

# School Safety Resources

October 21-27<sup>th</sup> was **National Safe Schools Week**. We know that safety is the number one priority for you as an administrator, and we want to provide you with a collection of resources to help you evaluate and improve safety at your school. Below you will find resources on ensuring safe school facilities, evaluating current procedures, and improving social and emotional learning to help you create a safe environment for students to learn and grow. We've even created a [padlet](#) (like an online filing cabinet) full of resources for you to use!

## What do the numbers say?

According to the [Educator's School Safety Network](#), in the 2017-2018 school year, there were 3,375 school related threats recorded nationally, which was a **62% increase** from the 2016-1017 school year. Even more concerning, the number of actual incidents of violence requiring a response from law enforcement increased by **113%** in the last year!



## For More Statistics on School Safety:

Read [this report](#) from the Educator's School Safety Network highlighting data on school threats and incidents at the national and state levels.

Read the [reports and statistical information from the CDC's website on school violence](#).

## Ensuring Safe School Facilities

- ✓ As a first step in ensuring safe school facilities, consider evaluating your current grounds using an assessment like the Rackley School Inspection Checklist or the NCEF Safe School Facility Checklist, both accessible [here in our online padlet](#).
- ✓ As another resource, you may want to explore the best practices for school safety, located on the [Florida Department of Education's website](#).
- ✓ Local law enforcement can also be a great resource and may be willing to perform a safety assessment of your current facility. They may provide suggestions or support for ensuring your school grounds provide adequate protection for students.
- ✓ For more on ensuring safe school facilities, check out the [NEA's resources for Safe School's Week](#), as well as the [National School Safety Center's materials to support safe schools](#) and [ASCD's School Safety Resources](#).

## Evaluating Current Procedures

Creating, practicing, and implementing an effective crisis plan at your school can be a very difficult task. As you begin to evaluate your current procedures, here are some resources that may help to ensure that you are adequately preparing your staff and students for a variety of crisis situations.

- ✘ The [Rackley Emergency Crisis Plan Template](#) (located in the padlet) might be a good starting point to ensure you have adequately covered your response to unique crisis situations.
- ✘ ASCD's archive of resources offers a very informative webinar on crisis response strategies. Find it [here on ASCD's website](#). You do not need to be a member to access this webinar.
- ✘ [FEMA's Guide to Develop High-Quality School Emergency Operations Plans](#) might be a helpful resource in creating your own crisis plan.
- ✘ Check out [this list of resources from the Educator's School Safety Network](#) including a link to a FREE online active shooter response training from FEMA.

## Social & Emotional Learning Resources

According to the article, "Can SEL Reduce School Violence?" published in ASCD's *Educational Leadership*, "Research has found that social-emotional skills can lead to safer schools. A landmark meta-analysis by Durlak and colleagues (2011) examined 213 studies of K-12 school-based SEL programs and found that students in **schools that implemented such programs had significant improvements in social-emotional skills** (such as identifying emotions, perspective taking, and conflict resolution) and **fewer conduct problems**. These schools also reported **less aggression and delinquent acts**, showing a direct link between SEL and safer schools" (Nickerson 47). Click [here](#) to read the full article.

**Here are some Social & Emotional Learning resources to explore as you consider the needs of your students.**

- A brief [introduction from Edutopia](#) on the importance of Social-Emotional Learning.
- This [article from NEA](#) details the importance of SEL in reducing violence and improving academic achievement. Additionally, [this article from Real Clear Education](#) details the link between SEL & a decrease in violence in schools.
- Consider attending [Free Professional Learning](#) from Step Up For Students on Teaching Children in Poverty & incorporating SEL strategies in your classrooms.
- Check out the resources listed in [Edutopia's SEL resources section](#), as well as the two videos below on the importance of incorporating SEL into the school curriculum.

