

Foreword and Acknowledgements

The Pennsylvania “All Hazards” School Safety Planning Toolkit is designed to help school districts/schools in their efforts to plan for all types of disasters, natural and human-caused. Everyone from the state level of government to the school districts/schools and the community at large has a moral and legal obligation to ensure the safety of our children in the event of a disaster.

The Safe Schools Planning Sub-Committee, of the Pennsylvania Safe Schools Advisory Committee, considers this Toolkit a “living document”. New procedures for prevention/mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery become available on a regular basis. Therefore, this document will be updated on an annual basis or after a significant event that impacts how school districts/schools in the commonwealth plan for the hazards that may affect their campuses.

Throughout this document, various terms may be referenced. In keeping with the philosophy of the National Incident Management System, it is recommended that all schools adopt this standard terminology to avoid confusion when working with partner agencies in Prevention/Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery.

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