



SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

DR. TERRY BERGESON OLD CAPITOL BUILDING • PO BOX 47200 • OLYMPIA WA 98504-7200 • <http://www.k12.wa.us>

Introduction

The *School Safety Planning Manual: Essential Resources for Developing a Comprehensive Safe School Plan* developed to assist the K–12 public school system to create and implement safety plans in compliance with both state and federal laws. The 2007 Washington State legislature radically altered existing laws dealing with school safety plans, requiring a range of specific elements to each school’s plan, and the processes which must be developed and maintained to facilitate these plans. Since the passage of this law, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) worked to clarify the elements of this new legislation through the following:

- Worked with the multi-stakeholder School Safety Advisory Committee to develop consensus on the implementation of Substitute Senate Bill 5097;
- Prevention in a committee to revise the fire and building codes relative to new drill requirements;
- Revised the OSPI School Safety Center Web site to provide for updated guidance;
- Conducting 27 intensive training sessions in every part of the state on the Incident Command System (ICS) as applied to schools in collaboration with the Association of Washington School Principals (nearly **1200** school administrators have been trained in the past year);
- Developed and disseminated training DVDs on how schools can adopt shelter-in-place programs and practices in collaboration with the Washington State Emergency Management Division;
- Promoted and awarded 59 Emergency Drill Mini Grants throughout the state, with additional grants available for the 2008–09 school year;

- Promoted and awarded 7 Comprehensive Safe School Grants to address the complexities and funding issues for adopting new requirements;
 - The two grant programs combined will provide schools with approximately one million dollars of support to address safety planning programs.
- Collaborated with the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs to upgrade the statewide mapping system. Providing assistance to schools in uploading their safety plan information (per state law requirements);
- The Gangs n Schools Task Force formed under the legislative directive to date have held 3 regional forums and several regional meetings giving both schools and communities the opportunity to voice their concerns.
- Recently launched the School Pan Flu Preparedness Project through a grant with the Washington State Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control and prevention, to provide schools with a model policy, procedure, and set of tools to address pan flu preparedness and continuity of operations guidance.
- Developed and implemented the “Ready-Set-Plan” training for schools to address how schools can develop programs, policies, and practices consistent with both state and federal safety planning laws and guidance.

This manual is intended as a dynamic document which will be updated on a periodic basis to address new information and Best Practices. Please let us know if you have questions or suggestions about any of the elements within this manual. We truly hope this is helpful to schools and their community safety stakeholders, as they grapple with the challenges presented by updating and upgrading local safety plans.

Sincerely,

Craig D. Apperson, Director
Washington State School Safety Center