School District
Mitigation Planning 101
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What is Hazard Mitigation?

Mitigation simply means actions taken to eliminate or reduce the potential for future damages and losses from natural hazards such as earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic events, floods, wildland/urban interface fires and landslides.
Mitigation Planning vs. Emergency Planning

- Mitigation planning focuses on eliminating or reducing future damages and losses.
- Emergency planning focuses more broadly on preparing for and responding effectively to disaster events.
- Mitigation planning and emergency planning are complementary.
Mitigation Measures

- Mitigation includes implementing physical measures such as floodproofing or seismic retrofits for at risk facilities.

- Mitigation also includes measures such as developing evacuation plans for schools in tsunami or lahar inundation zones.
Mitigation Measure Examples

- Seismic retrofits
- Evacuation planning for tsunamis, lahars, wildland/urban interface fires
- Elevation or relocation of flood-prone schools
- Vertical evacuation for tsunamis
- Defensible space for wildland fires
- And many other types of projects…
Mitigation Measures Reduce Damages and Losses

- Physical damage to school facilities and contents
- Disruption of education services
- Economic losses such as extra costs for moving to temporary facilities while repairs are made
- Deaths and injuries
What is a Hazard Mitigation Plan?

- **A hazard mitigation plan:**
  - Educates stakeholders about natural hazards
  - Includes scientific data on the probability and severity of natural hazards posing threats to schools
  - Evaluates the level of risk to facilities from natural hazards as quantitatively as possible
  - Provides the knowledge foundation to make rational decisions about mitigation priorities
A Hazard Mitigation Plan:

- Is NOT a regulatory document that imposes requirements on school districts
- Does NOT impose unfunded mandates on school districts
- Does NOT override local school district priorities with state priorities
Why is Mitigation Planning Important for School Districts?

- Deal with natural hazards **realistically** and gradually reduce risk over time by focusing on the highest risk situations with cost-effective solutions.

- Avoid **irrational** extremes:
  - Ignore real risks from natural hazards, or
  - Think that “the sky is falling” – relocate all schools out of floodplains or implement seismic retrofits for every school building.
Why is Mitigation Planning Important for School Districts?

- Incorporate hazard and risk data for natural hazards into capital spending for existing and new school facilities
- Greatly improve likelihood of getting FEMA mitigation grants which provide 75% funding for mitigation projects
- A mitigation plan is required for FEMA grant eligibility
Key Steps in Developing a District Mitigation Plan - 1

1) Establish a mitigation planning team and lead person

2) Facilitate involvement of stakeholders and the public throughout the planning
   - Website postings and other notices and communications
   - Public meetings
Key Steps in Developing a District Mitigation Plan - 2

- 3) Hazard and risk assessments for hazards that pose significant risks to the district’s facilities and people
- 4) Establish mitigation goals, objectives and action items to reduce risks
- 5) Review of draft plan by Washington Emergency Management and FEMA
Key Steps in Developing a District Mitigation Plan - 3

6) School Board adoption of the plan, after FEMA approval

7) Periodic review and updating to keep the plan “alive” and current

8) Implement cost-effective mitigation measures - as funding is available - to reduce risks for facilities with the greatest risks
Typical Mitigation Plan Outline

- **Overview and Context**
  - Chapter 1: Introduction
  - Chapter 2: District Profile
  - Chapter 3: Planning Process
  - Chapter 4: Mission Statement, Goals, Objectives and Action Items
  - Chapter 5: Plan Adoption, Implementation, and Maintenance
Typical Mitigation Plan Outline

- **Hazards**
  - Chapter 6: Earthquakes
  - Chapter 7: Floods
  - Chapter 8: Tsunamis
  - Chapter 9: Wildland/Urban Interface Fires
  - Chapter 10: Volcanic Hazards
  - Chapter 11: Landslides
  - Chapter 12: Other Hazards
- Appendices
OSPI Resources for District Mitigation Planning

- Washington State K-12 Facilities Hazard Mitigation Plan
- OSPI ICOS Pre-Disaster (PDM) Database
- OSPI Mitigation Planning Toolkit for District Mitigation Plans
- Consultant support for district plans
Washington State K-12 Facilities Hazard Mitigation Plan

- Detailed information about each of the major hazards affecting Washington State including explanations of technical terms
- Statewide hazard maps
- A valuable reference for staff developing district mitigation plans
OSPI ICOS PDM Database

- Database incorporates numerous GIS data layers with hazard data for Washington
- Automates much of the hazard and risk assessment process for districts, using both GIS data and district-specific data
- Automates the interpretation of hazard and risk data at the campus-level and building-level and generates reports
OSPI Mitigation Planning Toolkit

- Technical guidance for hazard and risk assessments for districts
- Hazard maps for district plans
- Chapter Templates for district mitigation plan chapters: Pre-written text for each chapter, with instructions for inserting, maps, ICOS reports and district information into each chapter
- Many other mitigation planning resources
Consultant Support

- Facilitate one public mitigation planning meeting for each planning partner district
- Provide a limited amount of technical assistance for the mitigation planning toolkit materials
- Provide assistance with plan adoption process
- Benefit-cost analyses for FEMA grant applications – 10+ high priority projects
Questions or Issues
Re: Mitigation Planning 101?

Discussion