



Idaho School Safety and Security Assessment Tool Introduction and Instructions

The Idaho School Safety and Security Assessment Tool is designed to increase the ability of Idaho schools to effectively prevent, mitigate and respond to crisis situations. This tool is the product of the School Safety and Security Task Force convened by the Governor's office and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction in the aftermath of the Sandy Hook incident and was adapted from the Texas School Safety Center for Idaho.

The goals of the Idaho School Safety and Security Task Force are to:

- Identify the critical infrastructure, resources and action steps to create a culture of readiness to prevent and respond to crises in every school community in Idaho.
- Build capacity for local jurisdictions to effectively prevent and respond to their unique crises situations.
- Assure every student, parent and staff member feels safe in Idaho schools.

Implementation of the Idaho School Safety and Security Assessment Tool in schools throughout the state will enable a proactive approach to address potential issues and risks. The State Department of Education is preparing to support this implementation through providing a cadre of technical experts to assist schools in conducting the assessment. This tool is not intended to be a measure of compliance, but rather a mechanism to inform the most effective allocation of limited resources and to facilitate planning.

The tool contemplates policy, procedure, planning, facilities, web presence and school climate / culture. The main sections are broken out by tabs and each element has a drop-down menu of responses. Certain sections are intended to be reviewed by an internal team (blue tabs) and other sections are intended to be reviewed by external parties (yellow tabs). A neutral perspective is extremely valuable when implementing specific elements of this tool. Green sections are intended to be completed by either or both internal and external parties. The technical experts will be made available to schools and districts ready to implement the Idaho School Safety and Security Assessment Tool in the fall of 2013.

The first step in this process is forming a core, school-based planning team including, but not limited to, administrators, educators, school psychologists / counselors and facilities managers. The core planning team should be small enough to permit close collaboration with first responders and other community partners, yet large enough to be representative of the school, its families and community.

Implementing this tool can be overwhelming; as such it is recommended that priority be placed on the following sections: **Demographics, Intruder, Risk Factors, Instructional part 1, Instructional part 2, EOP and Website**. Each question has a drop down menu of options for response (yes, no, not applicable and not assessed) and a field for comments.

More information regarding the determinations and recommendations of the Idaho School Safety and Security Task Force can be reviewed at:
http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/safe_secure/

A common, statewide, multi-hazard threat assessment is among the key recommendations of:

- Sandy Hook Advisory Commission Interim Report of Findings
http://www.governor.ct.gov/malloy/lib/malloy/SHAC_Interim_Report_2013.03.18.pdf
- Public Mass Shootings in the United States: Selected Implications for Federal Public Health and Safety (Congressional Research Service) www.crs.gov
- The National School Shield Report (National Rifle Association) http://nraschoolshield.com/NSS_Final.pdf

Federal agencies have recently published a guide for developing high-quality school emergency operations plans which may aid local efforts. The guide can be accessed at: http://rems.ed.gov/docs/REMS_K-12_Guide_508.pdf

Thank you for your commitment to establishing the safest possible environment for Idaho students.