

SAFETY & SECURITY FOR OUR FUTURE

WHITE PAPER SUMMARY

The Safety and Security White Paper is a comprehensive resource to support school districts in the development of a district-wide facilities safety and security plan. Each section is addressed at length in the White Paper and this summary document shares key take-aways from each section.



SECTION 1

- When a district is considering construction of new facilities or renovations of existing ones, the district is advised to also conduct a safety and security vulnerability assessment. This assessment should consider all the applicable state laws and requirements (OSPI, Washington State State Department of Health, school board/administrative guidance, ADA, etc.).
- Section 1 of the White paper provides links to specific tools and considerations including an OSPI toolkit for emergency readiness and management.



SECTION 2

- The following elements should be considered in an "all hazards" plan:
 1. Criminal activity
 2. Natural disasters
 3. Man-made disasters/accidents
 4. Resilience of school infrastructure
- Each of these considerations is outlined in Section 2 of the White Paper.



SECTION 3

- Steps to start developing a school facilities safety plan (new buildings/renovations):
 1. Identify and engage a safety champion
 2. Ensure collaboration between leadership, staff, community and local emergency officials
 3. Review and utilize an available Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) toolkit from the Department of Education.
 4. A link to this resource is in Section 3 of the White Paper.



SECTION 4

- Creating the safety plan after identifying the hazards:
 1. Assemble your school facilities safety planning team (staff, public safety officials, architect and engineer consultants)
 2. Utilize established resources including Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), National Center for Educational Facilities (NCEF) guidelines, Integrated Rapid Visual Screening (IRVS) of Schools, or State of Connecticut Critical Compliance Standards.
 3. These resources are summarized in Section 4 of the White Paper, with complete copies included in the appendix of the White Paper.



SECTION 5

- Considering cybersecurity:
 1. Cybersecurity must be considered when developing a school safety and facilities plan.
 2. Resources are available, including information on a recent example of a school district data breach and the district's response, as well support to school districts with evaluating, preventing, and responding to cybersecurity events.
 3. Links to the school district data breach example and other resources for districts are included in section 5 of the White Paper.



SECTION 6

- School resilience following a natural or man-made disaster is directly impacted by community preparedness and resilience.
- Section 6 of the White Paper provides links to helpful resources, including a National Institute of Standards and Technology packet and six-step process for planning for community resilience.



SECTION 7

- Funding for safety and security capital improvements:
 1. Local and federal funding opportunities and considerations are outlined in Section 7.



SECTION 8

- Section 8 outlines the guidance documents included in the report which were formed to instruct best practices after the Newtown, Connecticut school shooting:
 1. Guidance Document A: Report of the School Infrastructure Safety Council
 2. Guidance Document B: Critical Compliance Standards
 3. Guidance Document C: Safe schools: A Best Practices Guide