

# Operationalizing Evidence-Based School Safety Programs



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[In this training](#), participants learn how to find programs that are feasible and sustainable in their school setting. This presentation provides current evidence-based program resources, discusses the importance of conducting a needs assessment, and reviews what action steps leaders can take and the pitfalls they should avoid.

## Learning Outcomes

- » Assess your school's needs as they relate to school safety.
- » Understand how to find a program that best fits your needs.
- » Create action steps to put the program into practice.

## Key Takeaways

- ✓ Consider school culture, capacity, and funding when selecting an evidence-based program.
- ✓ Needs assessments provide a snapshot of policy, systems, or environmental change strategies that are currently in place or could be implemented. It is important to think critically about the definition of school community, consider assets, and utilize data.
- ✓ Programs that have proven to previously be effective will lead to change.
- ✓ Collaborator buy-in is necessary for a program's success — whether they be teachers, staff, parents, etc.
- ✓ Sustainability must be considered. Programs require funding and often need multiple years to take effect, and staff turnover can impact a program.

## Additional Resources

[SchoolSafety.gov](https://www.schoolsafety.gov) - A great starting place for learning about school safety and some commonly implemented strategies like threat assessment, school climate, emergency planning, and more.

[CrimeSolutions.gov](https://www.crimesolutions.gov) - Serves as a clearinghouse of programs with effectiveness ratings.

[BlueprintsPrograms.org](https://www.blueprintsprograms.org) - Evaluations and expert reviews of programs, as well as a searchable database of programs with strong scientific support.

## Questions for Discussion

- » What problem needs solving based on your needs assessment? Who can you partner with to help solve it (staff, parents, students) and what are their roles?
- » How will you implement the program protocol on a daily basis across the school? How will you measure the program's progress?
- » What is your plan when there is staff turnover?
- » How are you cultivating buy-in? Are you presenting at PTA meetings, school board meetings, etc?

[NC2S.org](https://www.nc2s.org) | [schoolsafety@umich.edu](mailto:schoolsafety@umich.edu) | 734-647-8295  
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This project was supported by Cooperative Agreement No 2019 YS BX K 001 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.