

School Safety

More help this year for schools to keep students and staff safe.

Schools are strengthening their safety efforts for the 2014-2015 school year. The centerpiece is a state requirement that schools have a strong and comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

All schools must develop and maintain an Emergency Management Plan to deal with all types of situations that threaten the safety of students and staff.

Elements of a strong school plan include:

- Administrators consult local emergency management personnel and first responders to identify the greatest threats for the school and the community. Also, schools involve community law enforcement and safety officials, parents, teachers and staff to develop the plan for a school building.
- Five phases are in the plan - prevention, protection, mitigation, response and recovery.
- The school reviews the plan at least once each year (by July 1) to make sure it is current and accurate. Any change in information or to the physical building means the administrator must refile a revised plan with the state.
- Schools refile their Emergency Management Plans with the state every three years, whether or not there are any changes.

When the plan is in place, schools must conduct at least one emergency management test each year. These drills, exercises and follow-through activities should test and evaluate the effectiveness of the Emergency Management Plan.

Administrators, emergency management personnel and others involved should use the results to work together on strengthening the plan.

For more information visit:

<http://saferschools.ohio.gov>



New Help This Year

Schools can soon register for access to the School Safety Tip Line. This free, voluntary service provides a 24-hour tip line for students and others to report issues such as criminal activity, safety problems and bullying. Those schools participating in the Tip Line will receive free safety materials to promote the service in their schools.