Are Your Schools Safe?
What is your role?

Presented by
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WELCOME!!

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Your Safety First!!!!

• Look around where are the following items:
  • 1 - Exit Signs
  • 2 - Fire Evacuation Route
  • 3 - Shelter in Place
• If you feel ill (nausea, light headed, etc.) please let us know for appropriate medical attention/assistance.
• If you need any special accommodation please do not hesitate to let me know.
Objectives

- Identify some school safety and security issues/factors affecting school safety
- Identify key components and requirements of Texas Senate Bill 11
- Engage the community and local emergency responders for safer schools
- Identify what your current EOPs dictate
- Identify what training is required under SB11
Factors Affecting Safety

- School Security
  - Hardware, technology, protocols, and policies
- School Design
  - Access control, natural surveillance, and territorial reinforcement
- School Climate
  - Values, norms, and attitudes
School Climate Issues

- Bullying, intimidation, and isolation
- Harassment and prejudice
- Social cliques
- Theft and graffiti
- Lack of connectedness
- Disrespect between teachers/staff and students
- Lack of student reporting of crime and safety issues
Safe Schools

- Positive school climate and atmosphere
- Clear and high academic and disciplinary expectations of students
- Strong student attachment to the school
- High levels of both student participation and parent involvement
- Values and practices that make everyone feel included; appreciated of diversity

Source: Trends and Issues Affecting School Safety, 2001
Safe Schools

- Building and grounds are well maintained.
- Students feel safe reporting crime and safety problems to staff.
- Disciplinary and safety problems are quickly and appropriately addressed.
- Access is controlled and visitors are monitored.
- All staff actively supervise students both inside and outside the classroom.
- All areas are safe by design or by staff supervision.
Texas Senate Bill 11 (Part 1)

Senate Bill 11, enacted September 1, 2005, Part 1 - mandated that all Texas School Districts adopt and implement a multi-hazard emergency emergency operation plans are consistent with the National Incident Management System.

**EOP**=Emergency Operations Plan

**Deadline:** March 1, 2006
Safe School Planning

- Establish a team
- Assess needs
- Prioritize needs
- Develop and implement a plan
- The most common format is a flip chart
- Other good designs include cards that can be kept with the staff ID or posters which are very helpful in locations such as classrooms
Who Should Be Involved?

STUDENTS

SRO, School Police Officers, and Local Law Enforcement

School Administrators, Staff, and Board

Parents and Caregivers

Neighborhood Watch and Crime Prevention Groups

Police and First Responders

Local Business Leaders

Juvenile Justice

Board of Education and District Staff

Faith Community

Community-based Organizations

Elected Officials and Community Leaders

Mental Health Professionals

Social Workers

News Media
Needs Assessment

- Collect existing indicator data.
- Survey parents, staff, and students about their safety concerns.
- Assess climate, security, and design.
- Conduct an inventory of assets.
Prioritize Needs

- What’s important?
- What’s feasible?
Develop a Plan

• Set measurable objectives that include
  - Time frame
  - Desired change

• Select effective programs and strategies

• Break the plan down step-by-step
Engaging the Community

- Involve community members on the planning team.
- Gather their feedback through surveys.
- Involve them through a forum.
- Consult them as needed for expertise.
- Ask for their support of measures.
Basic Drills

- Evacuation
- Reverse Evacuation
- Lockdown or Secure in Place
- Shelter in Place
- Drop, Cover and Hold
Parents and Caregivers

- Program development and implementation
- Cultural/diversity programming
- Mentoring and volunteering (can serve as hallway, playground, and lunchroom monitors)
- Visitor check-in table
- Safety patrols to and from school
- Advocacy to elected officials and school board
Community Service Providers

• Identifying learning and behavioral problems
• Counseling
• Resolving conflicts and providing alternatives to violence
• Conducting parent education programs
• Teaching social skills
• Providing afterschool and in-school programming
• Providing safe havens for kids
Law Enforcement and First Responders

