

*The following are a list of recommended actions that schools district in Texas should address between now and the start of the 2018-2019 school year. These recommendations are accompanied by resources and guidance, and collectively support the goal of ensu*

3. School districts must coordinate and collaborate with law enforcement and other first responders to develop strong school safety programs.

Coordination and collaboration between school districts and local/regional/and state resources are necessary to ensure the development of high quality emergency operations plans which allow for effective prevention/mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery from incidents and emergencies. Texas Education Code 37.108 (3) requires that district's annual emergency operations plan provides for "measures to ensure coordination with the Department of State Health Services and local emergency management agencies, law enforcement, health departments, and fire departments in the event of an emergency".

School districts should identify responders and resources in their area and conduct meetings to discuss, develop and review emergency operations plans as well as resource needs and availability. Keeping an updated contact list of all collaborative responding agencies will prove invaluable in the times of an emergency. Collaborative training and drilling should be developed with all agencies to ensure identification of gaps and weaknesses in planning and execution. The development of Memoranda of Understanding and Mutual Aid Agreements will help to address specific roles and needs in advance of an emergency. The Texas School Safety Center provides the following resources to support coordination efforts: [Training, Drilling and Exercising Toolkit](#), [High-Quality Emergency Operations Planning Toolkit](#), and the [Texas School Safety and Security Standards](#). The Center also provides more detailed guidance for [developing agreements with specific agencies and resource management](#)

4. School districts should explore all alternatives to add additional protective measures for students and staff.

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established threat assessment process can quickly sort out misunderstandings from true concerns. Most importantly, a threat assessment process makes it possible to intervene with the person who is planning an act of violence and get them the help they need. Teams should be trained in the threat assessment process and include a multidisciplinary set of staff (e.g., principal, school counselor, and SRO). School threat assessment training will help practitioners understand why and how school violence prevention is possible and allow them to identify the functions of threat assessment (identify, investigate, evaluate and manage).

6. School districts should thoroughly and continuously review, revise, and maintain multi hazard emergency operations plans.

Emergency planning is a continuous process even after the plan is published. Plans should evolve as the school and planning teams learn lessons, obtain new information and insights, and update priorities. Reviews should be a reoccurring activity. Planning teams should establish a process for reviewing and revising the plan at least annually. Districts and campuses should review and update their plans after actual emergencies, changes in policy, personnel, facilities, or equipment, after drills and exercises, changes to local community emergency plans, new threats or hazards emerge, and after safety assessments are conducted. Districts should always ensure that local partners, including law enforcement and other first responders have a copy of the most current plan. The Texas School Safety Center's [High-Quality Emergency Operations Planning Tool](#) provides detailed guidance on all aspects of a comprehensive planning process.

Drilling and exercising is a critical piece of the planning process to ensure that gaps and weaknesses in planning and execution are identified and addressed. Drills should be conducted regularly to test specific actions in the plan, including during summer months if facilities are being utilized. The Texas School Safety Center's [Training, Drilling, and Exercising Toolkit](#) provides guidance implementing a comprehensive drill and exercise program.

7. School districts should conduct safety and security assessments of all facilities in an effort to identify areas for immediate and longterm improvement.

The Texas Education Code §37.108 states: "At least once every three years, each school district shall conduct a safety and security audit of the district's facilities. While the term "audit" is included in TEC §37.108, the process developed by the Texas School Safety Center is meant to be an ongoing assessment of a district's safety and security. Audits should be an ongoing process with the aim of identifying hazards, threats, and vulnerabilities that might pose a danger to life or property and/or may interfere with a safe, secure and healthy environment that is conducive to teaching and learning. Attention to safety and security should not be thought of as an.2 (f)-3.9(ty)15rid noon

8. School districts should ensure that Safety and Security Committees meet regularly and have an active and ongoing role in maintaining safety and security.

Texas Education Code Chapter 37.109 states that school districts must form a district safety and security c

