

# Resources Available for Schools

## Information, Guides and Reports

### Emergency Plan Web Site

The Department of Education's (ED) Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools' Emergency Plan Web site [www.ed.gov/emergencyplan](http://www.ed.gov/emergencyplan) provides a one-stop site for information to help plan for, mitigate, respond to and recover from any emergency (natural disasters, violent incidents, terrorist acts and the like). The site provides access to ED materials, such as *Practical Information on Crisis Planning*, and links to additional emergency planning resources of government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, health-care provider resources, mental health resources, and state and local resources.

### *Practical Information on Crisis Planning: A Guide for Schools and Communities*

This binder provides schools and communities with basic guidelines and useful ideas on how to develop and refine their emergency response and crisis management plans for each phase of crisis planning: mitigation and prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. This information is available at [www.ed.gov/emergencyplan/](http://www.ed.gov/emergencyplan/).

### Infrastructure Protection: National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities

This Web-based clearinghouse at [www.edfacilities.org](http://www.edfacilities.org) provides information on school safety issues, such as how to design buildings to prevent or mitigate possible terrorist attacks and violence.

### Bomb Threat Assessment Guide: ED and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms

The *Step-by-Step Guide for Bomb Threats* can assist school districts, administrators and emergency responders in planning an effective bomb threat response protocol in schools. A CD-ROM interactive planning tool provides schools with a 15-step guide. In 2003, a copy of the CD-ROM was distributed to every school district in the country. It is still available at [www.ed.gov/emergencyplan/](http://www.ed.gov/emergencyplan/).

### Campus Public Safety Guide

The Department of Homeland Security's Office of Domestic Preparedness published a series titled *Campus Public Safety: Weapons of Mass Destruction and Terrorism Protective Measures* in April 2003. This document describes affirmative steps colleges and universities can take to prevent, deter or effectively respond to an attack by weapons of mass destruction. It is available at [www.ed.gov/emergencyplan/](http://www.ed.gov/emergencyplan/).

### Safe Schools Initiative: ED and the U.S. Secret Service

The 2002 *Safe Schools Initiative Guide and Final Report* provides guidelines for managing threatening situations and offers ways to create a safe school environment. It is available at [www.ed.gov/emergencyplan/](http://www.ed.gov/emergencyplan/).

## **Information Specifically for Children**

A Web site with age-appropriate information for children on disasters is at [www.fema.gov/kids/](http://www.fema.gov/kids/). In addition, the Department of Homeland Security is working to expand its citizen preparedness “Ready” campaign by getting children involved in preparing for crises. The Web site is planned to be launched later this year.

## **Information Dealing With Trauma**

The National Child Traumatic Stress Network Web site [http://www.ncetsnet.org/nccts/nav.do?pid=ctr\\_tool](http://www.ncetsnet.org/nccts/nav.do?pid=ctr_tool) contains the following links to tools and materials that can be used by schools both for school planning purposes and as handouts to parents and caregivers:

*The link to “Presentation Tools”*  
[http://www.ncetsnet.org/nccts/nav.do?pid=ctr\\_tool\\_present](http://www.ncetsnet.org/nccts/nav.do?pid=ctr_tool_present) allows one to view and download slide presentations on selected topics related to child trauma and traumatic stress, including statistics on the prevalence of child trauma, current interventions to reduce the impact of child traumatic stress, and an overview of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network.

*The “Educational Materials” link*  
[http://www.ncetsnet.org/nccts/nav.do?pid=ctr\\_tool\\_educ](http://www.ncetsnet.org/nccts/nav.do?pid=ctr_tool_educ) includes tip sheets for parents, caregivers, and teachers on current topics, as well as basic information on child traumatic stress for different audiences.

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## **Grants Available From the U.S. Department of Education**

### ***Emergency Response and Crisis Management Discretionary Grants***

Emergency Response and Crisis Management grants provide funds to local educational agencies to improve and strengthen their emergency response and crisis management plans. This year, ED is obligating 105 awards for a total of \$28 million. ED anticipates conducting another competition in the area of crisis planning in fiscal year 2005. We anticipate that a notice regarding the competition will be issued in a few months.

### ***The Safe Schools-Healthy Students Initiative Grants***

These grants provide students, schools and communities with federal funding to implement a comprehensive plan of activities, programs and services focusing on promoting healthy childhood development and preventing violence and alcohol and drug abuse. In fiscal year 2004, ED contributed a total of \$95 million for grants supporting this initiative. Other federal departments also contributed funds. We anticipate additional funding for this initiative in fiscal year 2005.

## **Questions and Answers**

***Q. Why is the Department of Education sending this information? Is there an imminent threat to America's schools?***

A. The FBI and DHS are currently unaware of any specific, credible information indicating a terrorist threat to public or private schools, universities or colleges in the United States. The FBI and DHS have told us that there is no imminent threat to U.S. schools and that the group that conducted the operation in Russia has never attacked or threatened to attack U.S. interests. However, in an abundance of caution, the Department of Education and our federal law enforcement partners are providing state and local law enforcement officials and educators with an analysis of some of the important lessons learned about the recent incident in Beslan, Russia.

***Q. Who else have federal officials contacted regarding the Beslan incident?***

A. The DHS and FBI recently sent an analysis of the Beslan incident to their constituents in the law enforcement field. The Department of Education (ED) is distributing information to our constituents in the education community. Among those to whom ED is sending the information are: school police and school security personnel; school resource officers; emergency response and crisis management grantees; chief state school officers; members of boards of education; organizations representing principals; institutions of higher education; and various groups representing non-public schools. Our intent is to inform all appropriate school-related constituencies, all types of schools, whether public or non-public, and institutions of higher education.

***Q. How should those informed respond to the bulletin?***

A. School districts, in partnership with local law enforcement officials and first responders, should review their crisis plan, ensure that it is up to date, practice their plan, and make modifications as needed.

***Q. What should we tell parents and students?***

A. We believe you need to be truthful and open. You need to tell students that there are no imminent threats to U.S. schools but that there is a continued need to be prepared to deal with a wide range of crises that can occur in schools and communities.

***Q. Are there any resources available at the federal level to help us with our crisis planning?***

A. Yes, there are numerous Web pages, booklets, manuals, clearinghouses, etc. available to help you. A summary of resources is found as an attachment to this document.

***Q. What about financial resources? Does ED have any financial resources to assist school districts?***

A. ED anticipates conducting another competition in the area of crisis planning in fiscal year 2005. We anticipate that a notice regarding the competition will be issued in a few months.