#### **First Steps in School Safety**



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Making great things happen in our classrooms for others

# Targets for action



### GAP means what?

• It is the time between when the violent event starts and when an active response to the event happens.



# What are we trying to achieve in the center hexagon?

- We are trying to mitigate the time gap between the start of an active violent event and the response to neutralize the threat.
- Consider this in two timeframes:
  - # 1 We are trying to shorten the time it takes for a response to neutralize the threat.
  - #2 We are trying to slow down the active threat's access to targets.

### How do we expedite response?

1. Communication systems that allows all staff the opportunity to initiate the call for help with the least friction possible. TIME is of the essence. We want to shorten the timeframe # 1. --- The GAP between violent event occurring and intervention.



# Waiting for law enforcement or ?

- Timeframe # 2 ----During the time we are waiting for intervention, we need to make it as hard as possible for access to targets.
- What can you do?
  - Run, Hide, Fight
  - GAP/ALICE training for staff and students



## Details about time in the GAP

- Run, Hide, Fight
  - Staff need to have communication about what is going on so they can make decisions about whether they can evacuate. They need to know where the threat is.
  - Staff need to know how to prepare their room to make it hard for the threat to access it. Desk placement, barricade and student placement.
  - Preparation for response if needed.



## Details about time in the GAP

- Train staff for an active response, if the threat is harming people in your immediate location.
  - Preparing for attacking the threat.
    - Fatal funnel
    - Trapping weapons
    - Working in concert with others to take threat to the ground and immobilize them.
    - Use of force bats, Wasp spray, pens etc.



#### Law enforcement response preparation

- Access to information that will make the time it takes to respond to the threat as short as possible
  - Access to incident command technology that is readily available to all responders as they are responding. Example is a map of every building, access to cameras, integrated communication system, locking system access, student attendance data by room.

## Questions to solve

- How short can you make the response to the threat be?
- How hard can you make it for the threat to have access to targets?
- How do we keep everyone informed in real time?

#### **Regional School Safety Centers (RSSC)**

- Nine ESDs will provide unified systemic safety support through a safety center staffed with mental and behavioral health professionals, threat assessment coordinators, and coordinators with technical expertise to assist SDs in the planning, preparation, mitigation, response and recovery phases of a natural and human-made crisis/disaster.
- Focusing on protecting student, teacher and staff safety, RSSCs will assist SDs with:
- Providing relevant, timely teacher and staff training on what to do in the event of a crisis/disaster.
- Preparing school and SD safety plans incorporating relevant best practices.
- Translating statute, policy and regulations into actionable school safety plans.

#### **Regional School Safety Centers (RSSC)**

- Installing/sustaining a threat assessment process identifying students with behavioral issues.
- Coordinating with community mental health and law enforcement to mitigate student threats.
- Working with first responders and emergency management services to integrate preparedness plans.
- Assessing information for the purchase of materials & implementation of safety related technology.
- Supporting teachers, staff, students, and the community following a crisis/disaster.

