School Facilities Emergency Response Grants (MO64-13; 11.15.13)

SB 5197: Taking measures to promote safe school buildings

Legislation Language:
(2)(a) The school safety advisory committee shall also develop recommendations related to incorporating school safety features in the planning and design of new or remodeled school facilities. The recommendations shall address, at a minimum:
(i) Options to address public access to school buildings and grounds;
(ii) Interior design features to address public access to classrooms; and
(iii) Options and best practices to protect students and staff in the event of a threat during school hours.
(b) The recommendations shall consider and provide flexibility regarding varying campus designs, geographic locations, site-specific needs, grade-level configurations, cost-effectiveness, and coordination with local law enforcement in a manner suitable to the locale.

Conversation on Strategies / Procedures / Primer Content:

- Legislative vocabulary clarification:
  o In real, safety planning terms, “expedited” means “effective & timely”
  o “Comprehensive school safety plan” means addressing all areas covered by the OSPI School Safety Center Manual
  o “School mapping information system” means the Critical Incident Planning and Mapping System, operated by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) and commonly referred to as “Rapid Responder”

- A working definition of “evolving technologies” – may vary, based on location - considers
  o Alerting systems
  o Camera systems
  o Door lock control systems
  o System integration

- Requisite aspects of a school safety plan/planning process:
  o Identify the primary law enforcement jurisdiction for each school
  o Identify the primary fire department jurisdiction for each school
  o Identify the primary 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) for each school
  o Identify number of School Resource Officers provided by each law enforcement jurisdiction (if any) and which schools they serve
  o Identify a liaison officer at each law enforcement jurisdiction, one for the district, and (optionally) one at each school
  o Identify designated (non-commissioned) safety and security staff (if any) at which schools they serve
  o Agree to a minimum number of drills and exercises in which the primary law enforcement agency will participate each school year
  o Agree to a minimum number of drills and exercises in which the fire department will participate each school year
- Key components of a model emergency response plan for schools/law enforcement
  - Pre-planned tactical response plan developed collaboratively with local police and fire agency which indicates, at a minimum
    - Entry Team
    - Inner Perimeter
    - Outer Perimeter
    - Incident Command
    - Staging Areas
    - Occupant Evacuation Areas
    - Family Re-unification sites
    - Media Briefing Location
  - Procedures specific to each school for response to the following emergencies
    - Violent Intruder
    - Neighborhood criminal activity
    - Chemical Spill
    - Fire
    - Emergency Medical
    - Earthquake
  - Procedures specific to each school for the following responses to emergencies
    - Lockdown
    - Lockout (called Modified Lockdown in many districts)
    - Shelter-in-Place
    - Evacuation

- Integrate products and processes with current site-based technologies;

- Integrate all with a district's current plans, procedures and resources;

- Generate a list of:
  - best practice look-fors and to-dos; (What makes a tool, process or product good?)
  - potential resources: Note: this would not be a recommended list; rather, a starter list so we have an idea of what's currently out there.
  - activities and tools to avoid. (What makes a tool, process or product bad?)
  - Products which have been demoed for or viewed by members of the SSAC:
    - Rapid Responder – School Mapping System
    - School Alert-
    - 4QTRS - SafePointe
    - Rave Panic Button
SSB 5197 is an ACT Relating to safe school buildings. Sec. 3. of the Act states that the School Safety Advisory Committee convened by the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall develop model policies ... for school districts and local law enforcement agencies to design emergency response systems using evolving technology to expedite the response and arrival of law enforcement in the event of a threat or emergency at a school.

Draft Policy Language:

It is the policy of the ___ School District to provide and maintain the critical and necessary environment in which effective teaching and learning can take place. School safety supports student learning by creating and promoting a physically, emotionally, socially, and academically secure climate for students, staff, and visitors.

To help provide this climate of safety, the ___ School District will develop and annually revise and update, as necessary, its safe school plan to ensure that it:

a. includes required school safety policies and procedures;
b. addresses emergency mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery;
c. includes provisions for assisting and communicating with students and staff, including those with special needs or disabilities;
d. uses the training guidance provided by the Washington emergency management division of the state military department in collaboration with the Washington state office of the superintendent of public instruction school safety center and the school safety center advisory committee;
e. ensures the building principal are certified on the incident command system;
f. takes into account the manner in which the school facilities may be used as a community asset in the event of a community-wide emergency; and
g. sets guidelines for requesting city or county law enforcement agencies, local fire departments, emergency service providers, and county emergency management agencies to meet with school districts and participate in safety-related drills.

In addition, district and school personnel will, through collaboration with local law enforcement agencies and first responders, develop an individualized emergency response agreement which defines a system to expedite communication, response and arrival of local law enforcement agencies and first responders in the event of a threat or emergency at a school. The district will consider the use of best practices, and the most current and evolving technologies to facilitate such communication, response and arrival.