

Safe & Secure Schools: 27 Strategies for Prevention and Intervention

Schools are supposed to be places where students feel safe and protected, but unfortunately, violence and other threats can occur. To address these concerns, schools need to implement comprehensive plans that include prevention, intervention, and collaboration. This article provides 27 strategies that schools can use to enhance safety and foster a positive learning environment.



Safe & Secure Schools: 27 Strategies for Prevention and Intervention by Judy M. Brunner

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Prevention

1. **Establish a clear and concise school safety plan.** This plan should outline the school's policies and procedures for preventing and responding to emergencies. It should be reviewed and updated regularly.

2. **Conduct regular safety drills.** This will help students and staff to practice responding to emergencies and to know what to do in the event of a real threat.
3. **Provide ongoing safety training for students and staff.** This training should cover topics such as stranger danger, bullying prevention, and how to report suspicious activity.
4. **Create a positive school climate.** This involves fostering a sense of community and belonging among students and staff. It also means creating a school culture that is respectful, inclusive, and supportive.
5. **Identify and support students who are at risk for violence.** This may include students who are experiencing bullying, mental health issues, or family problems.

Intervention

6. **Implement a multi-tiered system of supports.** This system should provide early intervention services for students who are struggling academically, socially, or emotionally.
7. **Create a school threat assessment team.** This team should be responsible for assessing potential threats and developing appropriate interventions.
8. **Establish clear and consistent disciplinary procedures.** These procedures should be fair and equitable, and they should be enforced consistently.
9. **Provide mental health support for students.** This may include counseling, therapy, and medication management.

10. **Collaborate with law enforcement and other community agencies.** This will help to ensure that the school is prepared to respond to any threats that may arise.

Collaboration

11. **Involve parents and community members in school safety planning.** This will help to ensure that the plan is comprehensive and reflective of the needs of the community.
12. **Establish relationships with local law enforcement agencies.** This will help to facilitate communication and cooperation in the event of an emergency.
13. **Partner with mental health agencies to provide support for students.** This may include counseling, therapy, and medication management.
14. **Collaborate with other schools in the district or region.** This will allow schools to share resources and best practices.
15. **Participate in national school safety initiatives.** This will help schools to stay up-to-date on best practices and to access resources.

Additional Tips

16. **Use technology to enhance safety.** This may include video surveillance, door access control systems, and emergency notification systems.
17. **Consider using school resource officers.** These officers can provide a visible presence in the school and can assist with safety and security.

18. **Be prepared to respond to emergencies.** This includes developing emergency plans, training staff, and conducting drills.
19. **Be vigilant and report suspicious activity.** This may help to prevent incidents from occurring.
20. **Remember that school safety is a shared responsibility.** Everyone in the school community has a role to play in keeping students safe.

Creating safe and secure schools is essential for providing students with a positive learning environment. By implementing the strategies outlined in this article, schools can help to prevent violence, intervene when necessary, and collaborate with the community to ensure that students are safe.

Remember, school safety is a journey, not a destination. It requires ongoing effort and collaboration from all stakeholders. By working together, we can create safe and supportive schools where all students can learn and thrive.



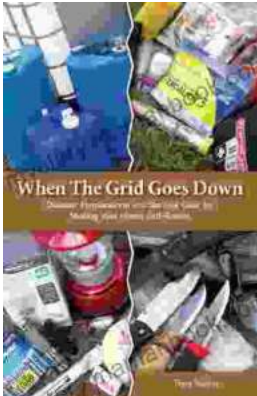
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