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Enhancing School Safety and Security: Federal Resources to Protect the K-12 Community



Don Hough
CISA



Paige Settles
CISA



Curtis Tilley
CISA



Dan Avondoglio
CISA

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Don Hough, Deputy Associate Director | CISA School Safety Task Force

Curt Tilley, Training Branch Chief | CISA Office for Bombing Prevention

Paige Settles, Partnership Program Manager | CISA School Safety Task Force

Dan Avondoglio, Active Assailant Security Portfolio Manager | CISA Security Programs

Educational Achievement Assumes Safety



- 45% of teachers and principals fear their students will be victims of attacks or harm – but **students still generally feel safe** at school.
- 10% of schools have **experienced gun violence** in the last five years.
- Schools are focal points – areas of **convergence** – much of the social and emotion development of students occurs in schools. Thus bullying, cyberbullying, hate crimes, and mental health considerations are paramount.





Supporting Student Mental Health

Supporting students who are experiencing mental health challenges, schools can help foster a sense of safety and promote better academic and behavioral outcomes.

Preventing Bullying

Bullying and cyberbullying threaten students' physical and emotional safety and can impact their social and academic success at school.



Implementing Security Measures

Improving schools' physical security and involving school personnel who are trained to prevent, recognize, and respond to threats of violence.

Strengthening Cybersecurity

Growing dependence on technology systems - coupled with emerging, evolving, and increasingly deceptive cyber threats – demands enhanced awareness and vigilance when it comes to our online world.



Intervening with Support Early

Reporting and addressing concerning behaviors can help stop violence before it occurs.

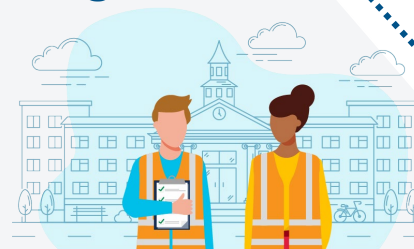
Improving School Climate

Developing students with strong character who are connected to their peers, educators, and communities in meaningful ways can improve school climate and prevent violence from occurring.



Planning and Practicing for Emergencies

Training prepares students, teachers, staff, parents, and community partners for the actions to take before, during, and after safety incidents.



**HOLISTIC
SAFETY**



Teacher & Administrators Safety Concerns

	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
Teachers' Perspective	49% Bullying	15% Student Fights	11% Drug Use	9% Violence against Staff	5% Active Shooter	4.5% Self Harm	2% Weapons
Principals' Perspective	49% Bullying	15% Self Harm	9% Student Fights	8% Violence against Staff	7% Drug Use	6% Active Shooter	1% Weapons



Physical Security vs. School Climate

- 75% of principals believe their security measures have a **positive effect on school climate**.
- No relationship indicated between the **presence** of security measures and the **level of concern** about harm occurring at school.
- 57% indicated that the **age and/or design** of their school building **negatively impacted** the ability to implement necessary safety measures.
- 79% of schools conduct **physical security site assessments** once a year, with middle schools being the most likely (89%) to do so.



Preparedness, Support, & Training



- 28% of schools report experiencing a student or school staff **suicide** in the past five school years.
- 32% of principals indicated that they are aware of students at their school experiencing trauma or heightened anxiety and stress **following participation in a drill**.
- Many schools are embracing physical security measures, but there is often not consistency across the board when it comes to mental health and bullying issues. Left neglected, these are often the **root of interpersonal violence, suicide, and threats**.



Technology Integration Horizon

- 60% of principals reported that their school had experienced one or more of seven types of **cyber incidents**.
- 67% of principals believed their students had been **misled by a deepfake**, and 50% believed this had happened to other teachers or administrators in their district.
- 40% of schools have been the target of a **threat posted on social media**, in written form, or received by telephone during the last two school years.
- 75% of schools have **tiplines** - however threats are most often **reported to teachers**.



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