Crisis Timeline & Law Enforcement

In this podcast episode, guests discuss the phases of the crisis timeline and the difference between structural interventions or hardening strategies and human behavioral interventions or softening strategies. They also share their thoughts on collaboration with law enforcement and the role that school resource officers (SROs) can play in protecting schools.

Guests: Chris Melde, Katherine Schweit

Learning Outcomes

» Explain each phase of the crisis timeline as it relates to law enforcement.

» Contrast an SRO's role with that of other school staff.

» Describe key considerations for school safety teams in coordinating and collaborating with law enforcement.

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Key Takeaways

☑ Common elements of softening strategies that focus on building a positive school environment include clear school rules and behavior norms, as well as consistent rule enforcement. In contrast, security guards or SROs are examples of school hardening strategies.

☑ Law enforcement staff have many different roles throughout the crisis timeline, and roles differ within various school communities.

☑ Engaging school staff in conversations about safety is critical. For example, at a faculty meeting or administrative meeting, you can talk specifically about staff concerns by asking them, "What do you worry about the most when you come to the school? What do you worry about the most when you are leaving school?"

☑ Training should be done on a regular basis. That can take the form of regular emergency operations refreshers or ensuring that safety and training are discussed at every staff meeting.

Additional Resources

School Safety & Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design - This video discuss the benefits of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) and key findings from principals who implemented CPTED strategies.

Mentor, Educator, Officer: The Roles SROs Play in Atlanta Public Schools - This video details best practices for SRO training and the many different roles SROs can play when engaging with students.

Questions for Discussion

» Where do issues occur before school, during the school day, and after school? Are there patterns?

» What strategies can help address the school safety issues you have identified?

» How often is school safety being discussed in your school? How often is training being discussed?

» What is the role of law enforcement at your school?

NC2S.org | schoolsafety@umich.edu | 734-647-8295
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