Sustaining School Safety/Security Plans
St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES, Canton, NY
Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative ('06)

Project Directors' Consortia Meeting

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Orlando, Florida

Safety/Security Planning Consists of…

- **Preparedness**

  Physical Environment, Safety Policies and Procedures, Examine Drills and Training Practices, Conducting Safety Audits

- **Education -** increased knowledge and awareness

  Incident Command System, Bully Prevention, Internet Safety for Parents, Drug and Alcohol Facts

- **Training** - procedures

  School and Community Drill Participation, Tabletop Exercises, Drug Impairment Training for Education Professionals, Train the Trainer Opportunities such as Conducting Building-level Safety Audits

Effective Safety/Security Planning

- Ensures the safety of students in the school setting
- Enables teachers to maximize instructional time
- Positively impacts academic achievement
- Establishes partnerships between districts and local emergency management services
- Builds district capacity to sustain successes
- Saves the district time and money

Elements of Safety/Security Planning

- District-wide and Building-level Assessments

- Safety Plan Reviews

- Annual Safety Drills

- Violent and Disruptive Incident Reports

- Safety Management Training

Sustaining Safety/Security Plans

St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES Experience

Background

- Rural setting – large county in upstate New York which runs along the US/Canada border

- 8 school districts – 13 buildings – 37 administrators – 6625 students

- Budgeted amount for Elements 1 & 6 = $10,000 annually

- *Project SAVE (Schools Against Violence in Education) Guidance Document for School Safety Plans*, 2001.

Challenges

- 6 of the 8 district Superintendents had been in office for two years or less

- Districts had not dusted off plans since they were written in 2001

- County Emergency Services Director was not cooperative

- Proposals from several school safety consultants projected budgets ranging from $100,000 to $600,000

Opportunities

- 6 of the 8 district Superintendents had been in office for two years or less
- Project SAVE *Guidance Document*
- Local districts subscribe to insurance plans through a vendor which regularly engages Safe Havens International, Inc. to offer training
- Local evaluator is also a county legislator
- Good relationship with local Sheriff and New York State Troopers

Safety Plan Reviews

District-wide and Building-level Safety Plans

Process

- Request from Superintendents
- Project SAVE Guidance Document
- Emergency Plan (Safety Plan) Review Template
- Written Reports Prepared
- Guiding Questions
- Presentation of Findings by Superintendents

Outcomes

- Districts needed assistance to develop summary documents for public review
- Electronic templates of both the District-wide and Building-level Plans were shared with all districts in the county
- School Safety Teams were reorganized to establish a process which could be maintained over time
- Policies and procedures are updated annually
- Commitment to Training and Development with community partner engagement
- Procedural guides have been developed to assist faculty and staff during emergency situations
- Practice drills are conducted annually and include local community (12 fire, early dismissal, intruder, shelter, evacuation – internal and external)
- Staff and students are given an opportunity to debrief after drills
- Student involvement builds awareness and trust (Mock DWI crashes)

Focus on Sustainability

- Sustainability should be considered from day 1
- Develop communication strategies to improve recognition and support for efforts
- Educate and Train to build capacity
- Take time to visit with legislators – local, state and federal – put your programs and successes out there without asking for anything – share some stories
- Engage evaluator to share outcome data with partners and community
- Keep an open mind to differing opinions and ideas
- Think of sustainability in terms of maintaining programs, functions or services rather than individual positions