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HJ53 SCHOOL SAFETY STUDY

- ▶ HJ 53 Resolution states:
 - ▶ Best Practices
 - ▶ Analysis
 - ▶ Improvement
 - ▶ Existing Montana statutes
 - ▶ Designated entity as a Clearinghouse/Center

HJ53 SCHOOL SAFETY STUDY

➤ 232 Responses, to date





10 ESSENTIALS OF SCHOOL SAFETY

1. COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SAFETY ASSESSMENT

2. CAMPUS, BUILDING, AND CLASSROOM SECURITY

3. COORDINATION WITH FIRST RESPONDERS

4. DRILLS

5. SCHOOL CLIMATE

6. TIP LINE

7. THREAT ASSESSMENT

8. MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

9. SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

10. SOCIAL MEDIA MONITORING



1. COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SAFETY ASSESSMENT

- ▶ Best Practice: Foundation for all school safety/security planning/operations, informed Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), conducted every 1-3 yrs
- ▶ When was the last time your school conducted comprehensive site assessment with an outside entity?

49% over 3 years ago or never

- ▶ Recommendations: Implement legislation requiring schools to conduct standardized site assessment

2. CAMPUS, BUILDING, AND CLASSROOM SECURITY

- ▶ Best Practice: EOP informed by site assessments, reviewed yearly, created collaboratively, shared with school community, ongoing training
- ▶ Are you using a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) inspired EOP plan?

66% no

- ▶ Recommendations: Implement legislation requiring schools to use FEMA template for EOPs

2. CAMPUS, BUILDING, AND CLASSROOM SECURITY

- ▶ Best Practice: Deploy school proactive safety measures based on the site, location, resources and personnel.
- ▶ What campus/classroom safety measures does your school have in place?

37% exterior doors numbered

38% double locking vestibule

- ▶ Recommendations: Provide funding for schools to improve campus, building, and classroom security

3. COORDINATION WITH LE, EMS, FIRE

- ▶ Best Practice: Collaboration/coordination begins with hazard vulnerability assessment through development of polices, EOP creation, trainings, drills and evaluation.

- ▶ Does someone from your school attend the Local Emergency Planning Committee meetings?

75% No or Uncertain

- ▶ Does your school train with your local first responders?

50% No

- ▶ Recommendations: Add additional language to include required trainings and coordination with local emergency response teams.



4. DRILLS

- ▶ Best Practice: Conduct drills in schools that are age appropriate, clear expectations of roles and are conducted on a regular basis
- ▶ Beyond fire and lockdown drills, what additional drills are being conducted?

31% Communication

29% Reunification

- ▶ Recommendations: Legislation that requires schools to adopt Standard Response Protocol/Standard Reunification Method.



5. SCHOOL CLIMATE

- ▶ Best Practice: Foster culture of connectedness by promoting respect, trust & caring relationships, open communication, measure school climate on a regular basis (annually/ twice a year), promote teacher/student relationship, address bullying, meet student needs.
- ▶ Not Collected- Completed at time of individual school accreditation every three years.
- ▶ Recommendations: Coordinate with OPI to assist in overall school climate yearly pre/post collection of school climate data.

6. TIP LINE

- ▶ Best Practice: Implement tip line and educate all members of the school community.
- ▶ Does your school have a tip line?

72% No

- ▶ Recommendations: Adopt state legislation and funding for implementation of a statewide tip line.

7. THREAT ASSESSMENT

- ▶ Best Practice: Policy and procedure that includes a multidisciplinary team that evaluates, corroborates and creates a joint plan of action for threat management.

- ▶ Does your school have a multidisciplinary team in place?

46% No

- ▶ What tool are you using to conduct threat assessment?

I Love U Guys, Police, School Psych, Special Ed Co-Op, E3

- ▶ Recommendations: Amend MCA 20-1-401 to name a threat assessment tool to be used, required training in conducting threat assessment and have OPI collect policies.

8. MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

- ▶ Best Practice: Support the mental and emotional health of students by having access to counselors, psychologists, and social workers.
- ▶ Not Collected- School Administrators of Montana conducted their Behavioral Health Survey fall of 2024.
- ▶ Recommendations: Behavioral Health Services, qualified staff, ratio for school counselors.

9. SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

- ▶ Best Practice: Specially selected and trained SROs to establish trusting relationship with students, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the schools to establish roles, support NASRO training.

- ▶ Does your school have a School Resource Officer?

52% No

- ▶ Is a MOU in place between the school and local LE?

62% Uncertain or No

- ▶ Recommendations: Required to have a MOU in place and required training.

10. SOCIAL MEDIA MONITORING

- ▶ Best Practice: Defensive social media monitoring/social media alerting, online scanning of messages within a geofenced school area to identify threats.

- ▶ Does your school implement social media monitoring?

78% No or Uncertain

- ▶ Recommendations: Most states do not have laws expressly addressing “monitoring” of student social media or email content. Instead, states regulate this through student privacy statutes, cyberbullying statutes, and edtech-vendor regulations.

Priority Recommendations

	Recommendations
1. CENTER FOR MODEL POLICIES, TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE	Legislation that names a Center for training, policy support and technical assistance



Priority Recommendations

	Recommendations
2. TIP LINE	Adopt state legislation and funding for implementation of a statewide tip line



Priority Recommendations

	Recommendations
3. THREAT ASSESSMENT	Amend MCA 20-1-401 to name a threat assessment tool to be used, required training in conducting threat assessment and have OPI collect policies



Priority Recommendations

	Recommendations
4. COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SAFETY ASSESSMENT	Legislation requiring schools to conduct site assessment at least every 3 years



Priority Recommendations

	Recommendations
4. CAMPUS, BUILDING, AND CLASSROOM SECURITY	Legislation requiring schools to use FEMA template for EOPs & funding to improve campus, building, and classroom security



Priority Recommendations

	Recommendations
5. DRILLS	Legislation that requires schools to adopt SRP/SRM

Recommendation Summary

Recommendations for the 10 Essential Actions

CLEARINGHOUSE FOR MODEL POLICIES, TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

1. Legislation requiring schools to conduct site assessment
2. Legislation requiring schools to use FEMA template for EOPs & funding to improve campus, building, and classroom security
3. Legislation to include language on trainings with the interdisciplinary team
4. Legislation that requires schools to adopt SRP/SRM
5. Assist in improving overall school climate yearly pre/post collection of school climate data
6. Adopt Legislation/funding for implementation of a statewide tip line
7. Amend MCA 20-1-401 to name a threat assessment tool to be used, required training in conducting threat assessment and have OPI collect policies.
8. Behavioral Health Services, qualified staff, ratio for school counselors
9. Legislation required to have a MOU in place and required training
10. Legislation to regulate this through student privacy statutes, cyberbullying statutes, and ed-tech vendor regulations

Thank You!

