



## School Safety Working Committee Outcomes

### Safe and Drug Free Schools

The Idaho School Safety and Security Stakeholder Group has identified the following determination statements regarding concerns it is working to address.

- There is a wide variance in the level of attention and preparation for school safety and security issues in the school districts and charter schools across the state.
- Valid and reliable information on the current status of school safety and security in schools across the state does not exist.
- Ownership and responsibility for school safety and security at the state and local district level has been nebulous and not well defined.
- The availability of Idaho specific school safety data, best practices information, training and assistance is limited.
- The majority of districts in the state lack the resources (expertise, personnel and funding) to establish meaningful and sustainable school safety and security improvement.

The Idaho School Safety and Security Stakeholder Group has identified the following determination statements for strategies it will use to address concerns and develop recommendations.

- School security is a subset of the much wider subject of school safety and requires a comprehensive approach.
- School districts must work more closely with their first responder community in the planning process to maximize the effectiveness of any response.
- Solutions must balance empowering local decision-making and establishing a baseline of statewide uniformity.
- School safety includes violence prevention, school climate and drug and alcohol issues.
- A common, valid and reliable threat assessment / school safety audit tool, with an accompanying rubric, is the starting place to address school safety and security statewide.
- Local safety plans should be crafted based on the strengths / deficiencies of the threat assessment.
- A state-level repository for best practices, research, technical assistance and training would address some of the greatest needs among districts.
- A dedicated funding source for state and local activities must be established to sustain efforts and maintain attention on school safety & security.
- Existing state-level activities and infrastructure must be leveraged to support school safety efforts (communications, building safety inspections, etc.).
- Safety and security plans must be NIMS, ICS and THIRA compliant.

- An awareness campaign to increase community involvement and buy-in must be part of the strategy.