• Information-sharing and collaboration
• Training for staff in emergency response
• Training for staff and School Resource Officers in warning signs
• Law-related education for students
• CPR and first aid classes for staff and students
• Mentoring and tutoring
Legal and Business Communities

- Legal alternatives and advise
- Supervise student courts and train students how to run them
- Afterschool employment or internships
- In-kind or monetary donations
- Mentoring and volunteering
- Staff training and education
- Safe havens for kids
Community and State Leaders

• Speak at awareness-building events
• Provide influential leadership
• Build support in the community
• Provide expertise on available alternative and supplementary resources
What did the EOP mandate?

The Texas State Safety Center provided a template districts could use to prepare their EOP which provided for:

- district **employee training** in responding to an emergency
- mandatory **school drills** to prepare district students and employees for responding to an emergency;
- measures to ensure **coordination** with local emergency management agencies, law enforcement, and fire departments in the event of an emergency; and
- the implementation of a **security audit** at least once every three years.
Who should be trained?

- School Administrators
- Instructional Staff
- Support Staff
- Auxiliary Staff
- School Bus Drivers
- Students
- Parents
- Community
Top Issues for Schools

• Emergency Operations
  – Lockdown - Mandatory school drills
  – Evacuation - Security Audits
  – Physical Security Assets
  – Relocation - Drop, cover and hold
  – Reverse Evacuation

• Disruption of Services

• Managing Panic & Fear
What does the EOP prepare us for?

Visitor Access
Bomb Threats
Fear and Panic
Evaluate and refine security procedures
Perimeter Security
Warning Signs!!!
The Enduring Message for Schools

• Be vigilant
  – Take notice of people, events and situations
• Take precautions
  – Develop/update emergency operations plans
  – Identify & gather resources
• Network & share information
Texas State Safety Center

EOP = Emergency Operations Plan
Deadline: March 1, 2006
Do you have a copy of your adopted EOP?

What’s in your currently adopted EOP?

When was the last time you revised it?
Texas Senate Bill 11
(Part 2)

Part 2 – mandates a school district, at least every three years, to conduct security audits of the district’s facilities and report the results of their security audits to their school board.

Safety & Security Audits (Due Dates)

Deadline: August 31, 2008
Deadline: August 31, 2011
Deadline: August 31, 2014
School Safety Audit Reporting (Amended)

The Texas Education Code has been amended to require school districts to report the results of their security audits under 37.108b not only to their school board, but also to the Texas School Safety Center under 37.108(c) in the manner required by the Center:

The Texas School Safety Center will send out an e-mail to the Superintendent of Schools around June 2014, notifying them to respond to the e-mail in order to activate a password that would give them access to an online system to collect the results of security audits. The district should complete the audit, report results to school board, and submit the online state report by no later than September 30, 2014.
I just got this assignment – Where do I start?

Texas School Safety Center

Who are they?
The Texas School Safety Center (TxSSC) serves as a central location for school safety information. It provides schools with research, training, and technical support to help reduce youth violence and promote school safety.

The center also helps schools create and improve emergency operation plans. It was formed in 1999 and was authorized by the 77th Texas Legislature in 2001. It is located in the Texas Education Code - Chapter §37.201.
What is your action plan?

- Project Manager Software
- Microsoft Calendar with Reminders Setup
- What is your data collection procedures?
- Will the Committee members meet face-to-face or by webinar?
- Are you up-to-date with social media?
- Regardless of what you use – prepare one!!
Resources/Websites:

- The Center for Safe Communities & Schools
  [www.cscs.txstate.edu](http://www.cscs.txstate.edu)
- Texas School Safety Center
  [www.txssc.txstate.edu](http://www.txssc.txstate.edu)
- Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools Technical Assistance Center
- [http://www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)
Interested in learning more about the Region One School Safety Project, contact:

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