

January 9, 2014 Webinar FAQ's

Question	Answer
<p>Are there “standardized” resources available to assist local School Safety Teams develop and implement Emergency Response Plans?</p>	<p>Guidance documents are available to assist local teams develop and integrate safety plans.</p> <p>New York State School Safety Guide, Revised 2013, is available upon request at: info@safeschools.ny.gov</p> <p>Guidance Document for School Safety Plans, Updated 2010 is available at: http://nyscenterforschoolsafety.org/files/filesystem/ProjectSAVE.pdf</p> <p>Safe Schools NY WEBSITE: www.safeschools.ny.gov contains a survey instrument to assist team members in completing an objective look at their current plans. State experts in school safety are available to review your School Safety Plan and provide guidance, if necessary. Links to best practice, training and technical assistance are available to support school safety teams.</p> <p>It is very important to note that crises at schools can vary widely from man-made disaster's to weather emergencies. There are no standard, out of the box, responses that can be recommended. Each school and community is different; therefore, each school must plan ahead for a wide variety of scenarios. School safety teams should meet regularly with their local first responders. Including these professionals in planning stages will enhance the response to all types of situations. Your local community partners have much to offer and are invested in protecting our children.</p>
<p>Are School Safety Plans only for “School Buildings”?</p>	<p>No. Planning ahead and practicing responses along with key stakeholders is a vital part of being prepared. Safety plans for scenarios affecting school buses, field trips and sporting events should also be considered. School safety teams should meet regularly to review and updated individual plans as needed. While</p>

	no plan can prevent a tragedy, careful planning and continuous review is necessary to keep school plans as effective as possible.
<p>What are “best practices” regarding responding to an active threat in a school building?</p>	<p>Actual threats can occur anywhere, at any time. Typically, they occur rapidly and it is imperative for staff to be prepared. Your school safety team must make decisions at the building level to address effective lock down procedures, protecting vulnerable areas of buildings, run-hide-fight, and how to protect students with special needs. Again, there are no “standardized” answers.</p> <p>Each building has unique features that require a detailed onsite review. Planning and practicing with staff, students and local resources yields the best possible outcome. Local emergency response agencies (fire, police, and EMS) and code enforcement agencies (NYSED Facilities Planning, local code enforcement) should consider all scenarios and circumstances when developing an individualized Emergency Action Plan (EAP). This is how “best practices” are determined. The objective is to protect life.</p> <p>Detailed information on requirements for school safety projects can be found at: http://www.p12.nysed.gov/facplan/documents/NYSAFEActImplementation.pdf. If you have further questions please call the Office of Facilities Planning at 518.474.3906.</p>
<p>What are NYS School Safety Improvement Teams?</p>	<p>Recent legislation established the New York State School Safety Improvement Team. This team is composed of representatives from the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, the Division of the State Police, the Division of Criminal Justice Services and the New York State Department of Education. The team is available to review, assess and provide technical assistance on safety plans submitted on a voluntary basis by school districts (within a municipality with a population of less than 125,000), Boards of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES), and County Vocational Education and Extension Boards. The</p>

	<p>Team works to identify “best practices” from a statewide, national and international perspective, provide recommendations, technical assistance and training resources as needed to ensure the best possible outcomes for the safety of our children and our communities. The team has developed a website (www.safeschools.ny.gov) where resources and information about training opportunities is available.</p>
<p>What funding is available for schools to enhance building safety?</p>	<p>A 10% funding incentive during the 2012-13 and 2014-15 school years is currently available for NYS Schools. To view the implementation document, please go to : http://www.p12.nysed.gov/facplan/documents/NYSAFEActImplementation.pdf</p> <p>Additional information can be found at: https://stateaid.nysed.gov/build/html_docs/nysafe_3602.6-c.htm.</p> <p>Information for NON Public schools can be found at: http://www.p12.nysed.gov/nonpub/schoolsafety/home.html.</p> <p>Questions about all enhancements should be directed to the New York State Department of Education, Office of Facilities Planning (518-474-3906).</p>
<p>Will training be provided?</p>	<p>We have developed a website that contains direct links and information about “best practice”, technical assistance and training opportunities for school personnel and first responders. This site will expand as we gather your feedback, and as we continue to identify resources to enhance school safety. Please contact us at : info@safeschools.ny.gov</p>