



MONROE COUNTY INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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TO: Monroe County Superintendents

FROM: Elizabeth J. Taylor  
Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Legal Counsel

DATE: December 17, 2012 (updated)

RE: Safe School Initiatives

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As a result of the Sandy Hook shooting on December 14, 2012, we thought it would be helpful for you to have an updated summary of school safety initiatives implemented by Monroe County schools over the past few years:

- School Safety Plans
- Building/District crisis communication plans
- Building/District crisis response teams
- Zero Tolerance Policy on violence
- Crisis Prevention Intervention training
- School Liaison Officers (Airport, Bedford, and Monroe Public Schools)
- Office of Safe Schools at Monroe County ISD
- Drug Education and evaluation and Anger Management services
- Risk assessments of students making threats or possessing a weapon at school
- Professional Development opportunities
  - Bully prevention
  - Bomb threat response planning
- TEAM training for school liaison officers
- Homeland Security Grant I (2004-05)
  - Vulnerability assessments of school buildings that looked at the preparedness of each county school building to handle an emergency. The assessments focused on building access, mail delivery, food supply, water supply, HVAC system, chemical storage, communications system in the school and transportation of students in the event of an emergency.
  - Hazardous response plan update
  - Table top exercises to train personnel how to respond to an emergency in the school
  - Mock exercises with school personnel to test responsiveness to an emergency in the school
- Homeland Security Grant II –(2006)
  - safety equipment grant
  - Each district received \$1334 per eligible school building

- Each district used the grant funds to purchase items off an “approved equipment list” supplied by the Michigan State Police
- Items on the approved equipment list were: trauma kits, flashlights, handheld metal detectors, communication equipment, vehicle/building barriers, team command vests, convex mirrors for hallways, bullhorn, AED
- Criminal history/record checks performed on all employees
- Internet Criminal History Access Tool (ICHAT) performed on all volunteers
- Visitor sign in procedures and badges
- School personnel photo ID’s
- Parental communication through the Honeywell Instant Alert System
- Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools Grant (REMS) 2009
  - National Incident Management System (NIMS) training for 271 key school personnel which provided a systematic approach to incident management
  - Updated of building and district level Crisis Plans to reflect current best practices and unique building level needs
  - Conducted building level safety audit and vulnerability assessments with trained safety consultant. Districts looked at each school building’s fencing of gas mains, A/C units, utility panels, student drop off/pickup, vegetation around buildings, exterior lighting, building access, access to main office, interior lighting, windows, signage, alarm systems, CCTV, security procedures, off premise procedures, training and exercise of staff
  - Developed food safety plan
  - Developed infectious disease plan
  - Conducted training for special education teachers for handling the unique needs of students with disabilities during a crisis
  - Included district information on emergency preparedness in school newsletters
  - Created and distributed wallet cards for parents with pertinent emergency information
  - Developed parent reunification plans for each district
  - Updated each district Crisis Plan
  - Provided Crisis Plan flipcharts for each classroom in the county
  - Conducted tabletop exercises in each district
  - Conducted three full scale exercises: shooter in building (Mason), tornado (ISD), explosive device on bus (MPS)
  - 200 Handheld radios purchased for distribution to each school district
- Building plans for each school district provided to Sheriff’s Office
- Implemented a county-wide anti-bullying task force in collaboration with the Probate Court (2011)
- Currently working with EMD on countywide alert system.

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