

TOOLKIT TWO: ACT

FREE & LOW COST SCHOOL SAFETY STRATEGIES



One of the most commonly cited problems school communities face in their efforts to improve security and safety is money. This problem is so prevalent in schools today that many give up or put off their efforts at improvement all together. Of course, a well-funded school budget goes a long way in purchasing equipment and hiring expert help, but there are many effective strategies that can greatly help—with little or no money in the budget!

Here are examples of powerful interventions gleaned from security expert, Ken Trump, and his book entitled, “Proactive School Security and Emergency Preparedness Planning” (Corwin Press, 2011)

Take 5!

Devote the last 5 minutes of each faculty meeting to a topic related to your school’s security.

Diversify Drills

With the unexpected times and circumstances (e.g., remove students and staff during a drill, block planned exits, combine a lockdown with an evacuation).

Engage Students

With activities such as poster contests and public announcements. Teach students to keep entrances closed and report strangers in the building.

Reach Out

To the community, work with your area emergency management agency on plans. Invite first responders to the planning table and drills.

Conduct Tabletop Exercises

With quick, security scenarios and activities as a part of faculty and district-wide administration meetings several times a year.

Cross-train Staff

So team members are familiar with each other’s duties and can step in for one another if necessary.

Share the Wealth

In a roundtable with neighboring administrators and school communities. Learn from one another’s successful safety and preparedness practices.

Highlight the Progress

Recognize the valuable work being done in the school community—the heightened awareness, the conscious efforts, practice, and preparation.