS,
RESOURCES AND EVENTS:**



FOLLOW @SCHOOLSAFETYGOV



SUBSCRIBE TO OUR LIST-SERVE





Resources & References

CISA

- [K-12 School Security Guide Product Suite](#)
- [National Summit on K-12 School Safety and Security](#)
- [Active Shooter Preparedness: School Security and Resilience](#)
- [Protecting our Future: Partnering to Safeguard K-12 Organizations from Cybersecurity Threats](#)
- [Partnering to Safeguard K-12 Toolkit](#)
- [Bombing Prevention Resources and Trainings](#)
- [Securing Mass Gathering Resources](#)
- [De-Escalation of Violence Resources](#)
- [Tabletop Exercise Packages](#)
- [Protective Security Advisors \(PSA\)](#)

SCHOOLSAFETY.GOV

- [Grants Finder Tool](#)
- [Safety Readiness Tool](#)
- [State Information Sharing Tool](#)
- [Resource Library](#)
- [Calendar of Events](#)
- [Informational Webinar Series](#)
- [Monthly School Safety Community Bulletin](#)
- [Communication Center](#)

DHS

- [NTAS Bulletin](#)
- [CP3: Prevention Resources](#)
- [If You See Something, Say Something](#)

USSS NTAC

- [Mass Attacks in Public Spaces: 2016-2020](#)
- [Averting Targeted School Violence: A U.S. Secret Service Analysis of Plots Against Schools](#)
- [Protecting America's Schools: A U.S. Secret Service Analysis of Targeted School Violence](#)
- [Enhancing School Safety Using a Threat Assessment Model: An Operational Guide for Preventing Targeted School Violence](#)

