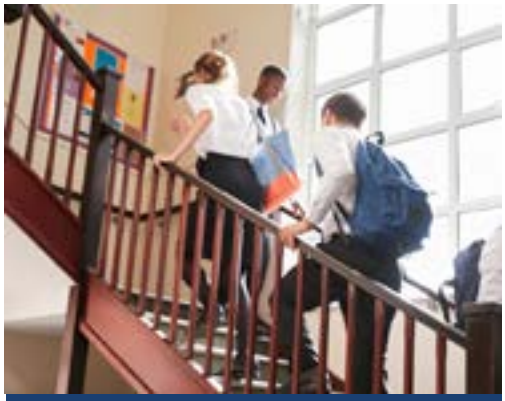
Michigan School Safety Initiative

National Center for School Safety

Self-Paced Highlights

# Navigating Comprehensive School Safety in Michigan



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Traditional school safety plans often focus solely on emergency response and physical security measures. This self-paced course introduces a comprehensive framework that encourages school personnel to consider additional factors that affect student well-being, including areas like student mental health, proactive threat assessment, and school climate.

### Learning Outcomes

- Describe the components of a comprehensive approach to school safety
- Explain the importance of using evidence-based school safety strategies
- Identify key concepts of program evaluation
- Locate resources and support for improving school safety

## Key Takeaways

- ☑ Research shows that the earlier an intervention occurs, the more likely it is to be effective. Shifting efforts towards prevention strategies helps to address underlying issues like bullying and mental health before they escalate to violence.
- ☑ Be aware of the evidence base for all strategies you implement. Prioritize strategies with a clear and consistent evidence base.
- ☑ A school's unique context should guide the strategies used. Consider your capacity, relevant policies, and community support when selecting approaches.
- ☑ Successful school safety strategies influence three distinct areas: The social environment (supportive climate), the attentive environment (early detection and awareness), and the physical environment (building security and access points).
- ☑ Comprehensive safety requires continually monitoring all measures to ensure they do not create unintended, negative effects for any student groups.

## Additional Resources

Supporting Youth Mental Health On-Demand Webinar – This webinar provides tips on how educators and school personnel can discuss mental health with students.

School Climate Resources for the K-12 Community – This resource provides strategies and tools to enhance school safety and climate by fostering positive relationships and a supportive learning environment,

CISA K-12 Security Guide – This guide helps K-12 schools across the U.S. create safer learning environments by providing systems-based strategies and practical steps for planning and implementing layered physical security.

## Questions for Discussion

- What are the biggest strengths of the physical, attentive, and social environments in your school? What areas for improvement do you see in each of those environments?
- What steps can your team take to continually monitor the effects of safety strategies and ensure they are being applied fairly?
- How does your school currently balance prevention, response, and recovery strategies, and where is the greatest need for additional resources?

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The Michigan School Safety Initiative is housed at the University of Michigan Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention and funded by the State of Michigan through the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (PA 166 of 2022 & HB 5783)